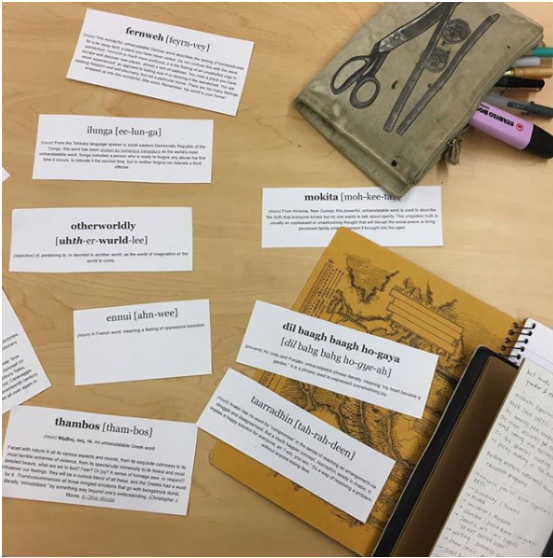


Lost in Translation:

Using Poetry to Find Cultural Representation



“ostranenie”

(noun) An untranslatable Russian word, ostranenie is known as the act of encouraging people to see the beauty and familiar in the unusual and wild. It is the process of defamiliarizing something in order to understand it on a profound level.

This workshop invites participants to construct a hybrid poem using foreign-language words and phrases, most of which do not translate to English because their meaning is contextually specific to a cultural temperament. This workshop is a hybrid poetic exercise with *code-meshing*: the act of combining local, vernacular, colloquial, world dialects of English as well as other languages on formal assignments and in everyday conversation, in an attempt to embrace the globalized and diverse world we live in.

Participants will:

- Participate in an introductory group discussion in which they'll be introduced to the concept of **code-meshing** and explore examples in music, literature and poetry.
- Discover new foreign-language words/phrases and their definitions.
- Learn the basic components of **hybrid poetics**, experiment with creative writing and create their own hybrid poem using the provided foreign-language words/phrases as inspiration.
- Read aloud poems to the group and share insight on the creative and cultural process.

About the Workshop Facilitator



Erica Barreto actively exercises her passions for the arts, experiential learning, and writing throughout her many professional roles, leadership experiences, workshop facilitation, community-based projects, publications and research opportunities. Currently, Erica is a Writing Associate helping individuals improve their relationship to writing across all stages of the process. Erica's most rewarding experiences with education include serving as a Writing Academic Tutor Counselor for incoming college freshman as well as Teaching Assistantships with “Writing in the Arts & Culture” course and “Conversations on Race” capstone at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) where she is expected to graduate in May 2018 with a Bachelor of the Arts in English/Communications, Creative Writing, and a minor in Arts Management.

For more information, please visit ericabvrreto.com/