

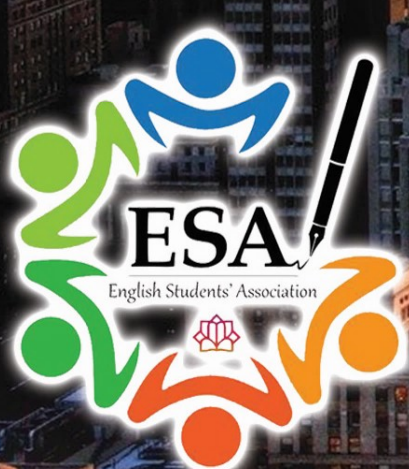
# HASHTAG



**You hate your own VOICE!**

**A Biography of Gabriel Garcia Marquez**

**GREEN BOOK REVIEW**



MAY 2019

# HASHTAG



## Chief Editor's Note

*Seyed Iman Tofighi*

Bearing a humongous amount of history upon its shoulders, the word "Hashtag" has always been utilized as a tool of connection, concentration, and unification of modern mankind. It is of *Connection* due to relating those who share common interests. It is of *Concentration* since it gives assistance to people of prevalent concerns; and of *Unification* on the account of giving a voice to those deprived of one. All being set aside, there remains no other reasons for us not to name our beloved magazine as #Hashtag in the hope of "connecting" students of all majors within the faculty, "concentrating" our disparate enthusiasms in a united mainstream of academia, and "unifying" not only our thoughts, but also our hearts when it comes to the sake of greater good!

What you are about to read is an ongoing project of ardent students who have assiduously participated in the production of this issue from scratch. A group of more than ten industrious students cooperating with one another, regardless of their major or year of entry, is what keeps our department motivated for aspiring. It would indeed remain our fervent wish if you could also join us in honor of sharing your talents as well as your skills, aiding us with constant improvement of YOUR magazine. Nonetheless, even if you were to abide by us as our esteemed readers, do not forget that your criticality in regard to #Hashtag's flaws and your suggestions concerning #Hashtag's betterment will be highly appreciated.

**Editor in Chief:** Seyed Iman Tofighi

**Production Manager:** Negin Rabiee

**Associate Editor:** Elnaz Chenari

**Art Director:** Seyed Iman Tofighi

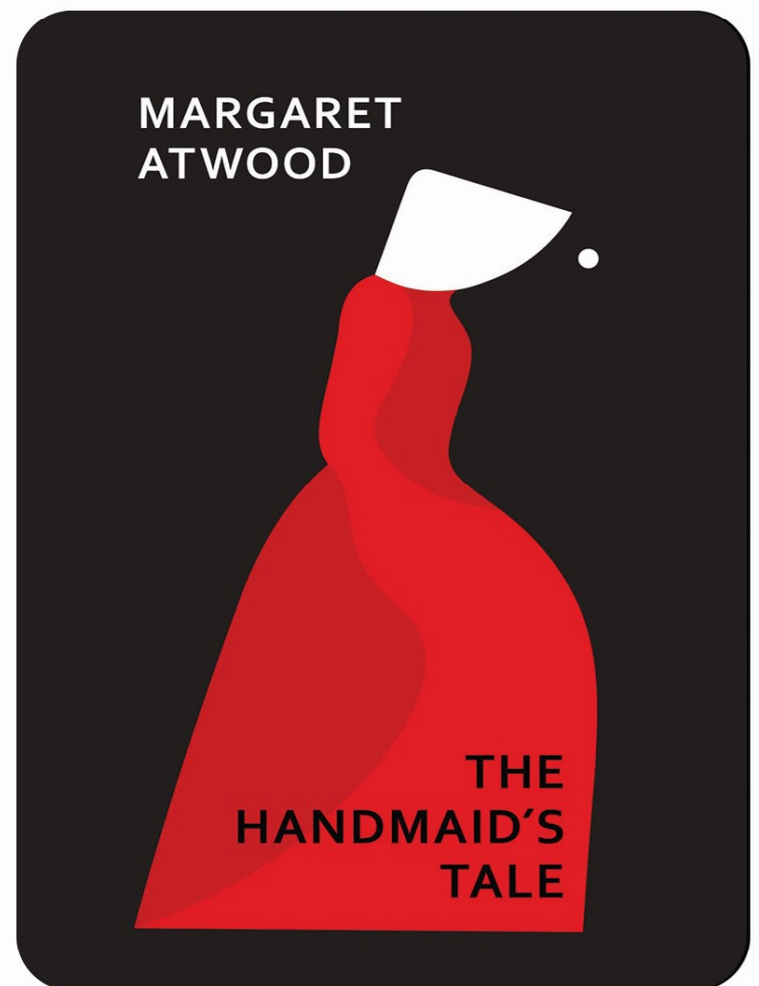
**Staff Writers:** Zahra Khalifeh - Mohammad Moshkfroush - Vafa Aradfar - Masoumeh Jafari - Alireza Ahmadi - Sahel Lotfalizadeh - Maryam Iranpour - Maryam Maghrour

