

# On the Different Methods of Translating

Friedrich Schleiermacher's Foundational  
Framework for Bringing Author and  
Reader Together.

Çağ University

Asst. Prof. Dr. M. Kartal Çelikay

# The Core Problem of Language



Every human is in the power of the language they speak. The form of their concepts and the limits of their thinking are outlined by their native tongue.



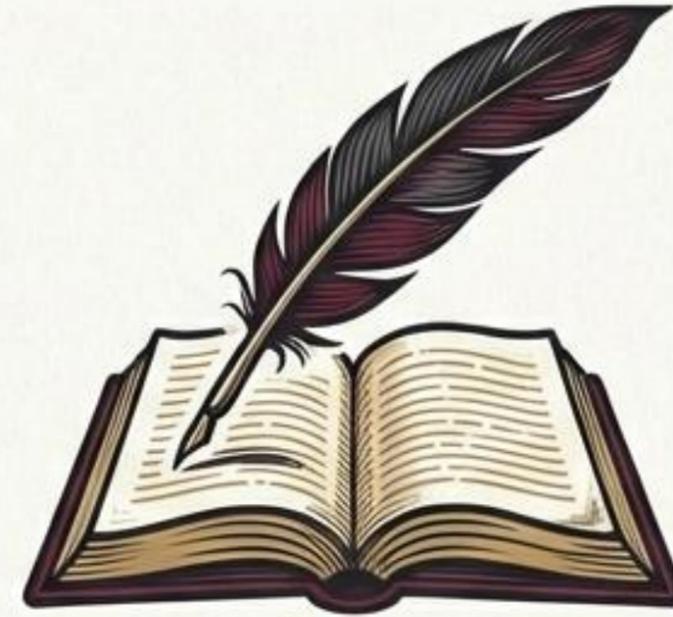
Every freethinking individual actively shapes the language. They produce new forms in the malleable material of language, driving its growth in scholarship and art.

# The First Divide: Interpreter vs. Translator



## The Interpreter

- Operates in the business world.
- Treats writing merely as a mechanical device.
- Focuses entirely on oral exchanges.

