

## **Step 3: Translate the manga**

summer dies to the south.  
my is dying in the banks of boat grass

# My Translation Process (current)

- 1.
- 2.
3. Translate
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

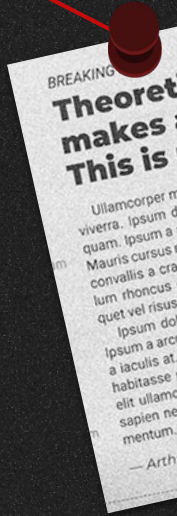




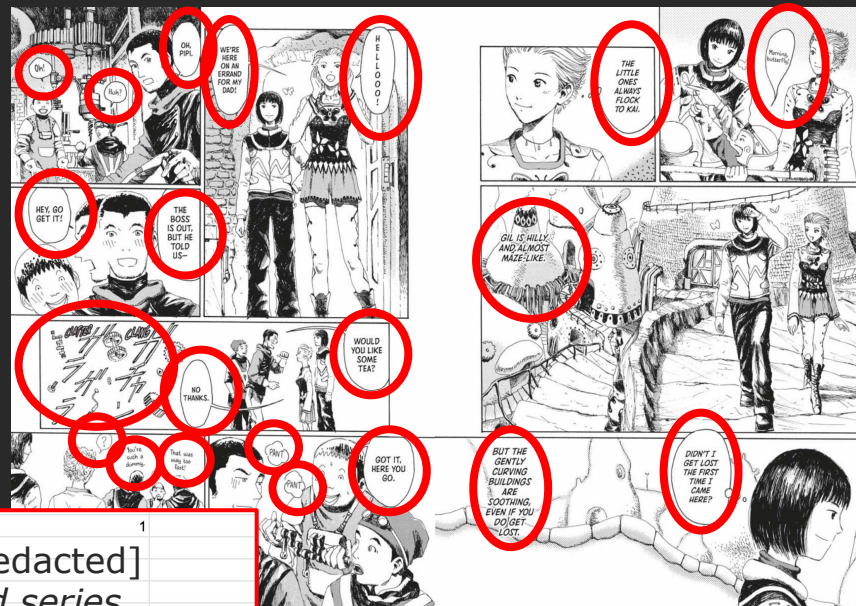
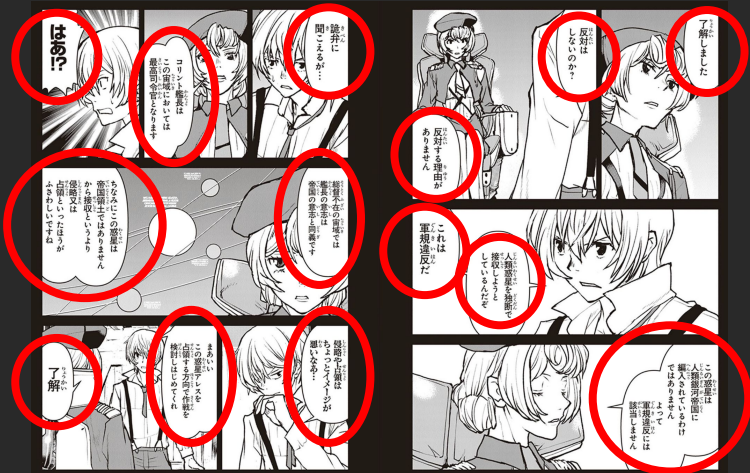
summer dies to the south.  
my is dying in the books of boat grass

# My Translation Process (current)

1. Purchase digital version
2. Pre-Format
3. Translate
4. Glossary
5. Reference existing sources (if an adaptation)
6. Self-Edit



# Pre-Format: Find the text!



(Adaptation of a webnovel)

#	#				1
ZOth					
AKan					
AKan					
AKan	Asidi				
AKan					
	SFX		SFX		ぐいぐい
	SFX		SFX		びよーんっ
AKan					
AKan					
	SFX		SFX		ドドドドド
	Thou				
All					
#	#				2
AKan					
AKan					
Sasai					
Sasai	Asidi				

*From Captain Corinth: The Galactic Navy Officer Becomes an Adventurer, the second series I translated.*

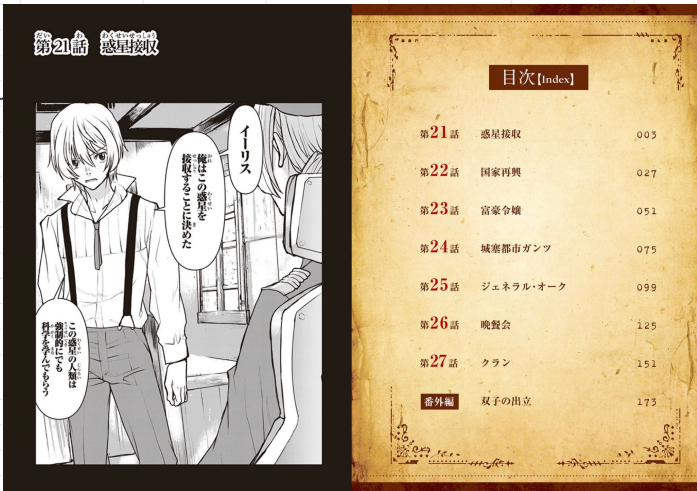
(Original manga)