# The Handmaid's Tale

## Book Review

How would you cope with a situation in which all your civil rights in a society have been taken away from you? That is, your family is forcibly fallen apart, and the future looks dark. Margaret Atwood, a Canadian author and environmental activist, tells us the story of a handmaid who has been through similar conditions the form of a novel published in 1985. There is also a TV series in two seasons based on this novel with the same title.

The story is about a young married woman called Offred, whose real name is June. She narrates her new appalling life with details from dusk till the next day. In each chapter, we are informed of some events in the past through regular flashbacks. The author uses the autobiographical narrative technique so that the readers become deeply and emotionally involved in it. Atwood has written the story with a special care about the details. As we read at the beginning of the novel, "*We slept in what had once been the gymnasium. The floor was of vanished wood, with stripes and circles painted on it for the games that were played there. The hoops for the basketball nets were still in place, though the nets*



*were gone.*" The reader can feel the atmosphere along with Offred thanks to her style of narration. Offred is brought to the house of the Commander and his wife in order to bear them a baby since the wife is not capable of having one. In fact, all women in the new republic have to do the same. What has been their purpose in life does not matter now. They must be capable of giving birth, which is the main goal. Otherwise, they will be taken to the Colonies, a place for dirt work. Offred always wears gloves and a long dress all in red. She goes shopping every morning, prays every night, and thinks of her lost husband and her only daughter. She has no idea where they are. All these are the result of a revolution in the country. The new government is called Gillied which is a fictional country in the future created by the author.

Offred is living happily with her family, but, one day, she and her other female co-workers get fired by their boss, and this is only the beginning of all problems. Now she has to live under certain limitations in the Commander's house, totally powerless to do anything about the situation. She has got a routine life in which she has to do the same stuff every day. As she says, "*Ordinary,*" said Aunt Lydia, "*is what you are used to. This may not seem ordinary to you now, but after a time it will. It will become ordinary.*" Eventually there comes a time when she is extremely hurt by her new life, and some thoughts cross her mind like, "*Now and again we vary the route; there is nothing against it as long as we stay within the barriers. A rat in a maze is free to go anywhere as long as it stays inside the maze.*"



The entire book is filled with confusion and a sense of fear. Offred is not certain of what is going to happen tomorrow. Every night she is obsessed with the past memories, what had occurred between her and Luke, her husband, their predictions about the revolution, and her little girl who is taken away from her mother. In some parts of the book, we can completely feel the tension and anxiety. "She got up and went to the kitchen and poured us a couple of scotches and came back and sat down, and I tried to tell her what had happened to me." We clearly see the urgency in the prose which is the author's technique to make us understand Offred's fear and anxiety. Moreover, Offred has some challenges with Serena Joy, the Commander's wife. Serena, on the other hand, is a woman who seems wealthy and normal, but she also has her own story to tell.

In this hazy life, Offred does not have any friends or connections with any kinds of communities, until she meets another handmaid whose name is Ofglen. They walk across the streets and whisper secretly about the probable ways of getting out of the country. They never stop dreaming of freedom. But in Offred's opinion, what hurts the most is the fact that they had the freedom before; people were living a life they well deserved. But now, it is difficult to change everything and return to the good old days.