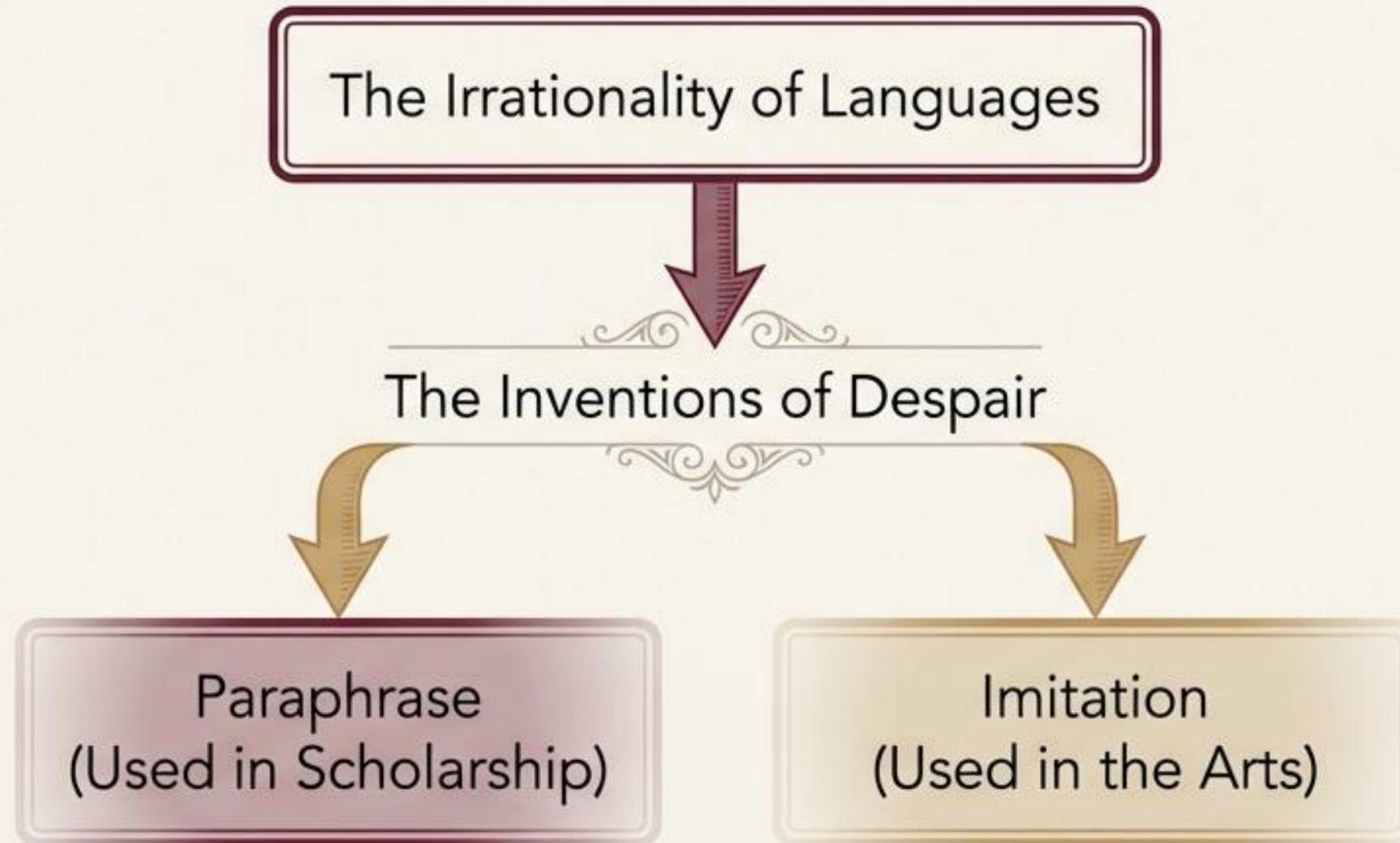


## The Translator

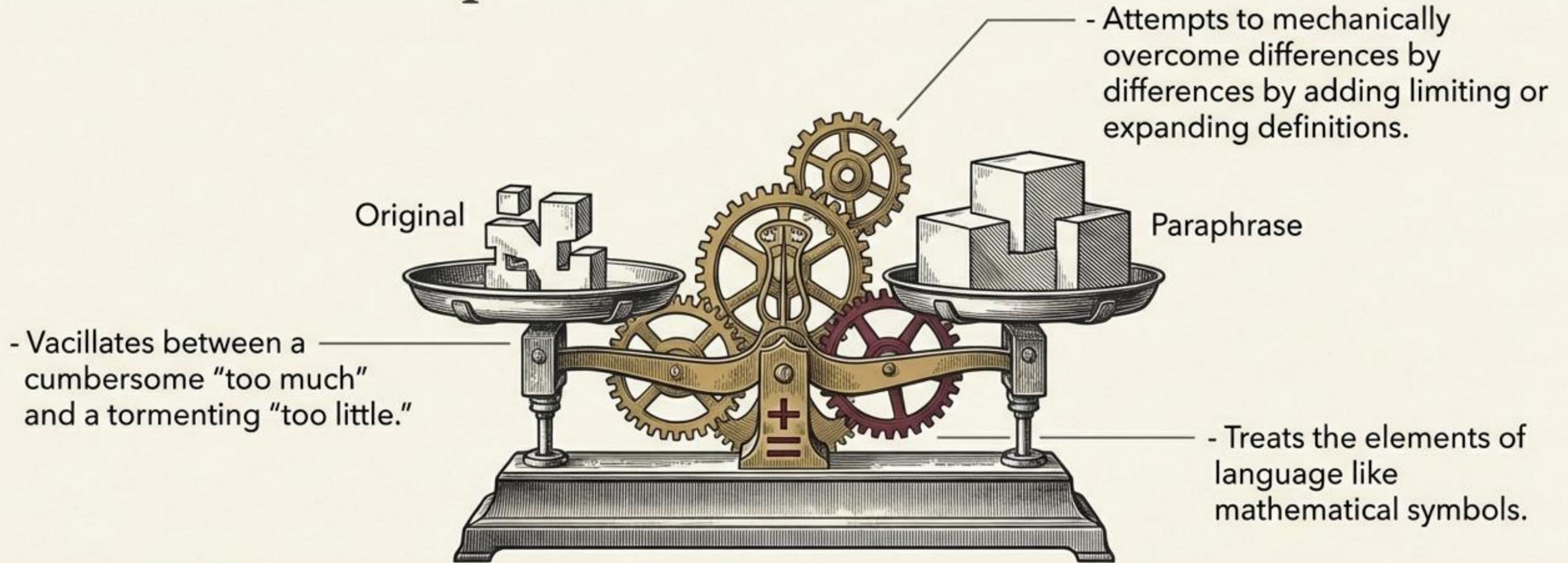
- Operates in the areas of scholarship and the arts.
- Relies on writing to give works permanence.
- Oral transferral of these complex works is impossible.

