

English-Romance-English back-translation exercise

Translate the following into Spanish or French, then give the translation to your partner, who will translate it back into English:

1. Vocabulary overlap

1B. He thought of himself as representing the people rather than the nation.

2. Unfamiliar metaphors

2B. My Mom used to say, "When you're blue, wear red." America took that advice on Election Day, and you can color Kevin happy.

3. The problem of possessives

3B. Come to my woman's breasts and take my milk for gall...Come, thick night, and pall thee in the dunnest smoke of hell.

4. Slang

B4. It's crackers to slip a rozzar the dropsy in snide. [1930's slang meaning, roughly, it's crazy to give a policeman a bribe in counterfeit money].

5. Fancy prose

B5. Yet somewhere behind the face's expression of flaccid and weary disillusion, as behind the bland voice and the almost feminine mannerisms, there lurked something else: something shrewd, unpredictable, and despotic.

6. Poetry

B6.

Oh, she doth teach the torches to burn bright
It seems she hangs upon the cheek of night
Like a rich jewel in an Ethiop's ear
Beauty too rich for use, for earth too dear.