As Margaret Atwood is Canadian, she introduces Canada as a dreamland in the story. It is almost impossible to get there; it is a long journey, exactly like a true dreamland in the handmaid's idea. Readers can live and breathe every minute of Offred's life. Is she able to reach the glossy days again? You have to find the answer yourself!

**Written by:**

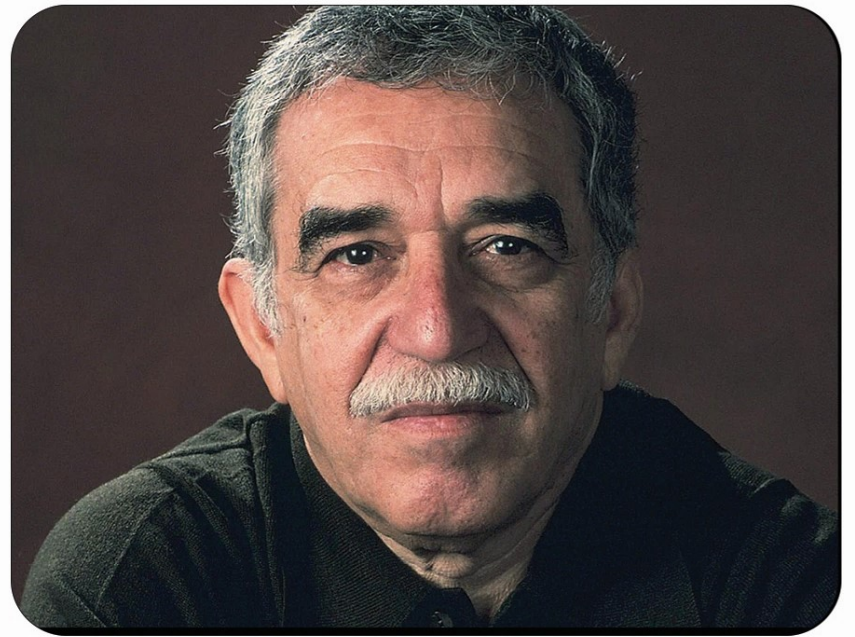
**Masoumeh Jafari**

1927  
2014

# Gabriel García Márquez

Gabriel Garcia Marquez was born in Aracataca, Colombia, on March 6, 1927. His father was a postal clerk, telegraph operator, and itinerant pharmacist. Garcia Marquez spent his childhood away from his parents, living with his grandparents, who were great story tellers according to his explanations. His grandfather, Nicolas, was a liberal activist and a colonel during Colombia's Thousand Days War, and his stories were all about war and political activism.

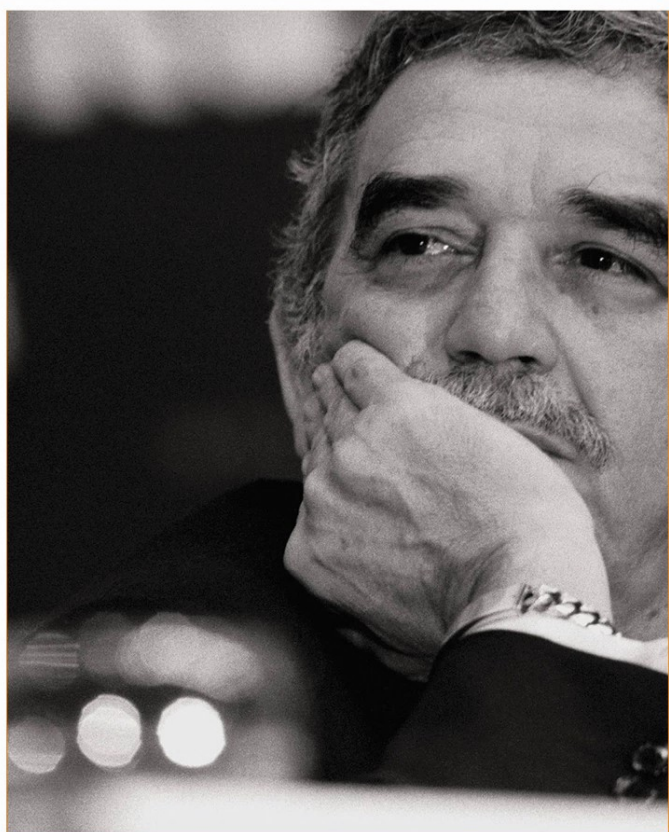
His grandmother believed in magic; hence her grandson's mind was filled with ghosts, spirits, superstitions and folk legends. Marquez has explained that these were huge influences on his writing. When he was eight years old, his grandfather passed away, and he was sent to live with his parents in Sucre. When he was twelve, he obtained a scholarship to study at the Colegio Nacional.