# The False Paths of Translation

When faced with the impossibility of exact translation, history invented two workarounds to forcibly clear away the difficulties. Both completely relinquish the true idea of translation.



# False Path 1: Paraphrase



**“It completely abandons the impression made by the original...  
the living speech has been irretrievably killed.”**

# False Path 2: Imitation

- Submits to the irrationality of language, conceding that an exact replica cannot be produced.



- Aims only to give modern readers an impression similar to what the original contemporaries felt.

- Substantially transforms the foreignness of the original text.

“By trying to maintain this sameness of reaction, one sacrifices the identity of the work.”

## The Grand Dilemma

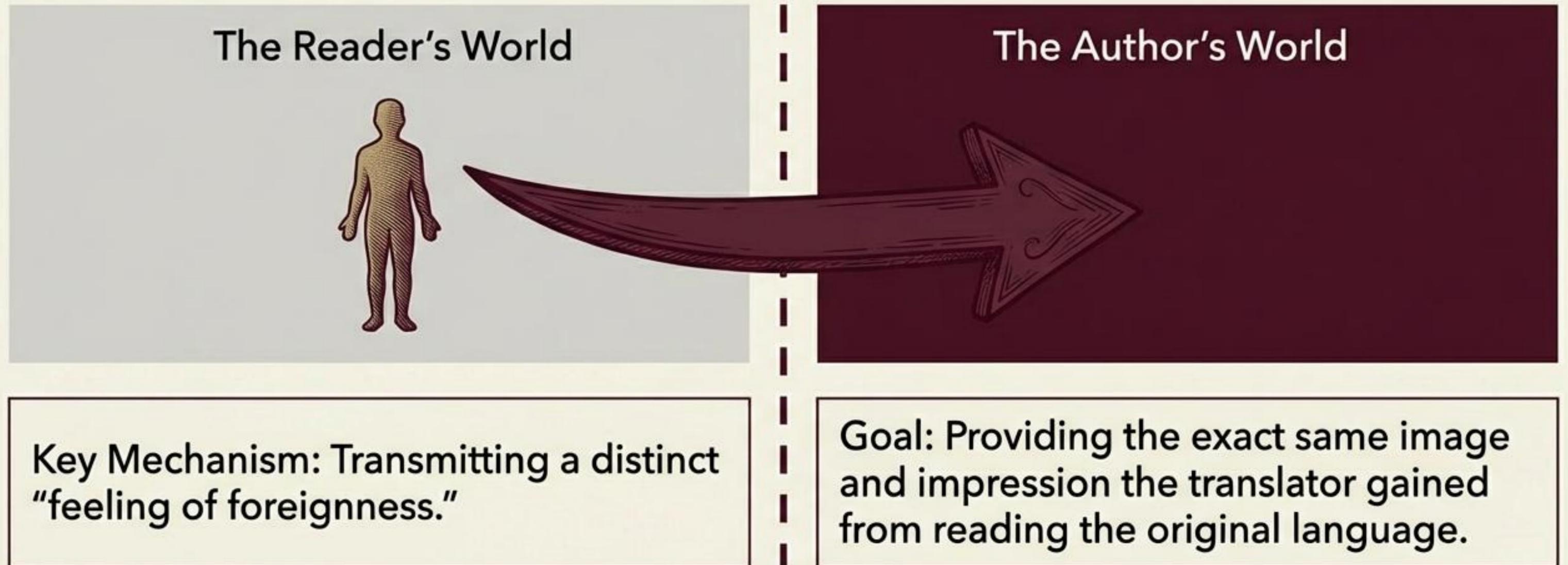
Either the translator leaves the **writer** alone as much as possible and moves the **reader** toward the writer,



