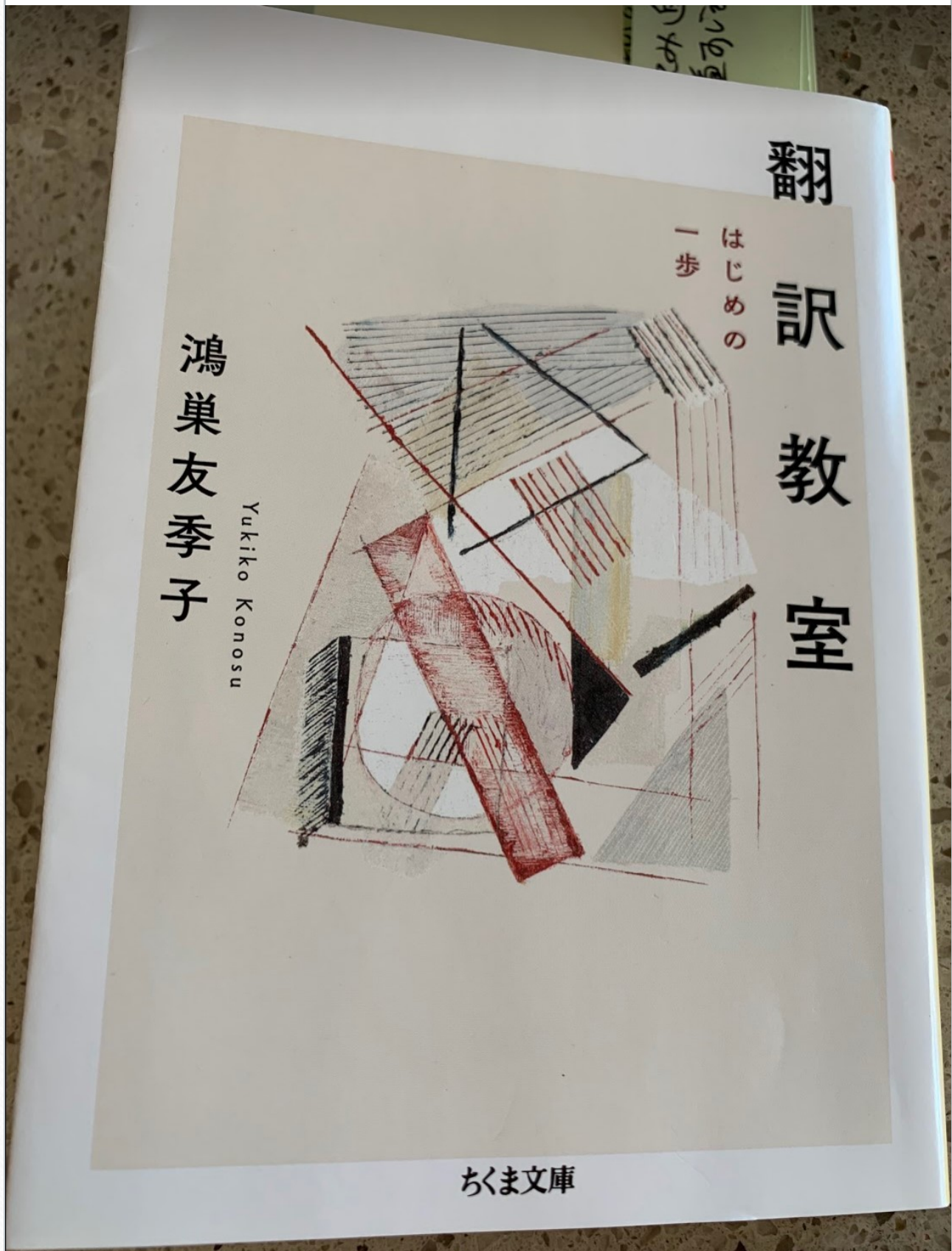


BORDERLESS DEFINED

Newsletter of Borderless Interpreting & Translation, LLC



Box of Imagination

Newsletter No. 107 issued by Noriko Rogers (February 19, 2022)

I just finished reading a book titled "*Honyaku Kyoshitsu (Translation Class)*" by Yukiko Konosu. A large portion of the book is a documented account of a previously aired TV program featuring a translation workshop she gave at her alma mater.

The 6th graders that she explores translation with are truly inspiring with their genuine interest and desire to express their understanding of the source, which is incidentally not their mother tongue.

Among all the amazing elements of the book, I would like to share one concept that Konosu highlighted a few times throughout — she refers to it as the "box of imagination." Its walls are assumptions we have about other people, things or ideas. In my interpretation, it is what confines us to our views of what it must be like to be on the other side.

She stresses that we must focus our energy on broadening this box of imagination while fully acknowledging that there will likely be a gap, whether interculturally and/or interlingually. She says that the significance of communication and translation lies in the conscious effort of maximizing the "overlap ("*kasanari*")," thereby gaining empathy for others.

She also discusses the "triple whammy ("*sanju no muzukashisa*")" of translation as you as a translator are expected to overcome the "others" wall, the linguistic wall then ultimately your own wall as you attempt to express the message in your own words.

The next Borderless Defined will be in your inbox in the week of February 28th. Thanks for reading!

Take care,

Noriko Rogers
Borderless Interpreting & Translation, LLC

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