In 1946, he finished high school and entered Law School at the National University of Bogota. There he began reading Kafka and published his first short stories, later translated as "The Third Resignation" in *Leading Liberal Newspaper*. His first publications were all short stories, which appeared from 1947 to 1952 in *El Espectador*, the newspaper of Bogota and *El Heraldo*, the newspaper of Barranquilla. In that time, the call of revolution was strong throughout Latin America. He left Law School on the lookout for a career in journalism.

In 1954, he broke a news story about a sailor who survived the shipwreck of a Colombian Navy Destroyer. This interview resulted in an exile to Europe, where he began to write short stories and novels. When he returned to Latin America in 1958, he married Mercedes Barcha, his partner before leaving for Europe. They had two sons, Rodrigo and Gonzalo. Garcia Marquez continued writing until the end of his life. He was recognized and praised with the Neustadt International Prize for Literature and the Noble Prize in Literature in 1972 and 1982 respectively.

His greatest achievement was devising a literary movement known as "magical realism". He is known as the pioneer of this style of writing. Magical realism is the combination of reality and fantasy in a way that both seem real and unreal simultaneously. In fact, enameling the reality with magical elements makes the reality much more attractive and creates a deeper understanding of it. When Garcia Marquez won the Noble Prize in Literature in 1982 for his famous novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, magical realism, which was the style of this novel, became a dominant and popular style among most of the countries all around the world. Garcia Marquez uses magical realism in order to remove or blur the borders between reality and fantasy. Among his works, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1967) and *Love in the Time of Cholera* (1985) are known for their gripping content and morbid fantasy infused with reality. Another example of magical realism is "The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World" (1968). This story is like a proof that magic does exist, but it is up to us whether to embrace or ignore it.



He quite often uses the theme of solitude in his novels. His fictional village, Macondo, is loosely based on his hometown Aracataca in Colombia. He was deeply inspired by the surroundings where he grew up in. Therefore, in many of his works he portrays a somewhat autobiographical account of his life, but he refines it with magic, fantasies, omens etc.

It was Garcia Marquez who introduced the literature of Latin America to the whole world. He paved the way for the other authors from Latin America to become famous internationally. He was a prolific author of the twentieth century. *Leaf Storm*, his first novella, was published in 1955. A second novel, *No One Writes to the Colonel*, was published in 1961, followed by a collection of short stories *Big Mama's*

*Funeral* in 1962. Three years later, he began working on *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, which was published in 1967. A second story collection, *The Incredible and Sad Story of Innocent Eréndira and Her Heartless Grandmother*, which includes "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings", was published in 1972. His later novels include: *The Autumn of the Patriarch* (1975), which according to the author is a "poem on the solitude of power", *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (1981), *Love in the Time of Cholera* (1985), and *The General in His Labyrinth* (1989). Some of his other famous works include non-fictional works such as *News of a Kidnapping*, *Living to Tell the Tale*, and *The solitude of Latin America*. He has also penned down short stories like "Strange Pilgrimage" and "Eyes of a Blue Dog" among others. Garcia Marquez died of pneumonia in 2014 and was buried in Mexico City.