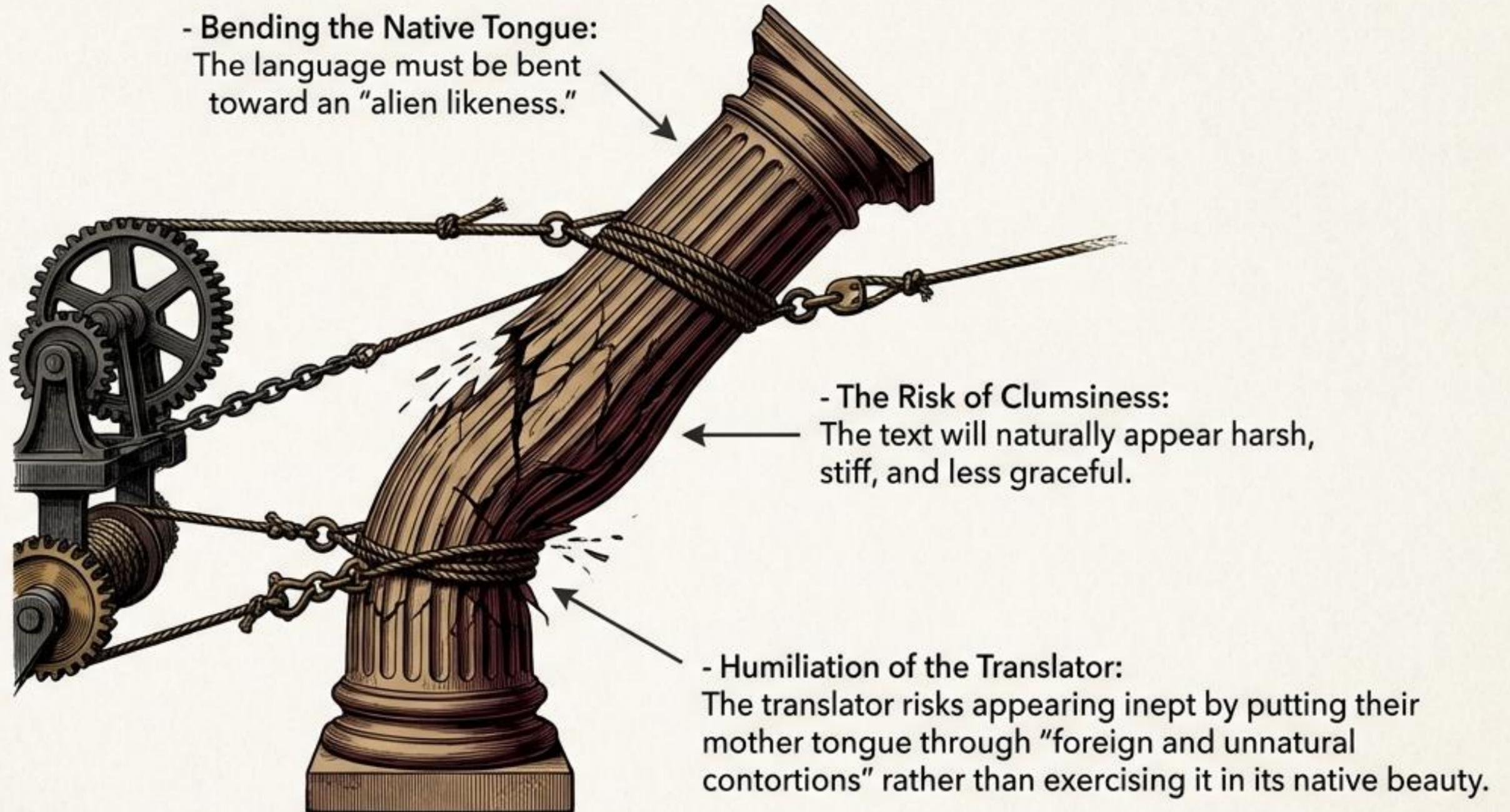
or he leaves the **reader** alone as much as possible and moves the **writer** toward the reader!