*From The Music of Marie by Usamaru Furuya, the first series/volume I translated.*



# Translate (Rough Draft)

#					
Other	Oth		Index		
Other	Oth	\$	Chapter 21: Comandeeing the Planet	惑星接收	
Other	Oth	\$	Chapter 22: Restoring the Nation	国家再興	
Other	Oth	\$	Chapter 23: The Wealthy Daughter	富豪令嬢	OH IT'S FUGOU like Balance
Other	Oth	\$	Chapter 24: Citadel: Gantz	城塞都市ガンツ	
Other	Oth	\$	Chapter 25: Orc General	ジェネラル・オーク	
Other	Oth	\$	Chapter 26: The Banquet	晩宴会	Banquet?
Other	Oth	\$	Chapter 27: Clan	クラン	
Other	Oth		Bonus Story: The Twins' Departure	双子の出立	Departure?
#				3	
Other	Oth	\$	Chapter 21: Comandeeing the Planet		
Alan C			Iris.		FLASHBACK
Alan C			I'm comandeeing this planet.		FLASHBACK
Alan C			The people here will learn the science they need to know even if I have to force them to listen.		FLASHBACK
#				4	
Iris Cc			Roger that.	了解しました	ASDFFDSA
Alan C			You don't oppose the idea?		
Iris Cc			I have no reason to.		
Alan C			But I'm singlehandedly comandeeing an entire planet full of humans.	独断、接收	
Alan C		\$	That's against Imperial Code.	軍規違反	ASDFFSDA
Iris Cc			This planet has not been admitted to the Human Galactic Empire. It is outside the <b>scope</b> of the Imperial Code.	編入、軍規違反	ASDFFDSA jurisdiction?
#				5	
Alan C			That sounds like legal-ese.	詭弁	ASDFFDSA
Iris Cc			As ship's captain, you are the highest ranking officer in this sector of space.	艦長、宙域、最高司令官	ASDF of the galaxy?
Alan C			What?!		
Iris Cc			In a sector with no Governor-General, the ship captain's will is the Empire's will.	総督不在、宙域、艦長、意志、帝国、同義	
Iris Cc			Incidentally, since is is outside the Empire, it would be more correct to say you are invading, or occupying, this planet.	ちなみに、惑星、帝国領土、接收、侵略、占領、ふさわしい	
Alan C			Invading and occupying don't sound so nice.		SO WE'RE AC
Alan C			But anyway, please look into strategies for occupying this planet.	まあいい、惑星、アレス、占領、方向、作戦、検討	ASDFFDSA simulations?
5 w Iris Cc			Roger.	了解	



目次[Index]