Written by:  
**Vafa Aradfar**

VECTOR HQ

# “*Green Book*”

## A Film Review

*Green Book* is a black and white story in a black and white era; a story of friendship and racialism in a road trip throughout the state. The black and white chess pieces are playing beside each other now, trying to see through one another's point of view. This movie, which is based on a true story, depicts the life of two men who become close friends during a road trip for an eight-week concert tour. The cooperation between Farrelly and Nick Vallelonga, the son of Frank Vallelonga, has turned out to be fascinatingly bright.

It began where Frank Vallelonga, an Italian-American bouncer also known as “Tony Lip” and the father of the two, became unemployed because the Copacabana nightclub where he used to work as a guard closed due to renovations. Later on, Don Shirley, a Classic-Jazz pianist, invited Tony to an interview in order to hire him as his chauffeur and bodyguard during the mentioned tour. Eventually, Tony accepts Don's offer.

In one of the initial scenes, two black workers were fixing Vallelonga's Kitchen sink, and Tony threw away the two glasses from which those men had drunk. He just did it as if he was condemned to do so; he may not have known the reason himself. However, when he was asked in the interview whether he was content to work for a black man or not, he replied in the affirmative and told the story in a different way. The first day, Tony was introduced to the *Green Book*, a literally green book that indicated places such as restaurants, motels, and bars where a colored person can go.



The book was for safe travelling, and, without it, there were many dangers around the black folks. Their friendship was truly shaped in the car. Although Don was frequently irritated by Tony's habits and behaviours, they got along quickly and started to like each other. Don even helped Tony in writing sentimental letters to his wife, Dolores, and she certainly was touched by them. Perhaps the most effective and emotional scene was the conversation in the rain where Tony says, *"My world is way blacker than yours, cause I live in the streets and you live in a castle."* Don replies, *"Yes, Tony. I live in a castle, ALONE, and white rich guys pay me to play piano for them. Because it makes them feel cultured. But as soon as I'm off the stage, I'm just another nigger to them, and I'm not accepted by my own people, cause I'm not like them either."*



The proof to his words is when he was standing in front of a group of colored farmers, and they just stared at him, watching him in his all-fancy suit with a white guy driving him around. *"So,"* he says, *"If I'm not black enough, and if I'm not white enough, and if I'm not man enough, then what am I?"*

Now here is a question worthy of reflection: why did he choose to travel to places where a black man was least welcomed, where he could not use the same restroom or eat in the same restaurants, or even buy clothes from the same shops as white people did? He chose to travel to the Deep South, a greatly dangerous place for him, with a strong inner will. The movie tried to show the differences and the severity of the situation based on a true story. It received a lot of praise which was all well-deserved. Both actors did a marvellous job. Mahershala Ali won the Golden Globe along with the Academy Award for the Best Actor in a Supporting Role. The movie itself was named as The Best Movie of 2018 along with many other rewards and nominations.

Nevertheless, it did receive some criticisms as well since it was not completely similar to the original story. For instance, the tour in the original story was about eighteen months whereas in the movie, it was only for two months. This movie is about "true friendship" and "true life story". This idea persuaded them to make a movie based on their lives. They were still friends when they both passed away in 2013.

**Written by:**

**Alireza Ahmadi**  
**Sahel Lotfalizadeh**

## Immersive Games

Teachers are always striving to demonstrate more and talk less while teaching students new concepts and skills, so natural it is that they often try to discover new ways to enhance their curriculum. Accordingly, games can be a good option as well as a marvelous tool to aid pupils in attaining deeper perception of language content.



**Gamification** is a term given to the adding features associated with games such as points, badges, levels, leader boards and challenges to non-game activities. It is prevalently used for students in classrooms to motivate them thoroughly in a fun and suitable learning atmosphere. However, there is a substantial difference in the definition of immersive games. Immersive games, in general, provide a fully immersive environment which is useful for various aims such as learning a second language. With the increasing use of technology for educational purposes, video games can be considered both a blessing and a curse. Rather than blindly assuming that the benefits of games will affect

students' learning, regardless of their disparate backgrounds, both educators and designers of instructional technology must develop appropriate methodology for evaluating games as learning artifacts. Thus, in order to evaluate an immersive game, ESL teachers should answer the six inquiries that follow: (1) How accessible is it? (2) When has it been published? (3) Is it updated? (4) What age group is it aimed at? (5) What Target Language is it appropriate for? (6) What skill(s) could be practiced by it? After finding proper answers to the questions above, language teachers must plan to use such ilk of games in their teaching. To do so, they should experiment with different games by playing games themselves or even by watching their trailers and walkthrough videos. Afterwards, they must take into account the reason behind using the games.

