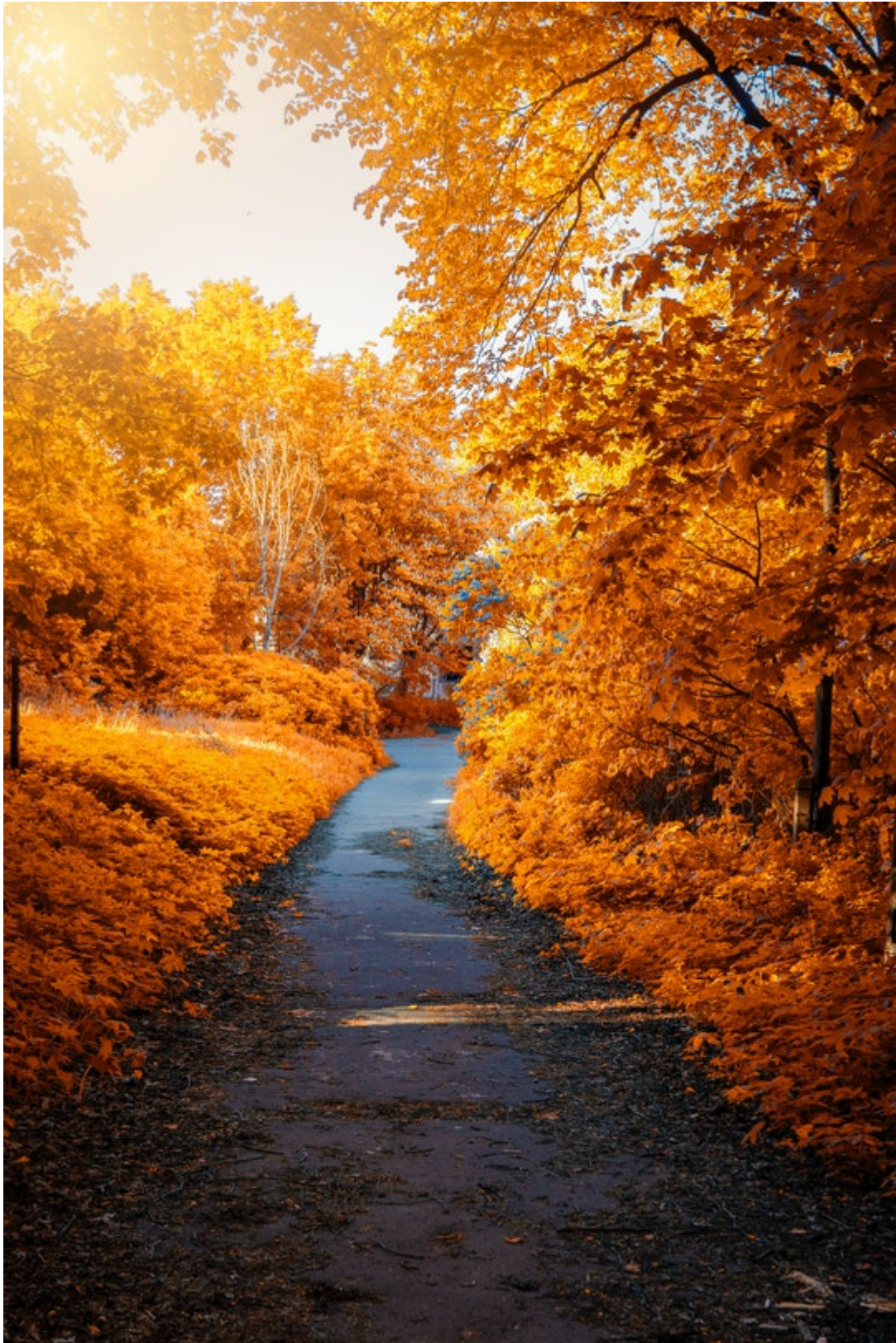




BORDERLESS DEFINED

Newsletter of Borderless Interpreting & Translation, LLC



From Foreground to Background

Newsletter No. 98 issued by Noriko Rogers (September 19, 2021)

To say that there are a few considerations in translation is certainly an understatement. I have the luxury of reviewing texts localized by professional translators on a regular basis and I find that a translation is (or perhaps should be) a result of juggling priorities and making the best possible decisions to bring about desired effects. (Of course, this is easier said than done!)

What can sometimes lack in a translation is an indication that such process took place—the word choices could be haphazard or give a default-like impression, or the sentence structure could be such that emphasis is placed improperly, etc.

In a [JACI session](#) last month, Ms. Yukiko Konosu described a similar phenomenon observed with some translators. She noted that they can, in fact, get too caught up in the background meaning (i.e., less obvious but meaning derived from contextual or external knowledge related to the subject matter) of the source and consequently lose sight of the foreground, especially in literary translation.

If a work is generally regarded as obscure or difficult, this is apparently a fairly common psychological pitfall, to which I can definitely relate. And this is not to be taken as her advocacy for literal translation. If anything, it speaks to the importance of being aware of both the foreground and background meaning of a given text and making the best possible decisions (once again).

I thought her description of foreground and background meaning was both relevant and relatable. I feel like I gained yet another filter to view my own work as well as others'.

The next Borderless Defined will be in your inbox in the week of September 27th.

Thanks for reading!

Noriko Rogers

Borderless Interpreting & Translation, LLC

(1) This newsletter is exclusively distributed to those who have either exchanged business cards or contact information with Noriko Rogers and have granted permission in writing to subscribe to this service.

(2) If you wish to update your e-mail address, please reply directly to this e-mail with your new address.

(3) Please note that I do not disclose your private information to any third parties.

(4) Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone who might be interested.



Borderless Interpreting & Translation, LLC

Plain City, Ohio, USA

+1 (614) 705-5068

URL: www.borderlessinterpreting.com

Contact: noriko@borderlessinterpreting.com

mailer lite