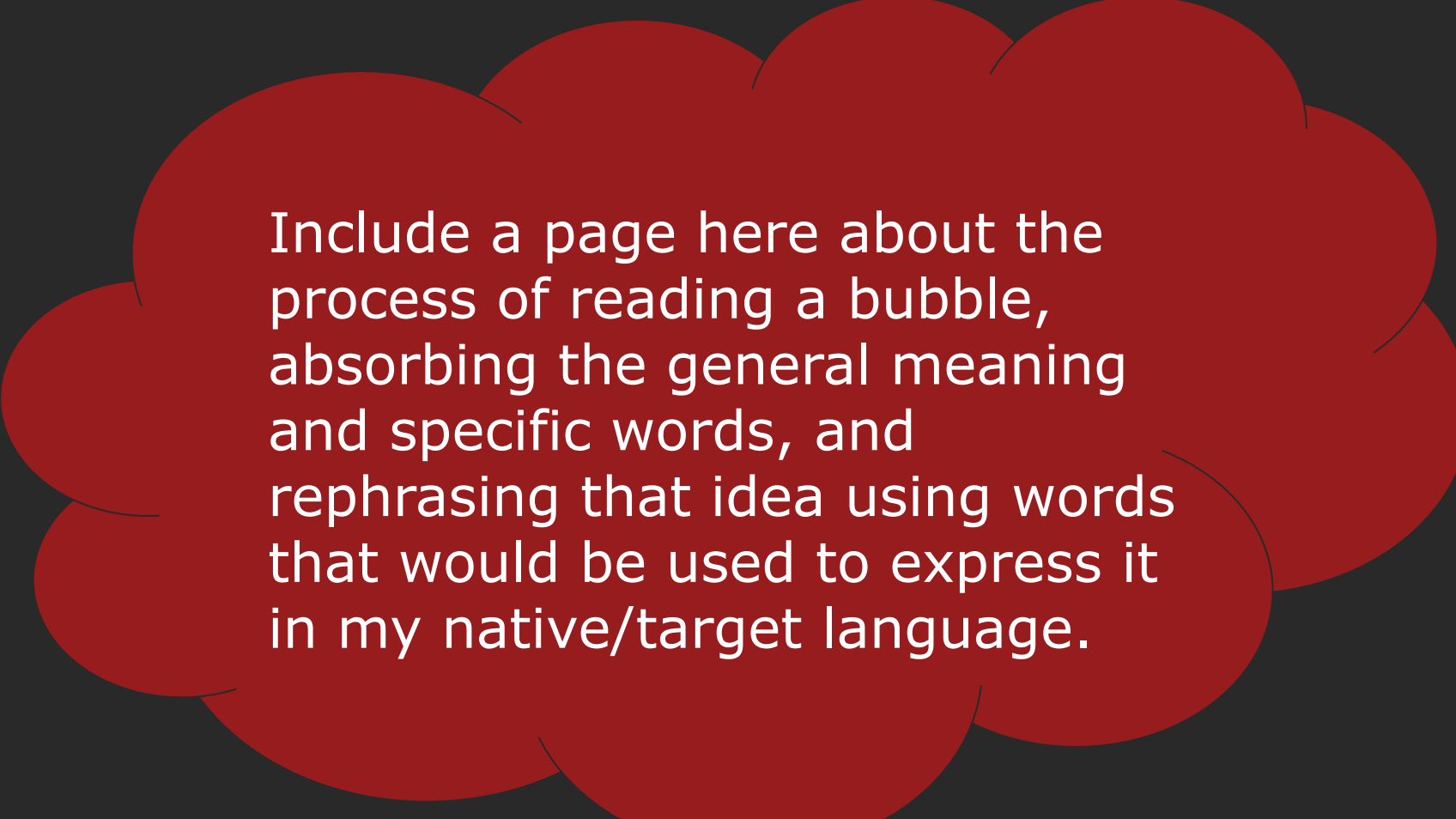
第21話	惑星接收	003
第22話	国家再興	027
第23話	富豪令嬢	051
第24話	城塞都市ガンツ	075
第25話	ジェネラル・オーク	099
第26話	晩宴会	125
第27話	クラン	151
番外編	双子の出立	173



nice ring to them.

Add page about  
word smush in  
brain and  
wringing it  
back out



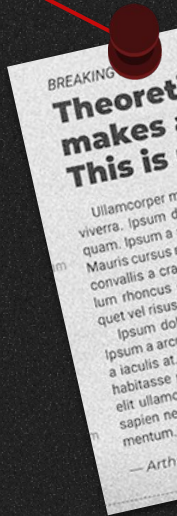


Include a page here about the process of reading a bubble, absorbing the general meaning and specific words, and rephrasing that idea using words that would be used to express it in my native/target language.

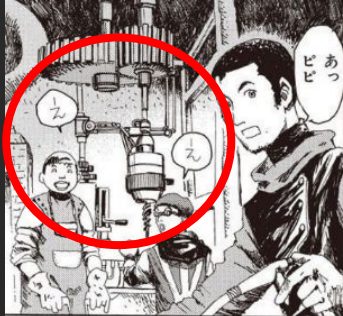
summer does to the south.  
my is dying in the banks of boat grass

# Things to think about - Translating -

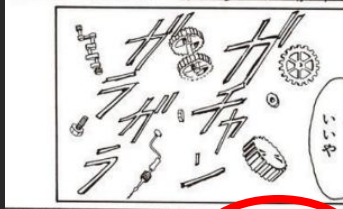
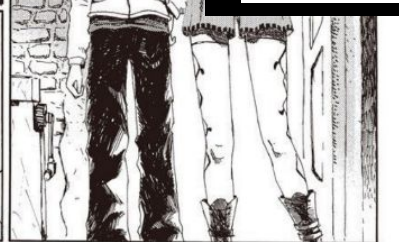
1. What's the **point** of the manga? (comedy? hentai? nonfiction?)
2. Do the words keep the **story flowing**?
3. Does the dialogue match the **tone** of the original?
4. Am I **assuming** anything that might bite me later? (often, gender)
  - ✦ Since grammatically, Japanese and English aren't 1-to-1 equivalent, inevitably, you're adding in something.  
(聞こえた? >kikoeta?>Was heard?>Did you hear me?)
5. Will those words **fit** in the bubble?
6. Just get it on the word document!