Is it to enrich learning, reinforce learning, support learning, or to amalgamate all of them? More significantly, they should ensure whether the chosen game fits their curriculum and its aims or not. Eventually, teachers are supposed to put immersive games carefully into their lesson plans as an entire lesson, homework, or a follow-up for a better language focus.

## How to use games for language learning?

In class assignments, it is claimed that an instructor can create “wrap-around” activities for a game (Sykes, 2013). Those may include oral reports on game experiences, class discussions around gameplay, writing reviews of games using the criteria set by the teacher, game journaling, quizzes or even exercises based on the game. The opponents are unanimous in using games as a reward for students' progress, achieving the desired results, or as homework. In this way, language learners are enabled to check their own progress as well as the decisions they have made and their outcomes. In addition, teachers could use a game in order for students to practise specific skills of a new language and above all, as a sweetening activity at the end of a lesson to review the materials which have been covered. In pairs, students can make a walkthrough video or a podcast, work in groups to accomplish a level, or execute in-game tasks. The advocates are of the opinion that games may even be used merely to alter the pace of a lesson or even as a link into a new part of the lesson.

## Types of immersive games:

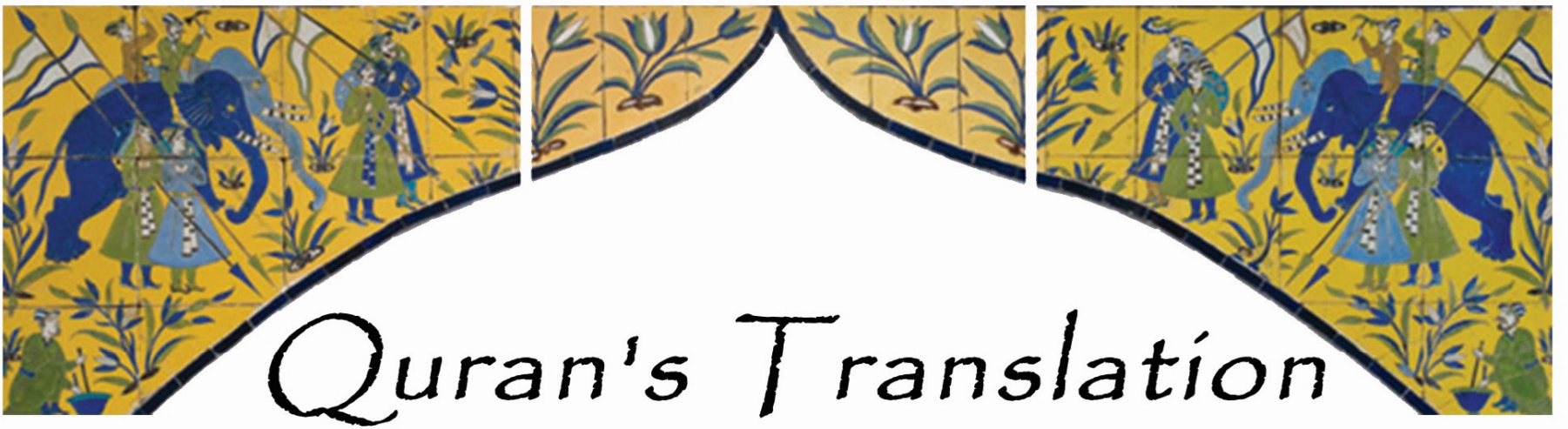
1. **Adventure Games** include narrative, exploring and solving puzzles, e.g. Monkey Island, Life Is Strange, and The Wolf Among Us. 2. **Role-Playing Games (RPGs)** involve controlling a character to carry out tasks or quests in an immersive second or third world. They are often single-player games. Besides, there is usually a narrative, and there may be puzzle solving, e.g. Dragon Quest, Skyrim, Horizon Zero Dawn, and Mass Effect Series. 3. **Sandbox Games** have few rules or goals and often include creative mechanics such as building, e.g. Minecraft. 4. **Simulation Games** imitate real-life activities in which players control a character or machine, e.g. The Sims. 5. **Massively Multiplayer Online Games (MMO or MMORPGs)** are online games with large numbers of players, e.g. World of Warcraft.

