

THE TRANSLATOR'S TASK ACCORDING TO UMBERTO ECO TRANSLATION AS NEGOTIATION

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Summary

Umberto Eco's book *Dire quasi la stessa cosa* (*Saying almost the same thing*) was published in Italy in 2003. It is a collection of Umberto Eco's articles, essays, reflections on translation. The author presents his views on how to approach translation and says that it has to be done from the perspective of both the translator and the author that is being translated. Umberto Eco argues that every translation is first of all a form of interpretation. In his quest for answers to questions what is translation, what is a translator and what is the task of a translator, the author of the book concludes that translation means saying almost the same thing in the language of translation. To achieve this aim, i.e. to say almost the same thing, a translator has to enter into negotiations with the author, the text, the reader and the publisher. In these negotiations the translator should not forget that in order to get something one has to compromise and even step down, because it is impossible to have everything.