

DIFFICULTIES IN TRANSLATION (VIII): SLANG & UNCONVENTIONAL LANGUAGE

Translate the following sentences, paying special attention to the slang and unconventional terms and trying to find equivalent expressions in the target language.

1. The only thing I can say about him is that he's a real bastard.

2. Mike's sister is a really bathing beauty.

3. Son las 12. Hora del papeo.

4. Beat it! I'm busy.

5. He's got a real nerve!

6. Charlie is bent out of shape.

7. Hey, you, musclehead, bring that chair over there.

8. Does that muscleman work here?

9. Tony es un empollón.

10. No, I'm not interested. No deal!

11. No vales una mierda.

12. My sister is going out with that number from New York.

13. He finally went nuts.

14. You can't take him seriously because he's plain sick in the head.

15. I got pissed off as hell when I saw what he'd done to my car.

16. Jack es un verdadero fantasma.

- 17.** I was sitting here talking to him when he just croaked.
- 18.** Entró la policía y los pilló despelotados.
- 19.** Creo que voy a echar la pota aquí mismo.
- 20.** She came lit up like a Christmas tree.
- 21.** Es alto, delgado y lleva gafas de culo de vaso.
- 22.** El examen estaba tirado.
- 23.** Tom always wears designer-label clothes and his hair is all smarmed down. He's the typical preppy.
- 24.** Jack doped off in class.
- 25.** ¡Sal ahora mismo de la piltra!
- 26.** Pareces hecho polvo.
- 27.** John es un facha y Peter es un rojo, pero son colegas.
- 28.** It's as cold as all creation.
- 29.** El nuevo portero pierde aceite.
- 30.** Siempre le está haciendo la pelota a los profesores.

KEY

1. The only thing I can say about him is that he's a real bastard.
Lo único que puedo decir de él es que es un cabrón/hijo de puta.
2. Mike's sister is a really bathing beauty.
La hermana de Mike está tremenda.
3. Son las 12. Hora del papeo.
It's 12. Grub time.
4. **Beat it!** I'm busy.
¡Aire! Estoy ocupado/a.
5. He's got a real nerve!
¡Es muy descarado // tiene mucho morro/jeta/cara!
6. Charlie is bent out of shape.
Charlie está encabronado/cabreado.
7. Hey, you, musclehead, bring that chair over here¹.
Ey, tú, apollargado, tráeme esa silla aquí.
8. Does that muscleman work here?
¿El musculitos trabaja aquí?
9. Tony es un empollón.
Tony's a nerd/a real geek/a swot.
10. No, I'm not interested. No deal!
No, no me interesa. ¡Ni de coña!
11. No vales una mierda.
You're not worth a damn/a shit.
12. My sister is going out with that number from New York.
Mi hermana está saliendo con ese pavo/pibe de Nueva York².
13. He finally went nuts.
Al final se le fue la olla // Se volvió loco/majara.
14. You can't take him seriously because he's plain sick in the head.
No le hagas caso, que está colgado/zumbado.

¹ In the dictionary you shall only find *musclehead* with the meaning of "musculitos". Depending on the context, you may translate it like that, but in very colloquial English the typical meaning is the one suggested here, even if it has not been collected in dictionaries yet.

² *Number* may also be used for a girl. In that case it means "bombón, muñeca".

- 15.** I got pissed off as hell when I saw what he'd done to my car.
Me cagué en todo cuando vi lo que le había hecho a mi coche.
- 16.** Jack es un verdadero fantasma.
Jack is a real bullshitter/show-off.
- 17.** I was sitting here talking to him when he just croaked.
Estaba aquí hablando con él cuando la palmó.
- 18.** Entró la policía y los pilló despelotados.
The police entered and got them in the buff.
- 19.** Creo que voy a echar la pota aquí mismo.
I think I'm going to puke right here.
- 20.** She came lit up like a Christmas tree.
Vino como una cuba.
- 21.** Es alto, delgado y lleva gafas de culo de vaso.
He's tall, thin and wears coke bottle glasses.
- 22.** El examen estaba tirado.
The exam was dead easy/a piece of cake/as easy as pie/a walk in the park.
- 23.** Tom always wears designer-label clothes and his hair is all smarmed down. He's the typical preppy.
Tom siempre lleva ropa de marca y va siempre engominado. Es el típico pijo.
- 24.** Jack doped off in class.
Jack se quedó frito/sobado en clase.
- 25.** ¡Sal ahora mismo de la piltra!
Get out of the sack right now!
- 26.** Pareces hecho polvo³.
You look shattered/worn out/knackered/popped/dead-tired/dog-tired // You seem like ready to drop.
- 27.** John es un facha y Peter es un rojo, pero son colegas.
John is a fascist and Peter is a red, but they're mates/buddies.
- 28.** It's as cold as all creation.
Hace un frío que pela.
- 29.** El nuevo portero pierde aceite.
The new doorman is a nancy boy/a sissy boy/a sissy/a flicker // The new doorman bats for the other side.

³ With the meaning of "really tired".

- 30.** Siempre le está haciendo la pelota a los profesores.
He's always sucking up to his teachers.