## Conclusion

To recapitulate the analysis above, it can obviously be deduced that immersive games are very useful teaching elements. They have huge unexplored potential as tools for language learning. Understanding them as social, interactive, procedural, aesthetic, multimodal, and cultural artifacts is a necessity for their utilization. This is the point that ESL teachers ought to deeply consider in the realm of teaching. With all the evidences suggesting that games have pedagogic value, teachers should think long and hard about what immersive games they should employ and how, nonetheless.

Written by:

**Maryam Maghrour**



# Quran's Translation

One of the most conspicuous factors by which Islam has become the most rapidly spreading religion in the world is the upswing in the number of the Holy Quran's translations in the twentieth century. While this sacred text is well-known for its immutable essence, it has been translated into more than twenty languages including European languages such as German, French, English, Norwegian, and Asian ones such as Japanese, Urdu, and Malay.



Since it has become accessible in various parts of the world, more readers can take advantage of this blessed text to improve both their mundane and spiritual lives. The primary aim of this paper is to explore the several factors by which the Holy Quran's translation process is influenced. These factors are mainly linguistic, stylistic, and personal. The first two explain more about the incomparable style of the Holy Quran, while personal factors are related to the beliefs and insights of the translator. As mentioned earlier, one of the most remarkable and impressive features of the Quran, which makes the process of translating it a formidable task, is its unrivaled nature.

Consequently, the acknowledged literary forms are all almost unavailing in this process. Since it contains a sort of miraculous essence, the translator is required to be sophisticated and insightful enough in different fields of theology to yield a rather acceptable translation in the Target Language. The other aspect of the Holy Quran which causes difficulty in the process of translation is the extent of associative phrases and words in the text. While the translator might have a profound knowledge of vocabulary, he may find it pretty difficult to come up with befitting equivalents for such words in other languages. Knowing that this blessed text includes a wide range of names, stories, historical events, and religious incidents, the translator should have a broad understanding of dozens of terms such as cultural and sacred ones; otherwise, he will not manage to produce an accurate translation. Taken together, these points suggest that there is a direct relationship between the translator's level of insight and the quality of the translation. Quran translators benefit from translating strategies, for instance paraphrasing, substituting etc. to create a detailed and commendable translation in spite of all the barriers.

Written by:  
**Zahra Khalifeh**

# Why We Hate Our Voice!

Most of us grimace at hearing the sound of our own voice played back in a video or audio. But what makes this recorded voice so different from our own voice? The scientific explanation behind this phenomenon is all about the vibrations inside our bodies which no one else hears.

When we hear other people talking, their sound travels as series of vibrations through the air, goes into our ears, and vibrates the eardrum - a piece of thin, tightly stretched skin inside the ear enabling us to hear. Then our vibrating eardrum makes three little bones (the malleus, the incus, and the stapes) vibrate. After that, these vibrations are transformed into nerve signals which are sent up into our brain to be converted into sound. The same is true when we hear ourselves speaking. Besides these external sound waves are other internal vibrations; vibrations from our vocal cords and airways which are added to the mix.

According to Rachel Feltman at *The Washington Post*, you add bone conduction to air conduction when you speak with your own voice. "Bone-conducted sound is when you activate your vocal cords, and vibrations are set off through your skull, eventually reaching your inner ear," explains Feltman. "The acoustics in your skull lower the frequency of those vibrations along the way, essentially adding some bass tones." As a result, the voice we hear inside our heads is lower and more mellifluous (very pleasant to listen to) because of these extra rumblings, and hearing it from outside ourselves makes it sound strange.