# Path A: Moving the Reader to the Writer

The translator compensates for the reader's lack of understanding while keeping them acutely aware of the text's alien origins.

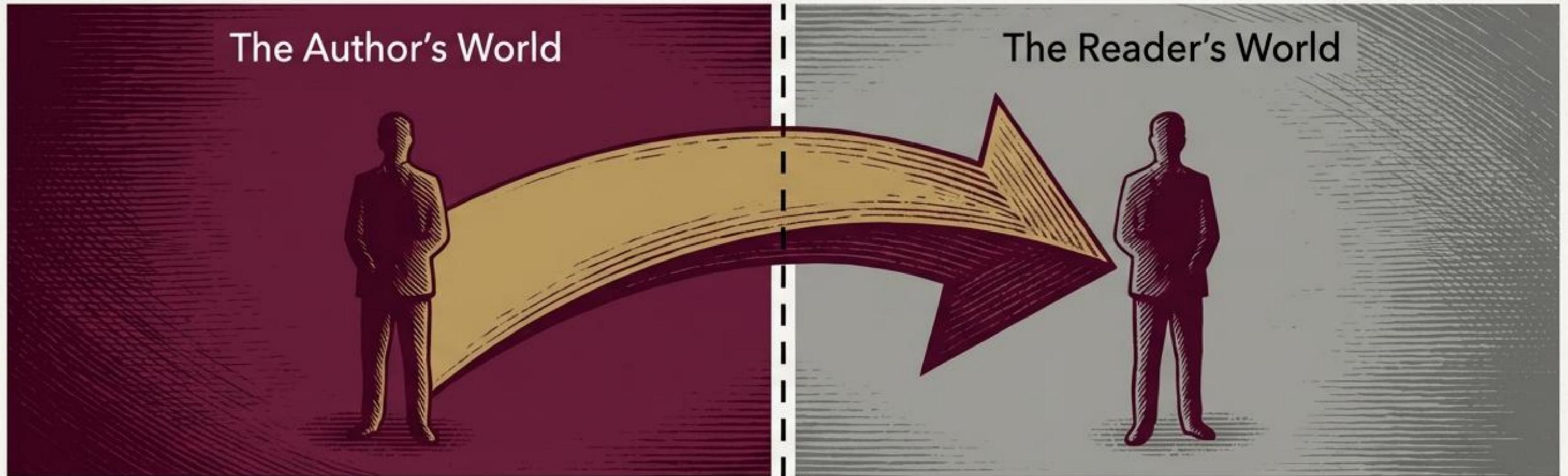


# The Sacrifices of Path A



# Path B: Moving the Writer to the Reader

The translator transforms the author immediately into the world of the readers, presenting the work as if the author originally wrote it in the reader's native tongue.

