

Domestication vs. Foreignization

Domestication	Foreignization
Target-culture oriented	Source-culture oriented
Brings the author to the reader	Sends the reader to the author
Fluent, smooth, natural	Marked, unusual, estranging
Minimizes foreignness	Highlights foreignness
Translator becomes invisible	Translator becomes visible
Cultural references are adapted	Cultural references are preserved
Prioritizes reader comfort	Prioritizes cultural learning
Dominates in localization & industry	Dominates in literary & ethical translation
Market-friendly	Ethically motivated
Low cognitive effort	High cultural awareness

Domestication asks:

“How can I make this feel local?”

Foreignization asks:

“How can I make the reader feel the foreign?”