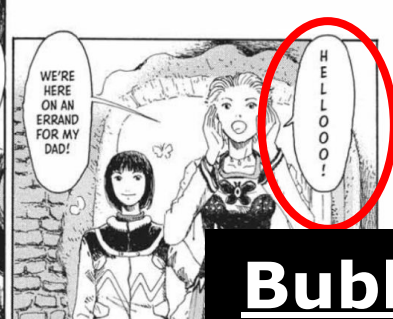
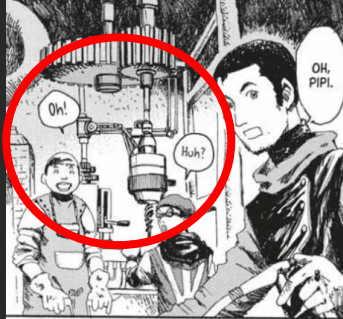




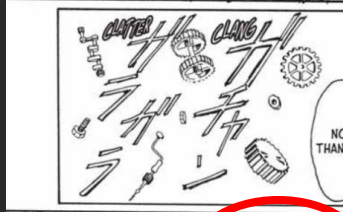


# Bubble Size





# Bubble Size





summer dies to the south.  
my is dying in the banks of boat grass

# Various translation traps: idiosyncracies of Japanese

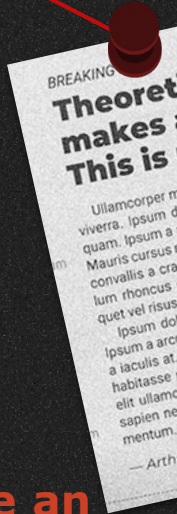
“What does the ヒール [Heal] spell do?” (‘Heal’ in English, phonetically)

ウインドカッター [uindo katta-] Window Cutter? Wind Cutter?

Spelling of foreign names (クレリア、サルサ) Korellia? Cleria?? Salza? Salsa??

**Plural vs. singular “I can't go into detail, but adventurer's guilds have an artifact that allows them to maintain communication with other guilds at a distance.”** (Sure enough, in yet-to-be-released volume 7...)

Metric vs. English: It's 300m away! -> 984 feet -> It's 1000 feet away!





# Matching aspects of the font itself

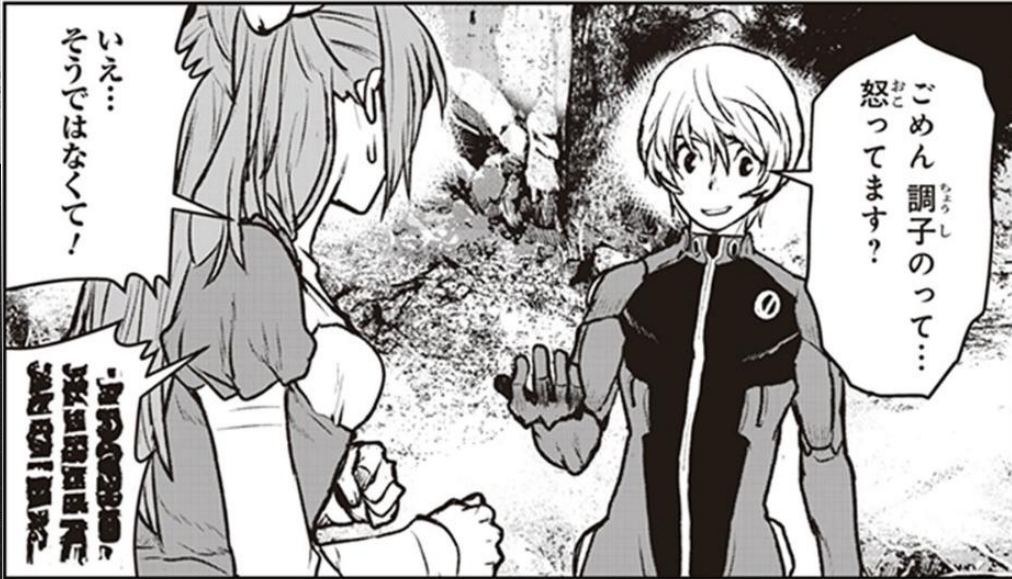


Hamd ower control.  
Or wi'll kell you.

Oh? Well, go ahead  
and kill me, then.



# Level of **formality/tone**; Multiple languages in source



Sorry, I got kind of  
carried away. Are you  
upset?

**vs.**

U mad bro?



## your questions

Ullamcorper morbi tincidunt ornare massa eget egestas purus viverra. Ipsum dolor sit amet conse ctetur adipiscing elit ut all quam. Ipsum a arcu cursus vitae congue aliquet eget sit.

— The choice of a powerful LED diode.

Hac habitasse platea dictumst quisque eros donec ac odio tempor. Quis vitae proin sagittis nisl rhoncus. Ut eu volutpat.

— The use of dosimetry in life. Useful tips.

Vulputate sapien nec sagittis bibendum arcu vitae elementum at quis risus sed vulputate ornare.

— How to apply fertilizers to plants.

Ut condimentum id venenatis. Sed in sapien pellentesque. Sed in praesent elementum facilis.