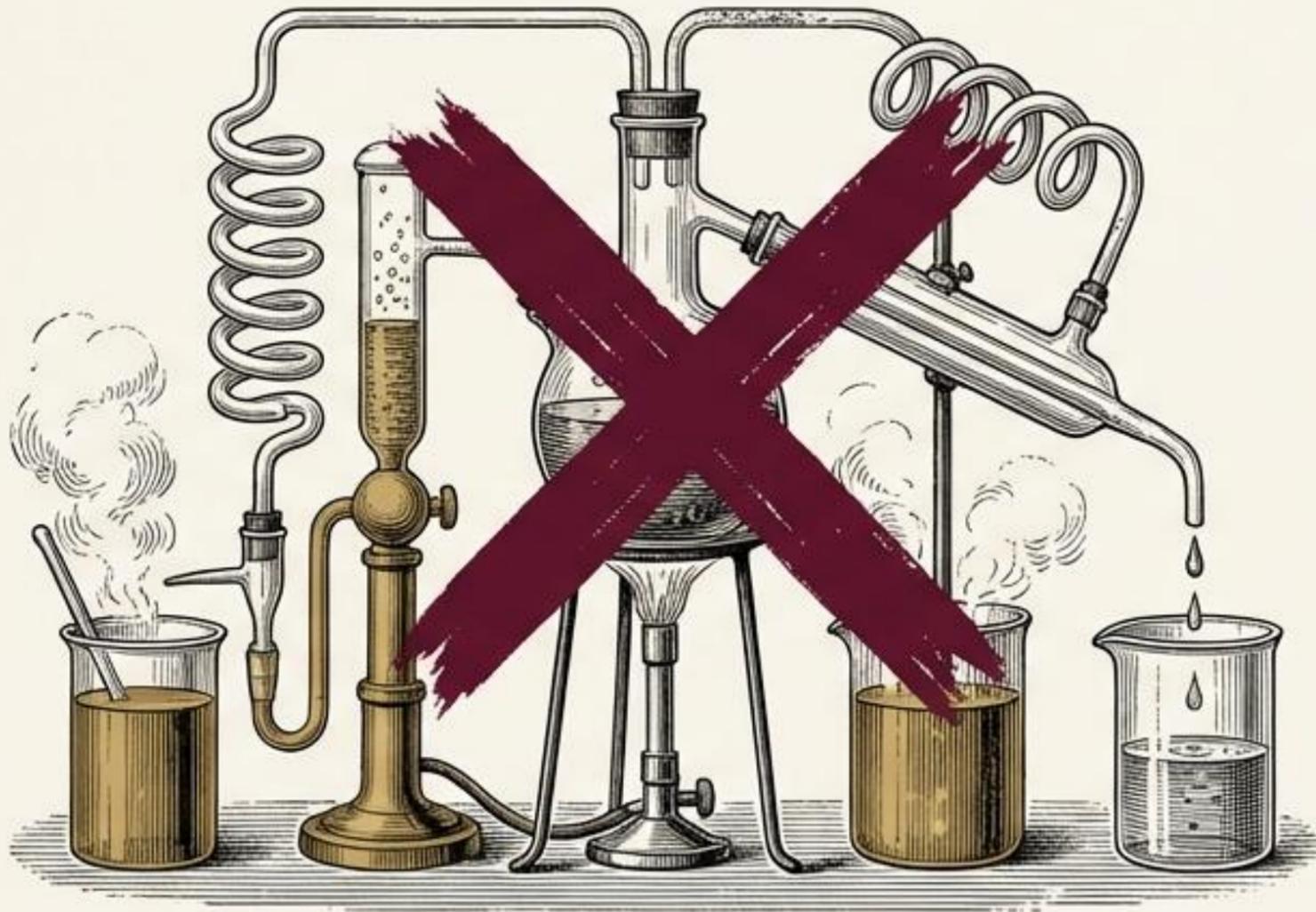


**Key Mechanism:** Scrupulous attention to the purity, grace, and naturalness of the native language.

**Goal:** Requires absolutely no effort from the reader to confront foreignness.

# The Illusion of Path B

A writer's original knowledge and expression are organically formed through their mother tongue. They do not wear language like an external garment.



- ☞ - **The Impossible Separation:** Requires an artificial "chemical process" to strip a writer's thoughts from their native language.
- ☞ - **Fails in Philosophy:** Systems of concepts (like God and Being) do not align across languages.
- ☞ - **Fails in Comedy:** Cultural morals and customs cannot simply be mapped to a foreign equivalent.

# The Rule of Strict Separation

These two paths are diametrically opposed. A translator must adhere to one as strictly as possible.

