BACKGROUND: A translation is a rendering from one language into another, or from an older form of a language into a modern form, more or less closely following the original. Individual translations may be published separately, or may be part of a resource containing texts in parallel languages.

Texts in parallel languages may be defined in three separate ways.

1. Resources that include the original language and also one or more translations.

2. Resources that include two or more translations, but not the original language.

3. Resources that are published simultaneously in multiple languages, when the original language cannot be determined (called “language editions” in the LC-PCC Policy Statements). Examples may include documents issued by international bodies in multiple languages and tête-bêche resources without translation statements.

Compilations of separate works in various languages (e.g., a collection of essays, one each in German, English, Spanish, and Russian) are not texts in parallel languages and are not covered by this instruction sheet. Resources containing small sections of translation (e.g., a French resource with a summary translated into English) also are not covered by this instruction sheet.

A translation or texts in parallel languages can be identified in a bibliographic record by the presence of one or more 7XX fields containing the preferred title for the work with the addition of a language at the end. The Library of Congress uses a Translation Table when assigning Cutter numbers for translations, including texts in parallel languages.

Prior to 1983, if there was an indication that the work was a translation either in the statement of responsibility in the body of the entry, or the cataloger indicated that a uniform title was not available, the Translation Table was applied. This practice was discontinued in 1983. This instruction sheet provides guidelines for properly assigning Cutter numbers for translations.
1. **General rule.** Use the Translation Table when assigning a Cutter number for a translation only when entry is under personal author or title and the preferred title plus the language is provided. Distinguish translations from the original work by using the Cutter number of the original work modified by the application of the Translation Table. *Example:*

050 00 $a JN6760 $b .R6813 [date]  
100 1# $a Rousseau, Jean-Jacques, $d 1712-1778.  
240 10 $a Considérations sur le gouvernement de Pologne. $l English  
245 10 $a Considerations on the government of Poland /$c by Jean-Jacques Rousseau ; translated from the French by Willmoore Kendall.
1. **General rule.** (Continued)

Do not use the Translation Table:

- for entries with a corporate or conference creator (Cf. G 220, sec. 1.b.)
- for serials (see sec. 7, below)
- for autobiographies or correspondence
- when using the Biography Table, except for the .xA6-Z area (Cf. G 320)
- when a caption includes the instructions “By date,” unless a subarrangement is explicitly printed in the schedules

2. **Two or more languages.** If the work contains the text in the original language and a single translation, use the Translation Table and Cutter for the language of the translation.

**Examples:**

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050 00 $a D58 $b .H4713 [date]
100 0# $a Herodotus.
245 14 $a The histories.
700 02 $a Herodotus. $t Histories.
700 02 $a Herodotus. $t Histories. $l English.

[A collection of the original Greek expression and an English translation. Add .x13 from the Translation Table to the Cutter.]
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2. Two or more languages. (Continued)

If the publication is a collection of two or more translations of a work, or the original language and two or more translations, use the Translation Table and add .x12 (Polyglot) to the Cutter. Example:

050 00 $a NA7386.M3 $b B812 [date]
100 1# $a Byne, Arthur, $d 1883-1935.
245 10 $a Casas y jardines de Mallorca = $b Cases i jardins de Mallorca / $c Arthur Byne, Mildred Stapley.
700 12 $a Byne, Arthur, $d 1883-1935. $t Majorcan houses and gardens. $l Catalan.
700 12 $a Byne, Arthur, $d 1883-1935. $t Majorcan houses and gardens. $l Spanish.

[A collection of Catalan and Spanish translations of a work originally written in English. Add .x12 from the Translation Table to the second Cutter.]
2. **Two or more languages. (Continued)**

A collection of the original Dutch expression with English and French translations. Three languages are present, so the resource is considered to be polyglot. Add .x12 from the Translation Table to the Cutter. Note: RDA core cataloging requires that an analytical entry be made for only two of the language forms.

3. **Languages not listed.** If a language is not listed on the Translation Table, select a number for that language that would agree alphabetically with the table. Do not repurpose a number listed in the Translation Table. **Example:**

Note: Until 2013, if a language was not listed in the Translation Table, a number was selected that would agree alphabetically with the table and any translation(s) previously shelflisted in the same class. For example, if a German translation was already shelflisted on .x15, a Hebrew translation could be .x16, Portuguese .x17, etc. Continue this practice only when that pattern has already been established for a particular work.
4. Earlier practice. If the number one (1) was omitted from the number representing the translation (e.g., .x for the original work, .x3 for an English translation, .x4 for French, .x5 for German, etc.), continue this practice only when the pattern has already been established for that work. Use the Translation Table without the numeral one.

5. By language, A-Z. When the caption By language, A-Z appears in the classification schedules, do not apply the Translation Table. Instead, Cutter for the language itself, e.g. .E5 for English, .F7 for French, .G4 for German, etc. Example:

- Dungan .D86
- Dusus .D87
- Swahili .S92
- Swedish .S93

6. Serials. If a translation of a serial is classed in the same number as the serial in the original language, use successive Cutter numbers to arrange the translations in alphabetical order by language.

7. Two translations into the same language in the same year. In order to avoid identical call numbers, add a work letter to the date of the second item shelflisted (cf. G 140 sec. 2).