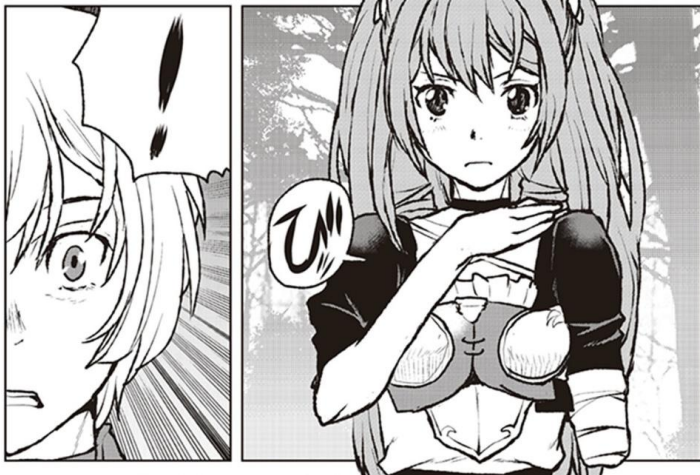


hop

# Sound Effects

SWIP

**(bonus)**





# Matching the image



"I'm 25 years old. How old are you?"

(bonus)

"I'm ten-and-"



# Glossary

186	魔物	まも monster(s)... right???	V1+V4	Term		
187	拠点	きよ base		Term		
188	国	くに country		Term		
189	共同統治	きよ joint rule/rule together	V4	Term		magic stone, magic wire,
190	宿	やと inn, lodge	V3	Term		
191	ロベルト	ロベ Robert (alternate name for Baronet Serio)	V4	Character		
192	アリス(様)	アリ Arista- アリス様- Lady Arista (from Karina)	V4	Character	Alista (Miss Alista)	Arista (Arista-sama - oh,
193		I would've been cool to only use "Lady" for nobles and use "Madam" for moneyed characters, but I used Lady for Talus' wife				
194	カリナ	カリ Karina- darker hair, ponytail lady in waiting (ii	V4	Character	Karina	Karina
195	ナタリー	ナタ Natalie - lighter hair, other lady in waiting?	V4	Character	Nathalie	Natalie
196	長	おさ chief (?)	V4	Character	head	
197	ガンツ	ガン Gantz	V4	Place	Gantz	
198	サイラス (さま/さん)	サイ (Master) Silas [Alan+Elna calls him Master Silas in V4->on, ev		Character	Cyras	Silas
199	商会	しよ trading firm (caravan...)	V3?	Term	trading company	
200	商業ギルド	Merchants Guild (RIGHT???)			Commerce Guild	Commerce Guild
201		Rank C party (is that okay)				
202	キラさん	きら Kira	V4	Character		
203	鉄の掟	てつ Iron Rule (party)	V4	Entity	Iron Rule	
204	緑の風	みど Green Wind (party, dead)	V4	Entity	Green Wind	
205	春風	はる Spring Wind	V4	Place	Spring Wind	
206	アラン様	あら Sir Alan **check	V4	Character		
207	テオ	てお Theo (a different Theo; a child, not the space	V4	Character	Theo	
208	アニキ	あに Mister	V4	Character	Bro	
209	エラ	えら Ella (child Theo's little sister)	V4	Character	Ella	
210	ブルー...	Blue...				

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my is dying in the banks of boat grass

# Things to think about - Self-Editing -

1. Go back and fix the hard parts!
2. Are my **terms** & spelling **consistent**?
3. Are references to other **story** points **consistent**?
4. Can I make this less wordy?
5. Would a human really say that?
6. Is each character's **voice** consistent?
7. Will those words fit in the bubble?







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# Various translation traps: in-world consistency

“It's cutting the flesh like paper!”  
[This world has paper]



“What on Earth??” “Earth to Alan!”  
“down to earth” “the scene was like  
hell on earth” [**They're not on  
Earth**]



“What does 了解 [understood]  
mean?” vs. “What does 了解 [Roger]  
mean?”



BREAKING  
**Theoret**  
**makes**  
**This is**  
  
Ullamcorper m  
viverra. Ipsum d  
quam. Ipsum a  
Mauris cursus  
convallis a cra  
lum rhoncus  
quet vel risus  
Ipsum do  
Ipsum a arc  
a iaculis at  
habitasse  
elit ullamc  
sapien ne  
mentum.  
— Arth



summer ides to the south.  
ny is dying in the banks of boat gres

# Various translation traps: avoid adding what's not there

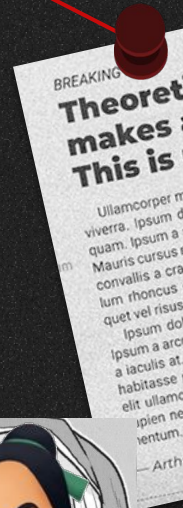
"Their reputation isn't the best **within** the ranks of us merchants."

