

# BORDERLESS DEFINED

Newsletter of Borderless Interpreting & Translation, LLC



## Counterpart

Newsletter No. 123 issued by Noriko Rogers (December 14, 2022)

I hope this finds you doing well!

Just the other day, my husband shared the following passage from "[The Order of Time](#)" written by Carlo Rovelli:

In order to compare the map with what we see, it is necessary to add a crucial piece of information: we must identify on the map our exact location. The map does not know where we are, at least when it is not fixed

in the place that it represents—like those maps in mountain villages showing routes that can be walked with a red dot next to which is written: "You Are Here." A strange phrase: how can a map know where we are? We might be looking at it from afar, through binoculars. Instead, it should say, "I, a map, am here," with an arrow next to the red dot. But there is also something curious about a text that refers to itself. What is it? It is what philosophers call "indexicality": the characteristic of certain words that have a different meaning every time they are used, a meaning determined by where, how, when, and by whom they are being spoken. Words such as "here," "now," "I," "this," "tonight" all assume a different meaning depending on who utters them and the circumstances in which they are uttered.

Immediately, I thought of "counterpart" as a word.

Toshiya Echizen talks about how nuanced translating "counterpart" is in his book titled "[この英語、訳せない](#)" ("How to translate untranslatable English expressions").

Similar to words such as "here," "now," etc., "counterpart" takes on a different meaning depending on the context.

Every time it comes up in interpreting, its chameleon-like nature reminds me of just how important it is to understand *how* a word is used rather than *what* word is used.

Thank you for being a reader of Borderless Defined in 2022!  
The first newsletter of 2023 will be in your inbox shortly after January 2nd.

Happy holidays!

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](http://www.borderlessinterpreting.com)

Contact: [noriko@borderlessinterpreting.com](mailto:noriko@borderlessinterpreting.com)

mailer lite