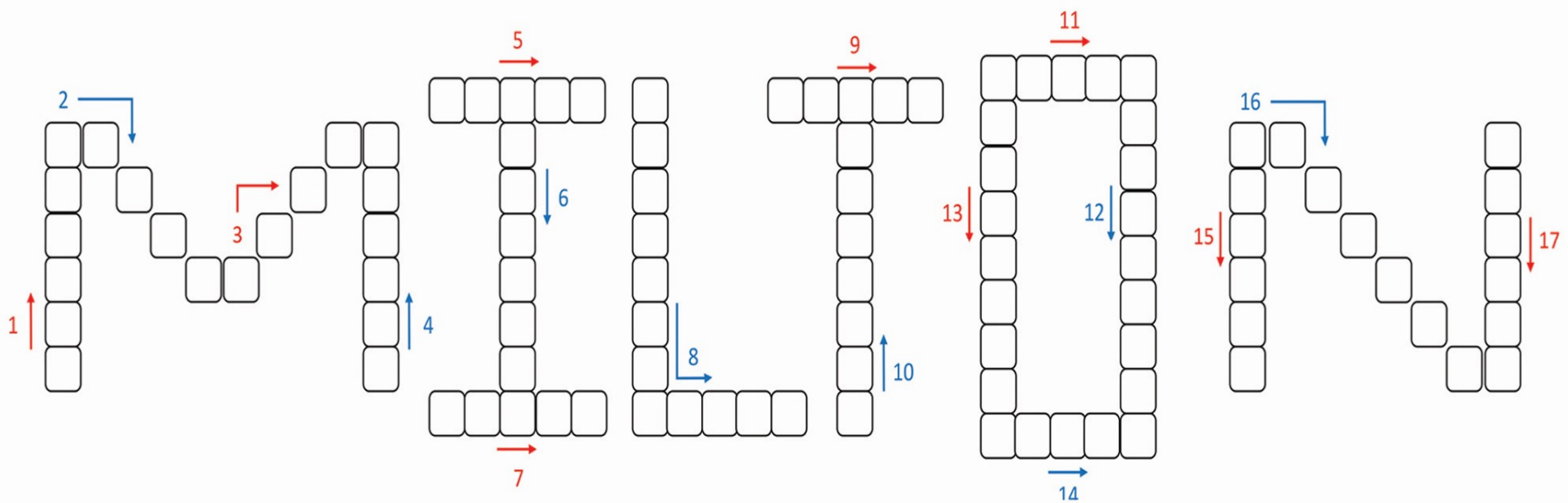


The good news is that our voice is not grating (unpleasant to listen to) for our friends and acquaintances at all. It is the only version they have got used to since they have never heard the one inside our head. The next time you wonder "Do I really sound like that?" don't bother; the answer is YES!

Written by:

**Mohammad Moshkroush**

# TABLE



1. \_\_\_\_\_ materials are used to raise students' awareness of certain structures or context-based patterns, enabling them to make inferences on how they are used.
2. The belief in a God who made the world but has no influence on human lives
3. Scene or spectacle
4. The pattern of basic values and attitudes of a people, characteristically transmitted through myths and the arts
5. The first translated text was translated to this language.
6. Rapid sequence of sensational events
7. Movies by Keaton and Marx brothers are examples of \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Wh-structure
9. An element of amusement in literature
10. Prose epigram
11. One of the most famous tragedies of the Romantic Period
12. The Four Ps is the best example of it.
13. An addicted author
14. One of the divisions of Pindaric ode
15. Symbol of ambition in mythology
16. It is a mode of grammar taught in context, exposing students to substantial doses of grammar study.
17. The first stage of language acquisition process is called the \_\_\_ Period, extending between two to six months.

Written by:  
**Maryam Iranpour**

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*Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.*

*In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds and shall find me unafraid.*



*It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul.*

**“Invictus” by William Ernest Henley**