[Would normally have said '**among us**', but...]

~~~~

"Now, let's get down to business."

[Did a song pop into your head?]





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# Various translation traps: how can I make things clearer?

“Alliance of Nobles” vs. “Noble Alliance” - they’re noble, but their goals aren’t!

“Let’s go buy you two swords.”  
Two swords for you? Swords for you two?

**(bonus)**





# Consistency; Nearly-untranslatable nuance



“And can you stop calling me  
**'Your Excellency'**?” [閣下]

“But sir, as a senior officer and  
Ship's Captain, your rank calls  
for that title.”

(bonus)

LATER

**'Your Excellency'**... [閣下]

That's not a title often used by  
nobles, or even usually by  
royalty.

Alan said he wasn't noble, but  
maybe he's from a country  
where the military is held in the  
highest regard.

# Keeping source language (Japanese) words

your questions

Ullamcorper morbi tincidunt ornare massa eget egestas purus viverra. Ipsum dolor sit amet conse etetur adipiscing elit ut aliquam. Ipsum a arcu cursus vitae congue aliquet eget sit.

— The choice of a powerful LED diode.

Hac habitasse platea dictumst quisque. Quis vel eros donec ac odio tempor. Quis vitae proin sagittis nisl risus viverra magna ut vestibulum urna eu volutpat.

— The use of dosimetry in life. Useful tips.

Vulputate sapien nec sagittis. Bibendum arcu vitae elementum tempus eros ut nulla sed viverra erat erat.

— How to apply fertilizers to plants.

Condimentum id venenatis. Sapien pellentesque. Sed in enim praesent elementum facilis.

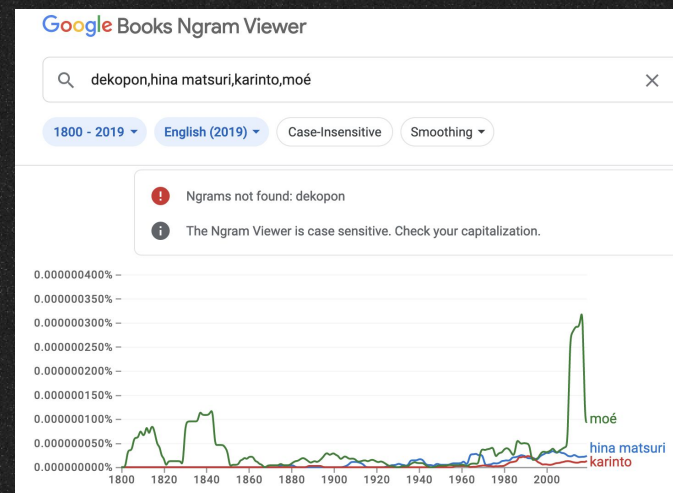
[Pages 67 & 89] Dekopons, a type of citrus, are sold around the world under a variety of names, including “kinsei”, “hallabong” and “sumo citrus” or “sumo orange”. [\*] asked if the fruits on the tree were mikan, another type of citrus that’s a variety of mandarin orange similar to clementines, and sometimes called “satsuma” in English. Eating mikan at a heated kotatsu table is a favorite winter pastime in Japan.

[Page 109] Hina Matsuri, otherwise known as Girl’s Day or Doll’s Day, is celebrated every year on March 3rd. A traditional snack for the holiday is hina-arare, the form of which differs depending on the region of Japan, but is usually tiny bits of puffed rice glazed with a thin shell of sweet coating in white, green, and pink/red. Another important part of Hina Matsuri is the hinadan, a tiered display that holds a set of dolls with the emperor and empress at the top, and their court below. Smaller displays have only the emperor and empress, which are the outfits [\*] and [\*] have on.

[PAGES 116 & 117] The honorific -kun indicates acquaintances and/or coworkers below you in status, especially but not necessarily men. [\*] using -kun here and hesitating about it is significant because it means she has evaluated their relationship, and decided that they’re friends (right away!)

