

(...)

adopted language, one theme has had pride of place: dialogue..."

Dialogue between communities, dialogue between languages - linguists know and emphasize the fact that immigrants contribute to the dynamism and enrichment of languages such as English or French. As an example, the mixing

of Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Vietnamese with English is a worldwide phenomenon, which immigrants of various Asian origins use to communicate with each other, therefore making their own linguistic contributions. It is the same for "Spanglish", a hybrid language that mixes English and Spanish, which

is very popular with young people in the United States, and is one of the most striking examples of changes in a language faced with immigration and globalisation.

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## BABYLON RECONQUERED

**A brutal separation from one's linguistic and cultural context evokes in my mind the image of a tree cut down one fine day to be planted in different earth. The tree that until that day had run its roots in its own soil and stood firm and solid on its roots found itself suddenly uprooted, and made an effort to put down its roots again in other soil and to remain standing.**

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The image of this tree in its earth and in this different earth inflames my heart and I think of the tree's distress and solitude, and I know very well those who at some point in their lives were forced to leave their linguistic and cultural territory, to establish themselves in another linguistic and cultural territory, know very well this distress and solitude. They fully conceive the wrath of God and they live the story of Babylon and its tower.

The story of those people who wanted to be God and devoted themselves to building a tower. From day to day the tower took shape and gained in height, it approached the sky and these people became God... So God became angry and took away the unity of their language. No one could understand the other's language. The tower remained unfinished and the desire to become God even more so. Every language became a wall and people found themselves alone and powerless. Behind the wall,

they isolated themselves and the desire to become God left them.

Possibly it was these same cries of solitude, this absence of anyone to speak to intelligibly, that took form and gave birth to poetry and literature... and each language became a treasure of unconfined unlimited riches.

While God took linguistic unity away from humans, they on the other hand created the diversity of translation. Every translation opens a door in the wall, a door that gives onto another language, another culture, another existence and another wealth, so that every reader of another language may go through these doors, forget Babylon and divine wrath; so that another language may become their language, another culture their culture, another existence their existence and another wealth their wealth.

**Spôjmaï Zariab,**  
Afghan novelist