

Re: Request: translate the following phrase into a non-English language

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Helmut Richter <a282244@mail.lrz-muenchen.de> wrote in message
news:slrncl8ihr.nhe.a282244@lxhri01.lrz.lrz-muenchen.de...

> *S Kaufman:*

>

> > *I'm working on a piece right now where I need the phrase: "Yours is
> > the one true God" in many different languages,*

>

> *So intricate sentences are impossible to translate without context.*

> *In German, for instance, the translation of "yours" depends on whether
> it is to mean in the context:*

>

> *a) something or someone belonging to you*

> *b) of all gods in question, the one belonging to you*

>

> *1) belonging to you (singular), "thine"*

> *2) belonging to you (plural)*

> *3) belonging to you (polite form)*

>

> *Result for German:*

>

> *a1) dein*

> *a2) euer*

> *a3) Ihnen or Ihr*

> *b1) deiner*

> *b2) eurer*

> *b3) Ihrer*

>

> *where (a3) sounds awkward as the construct sounds archaic whereas the
> usage of "Sie" as polite form is fairly recent.*

>

> *Possible translation, assuming (b2):*

>

> *Eurer ist der eine wahre Gott.*

>

> *Just to illustrate the possible pitfalls. In other languages, for*

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- > *instance Hebrew, the form of "yours" might be dependent not only on*
- > *singular/plural but also on the gender of "you".*

And in many languages, the form of "yours" would also be dependent on the gender of God. :-)

Paul JK

- > *Helmut Richter*