[PAGE 138] Karinto manju are manju (buns made with flour) that have red bean paste on the inside, and a soft but slightly crunchy, slightly chewy fried black-sugar-flavored shell.

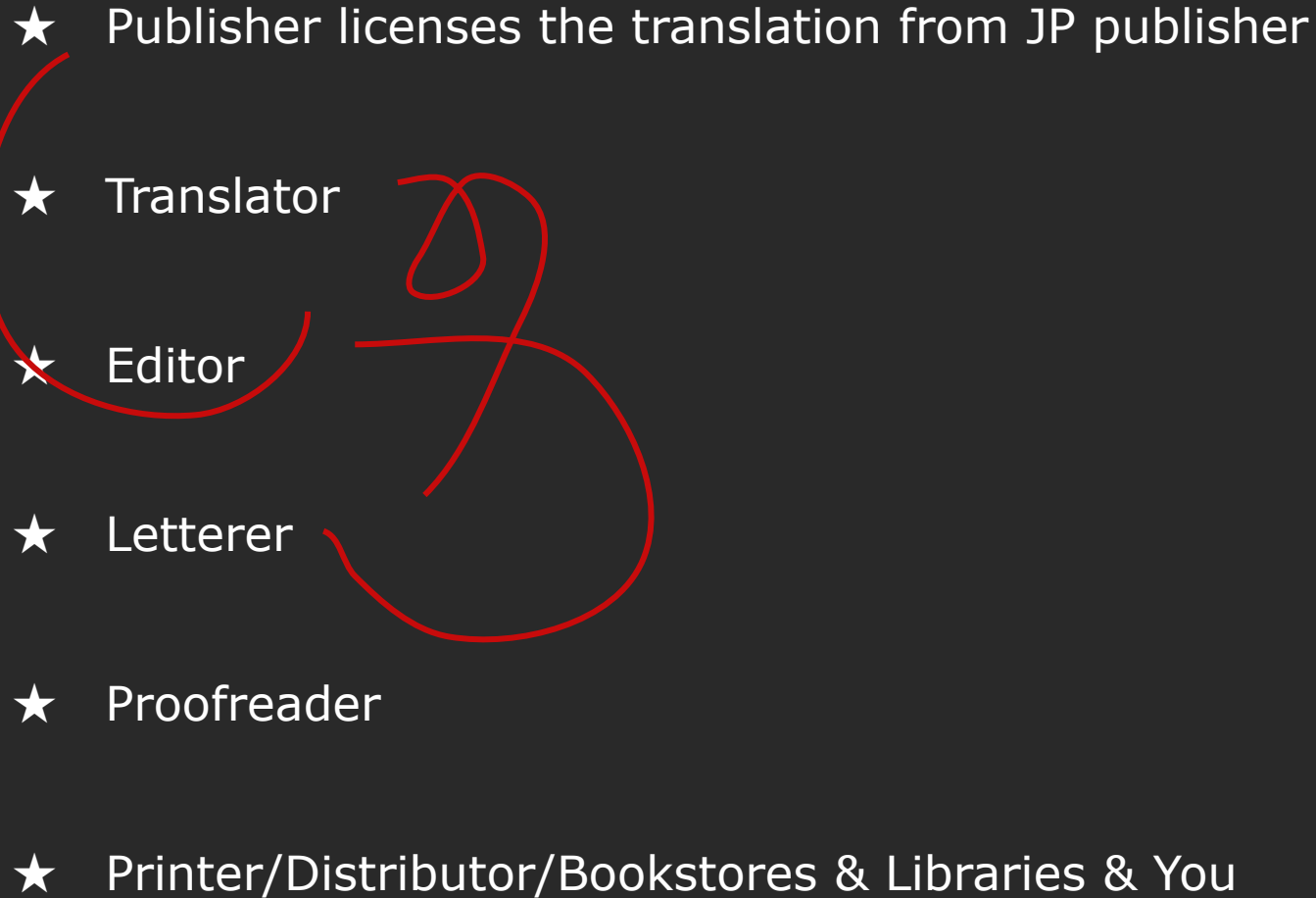
## Momm, can I keep it??



- Check frequency (Ngram)
- Translator’s note
- Discuss with editor



**Step 4: Making the book happen!**

- ★ Publisher licenses the translation from JP publisher
  - ★ Translator
  - ★ Editor
  - ★ Letterer
  - ★ Proofreader
  - ★ Printer/Distributor/Bookstores & Libraries & You
- 



# Rough Draft

summer ideas to  
my is trying in

Roger that.  
You don't oppose the idea?  
I have no reason to.  
But I'm singlehandedly comandearing an entire planet full of humans.  
That's against Imperial Code.  
This planet has not been admitted to the Human Galactic Empire. It is outside the **scope** of the Imperial Code.  
That sounds like legal-ese.  
As ship's captain, you are the highest ranking officer in this sector of space.  
What?!

In a sector with no Governor-General, the ship captain's will is the Empire's will.

Incidentally, since is is outside the Empire, it would be more correct to say you are invading, or occupying, this planet.  
Invading and occupying don't sound so nice.

But anyway, please look into strategies for occupying this planet.  
Roger.

# Self-Editing

4  
Roger.  
You don't oppose?  
I have no reason to.  
But I'm singlehandedly commandeering an entire planet f  
That's against Imperial Code.  
This planet has not been admitted to the Human Galactic  
It is outside the scope of the Imperial Code.

5  
That sounds like legal-ese.  
As ship's captain, you are the highest ranking officer in thi  
What?!

In a sector with no Governor-General, the ship captain's will is the will of the Empire.

Reply Comment Delete Comment Record Show Next Previous Reje

1 2 3 4 5

## Editor's Feedback

That sounds like legal-ese.

As ship's captain, you are the highest ranking officer in this sector of space.

What?!

In a sector with no Governor-General, the will of the ship captain's will is the will of the Empire.

Incidentally, since we are outside the Empire, it would be more correct to say you are invading, or occupying, this planet.

Invading and occupying don't sound so nice.

But anyway, please look into strategies for occupying this planet.

Reply Comment

Delete Comment

Record

Show

Next

Previous

Accept

Reject



## Edit the Editor's Feedback

That sounds like legal-ese.

As ship's captain, you are the highest ranking officer in this sector of space.

What?!

In a sector with no Governor-General, the will of the ship captain's will is the will of the Empire.

Incidentally, since we are outside the Empire, it would be more correct to say you are invading, or occupying, this planet.

Invading and occupying don't sound so nice.