Path A

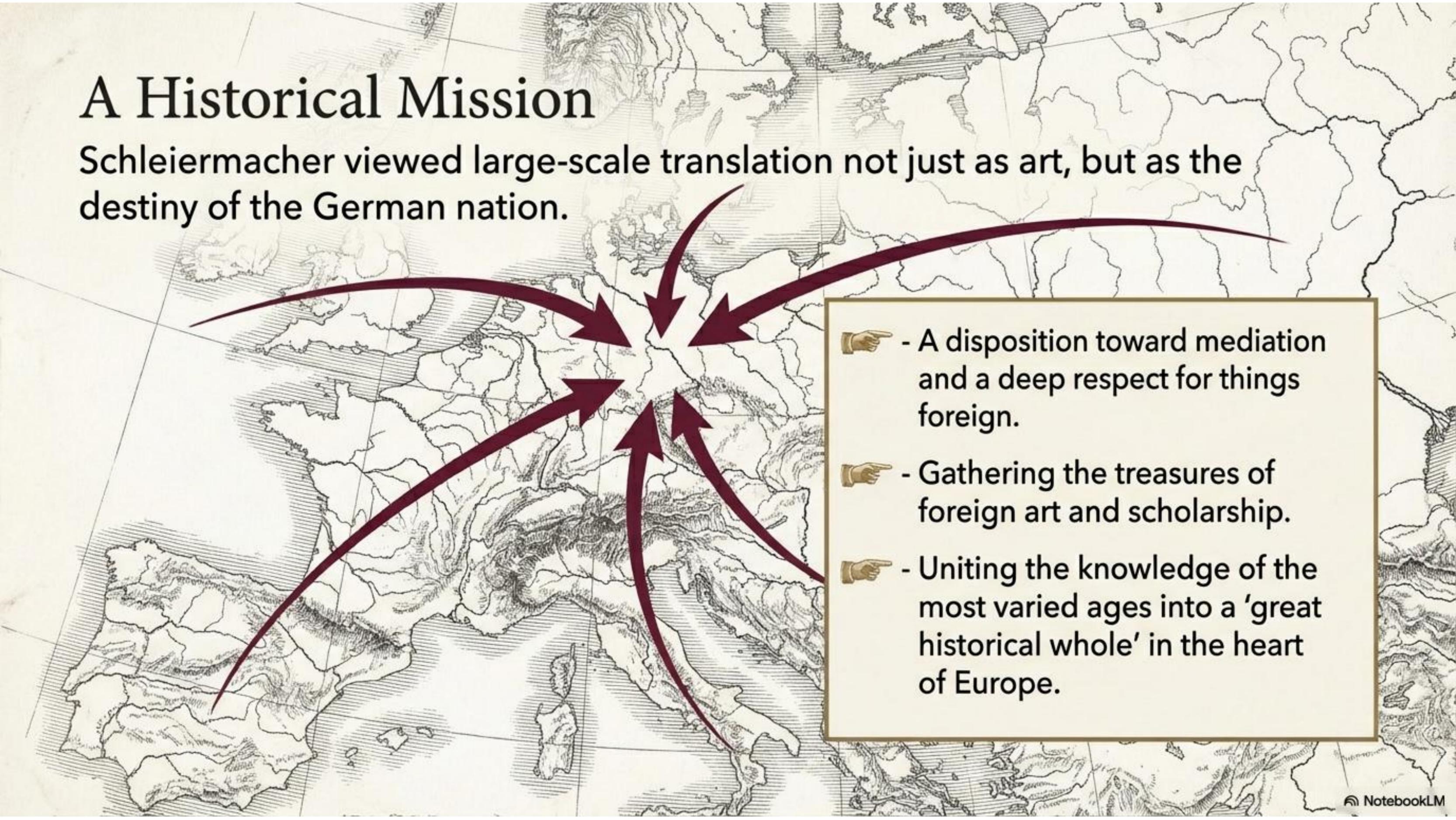


Path B

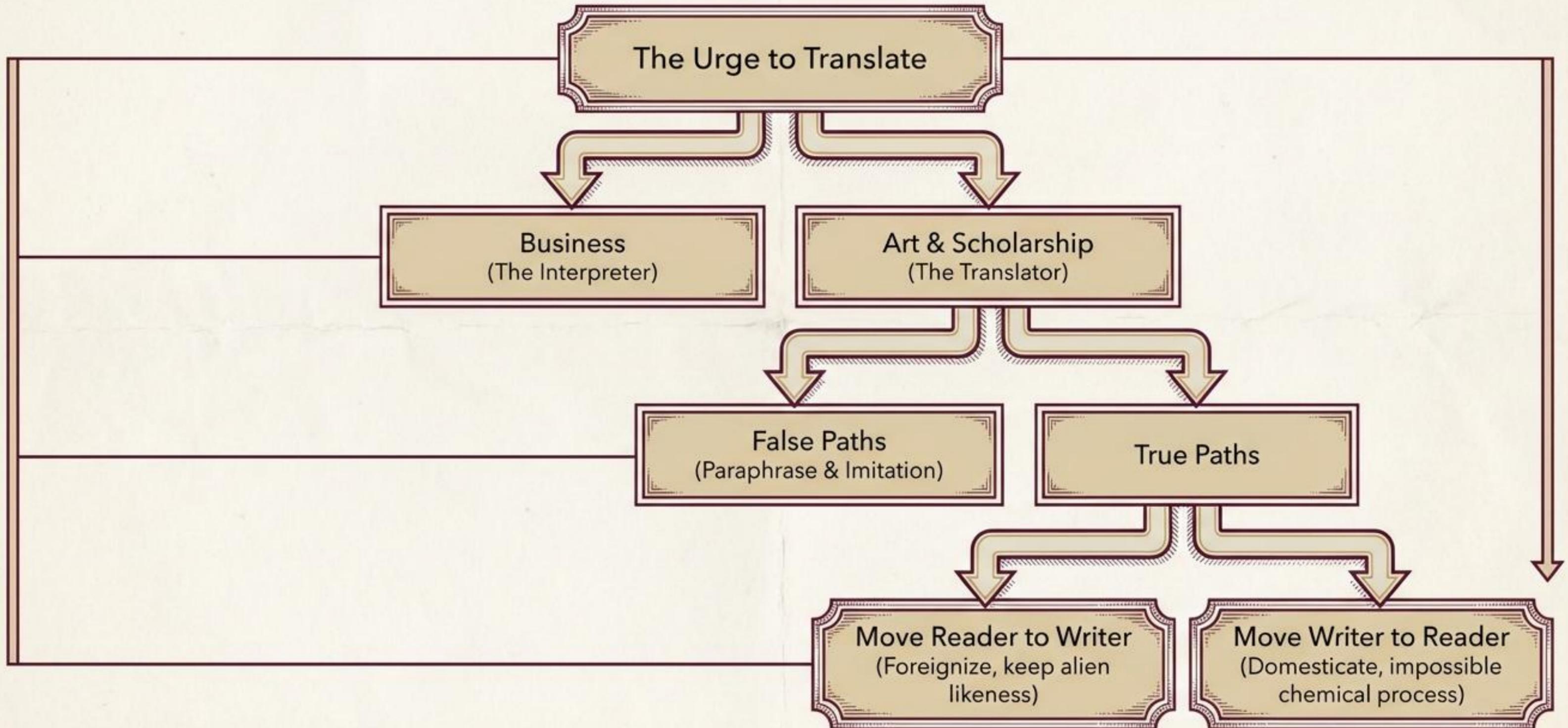
'Mixing them results in a highly unreliable outcome where 'author and reader would likely not come together at all.' The reader is mercilessly thrown back and forth between two worlds, suffering dizziness and frustration.

# A Historical Mission

Schleiermacher viewed large-scale translation not just as art, but as the destiny of the German nation.

- 
- 👉 - A disposition toward mediation and a deep respect for things foreign.
  - 👉 - Gathering the treasures of foreign art and scholarship.
  - 👉 - Uniting the knowledge of the most varied ages into a 'great historical whole' in the heart of Europe.

# Schleiermacher's Conceptual Map



# The Enduring Value of Foreignness



The true purpose of all translation is an enjoyment of foreign works as unadulterated as possible. To truly expand the horizon of the human mind, the translator must respect the alien nature of the text, inviting the reader to step outside the boundaries of their mother tongue.