But anyway, please look into strategies for occupying this planet.



## On The Page





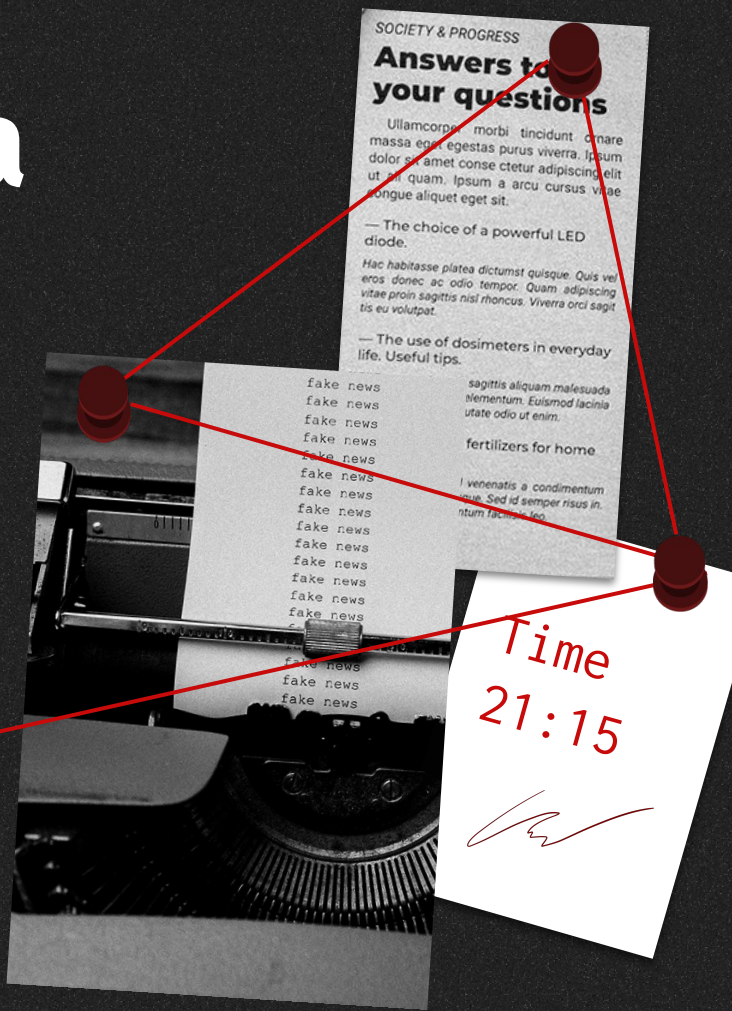
# So You Wanna Be a Manga Translator?

## ~~Secrets of~~ Working in manga



Have you seen  
the truth?

Who was...?  
Where...?



SOCIETY & PROGRESS

### Answers to your questions

Ullamcorper morbi tincidunt ornare massa eget egestas purus viverra. Ipsum dolor sit amet conse ctetur adipiscing elit ut ut quam. Ipsum a arcu cursus vitae longue aliquet eget sit.

— The choice of a powerful LED diode.

Hac habitasse platea dictumst quisque. Quis vel eros donec ac odio tempor. Quam adipiscing vitae proin sagittis nisl rhoncus. Viverra orci sagittis eu volutpat.

— The use of dosimeters in everyday life. Useful tips.

fake news  
fake news  
fake news  
fake news  
fake news

sagittis aliquam malesuada  
nimentum. Euismod lacinia  
utate odio ut enim.

fertilizers for home

I venenatis a condimentum  
Sed id semper risus in.  
ntum facilisis leo.

Time  
21:15

*[Signature]*



summer does to the south.  
my is dying in the banks of boat grass

# What's the job like?

Most manga translators are **freelance** (self-employed)

Many do it **in addition to other jobs** (low paid, volume of work)

**Volume** translation **vs. Simulpub** (slower/faster turnaround)

Don't often get to choose what you work on

You may not get to meet the other people who work on it

Still, it can be pretty fun! You always fall a little in love with the story.

Average **(decent) rate is ~\$5.50+/page (~\$1100/volume)**

Many companies will ask for \$2/page- BAD IDEA







Laura E~ANYC'24 @lme5081 · Jan 12

...

(See other poll about manga specifically)

J->E translators who work on ent. (entertainment- manga, LN, anime, video games, other media) at all~~

How much of your working time goes to ent. versus other translation fields or other paid jobs not related to translation?

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Full-time ent.(90%~100%)</b> | <b>55.6%</b> |
| Ent.main, have other jobs       | 18.5%        |
| Other jobs main, plus ent       | 20.4%        |
| Other                           | 5.6%         |

54 votes · Final results

(bonus)



Laura E~ANYC'24 @lme5081 · Jan 12

...

(See other poll about all entertainment specifically)

J->E translators who work on MANGA specifically~~

How much of your working time goes to MANGA versus other entertainment, other translation fields or other paid jobs not related to translation?

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| 90~100% manga                  | 22.9%      |
| Mainly manga, some other       | 20%        |
| <b>Main ent., w/some manga</b> | <b>40%</b> |
| Mainly non-ent,some manga      | 17.1%      |

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# Sarah Moon Industry Survey: 152 people

**(bonus)**

For Fans, BY Fans | Anime in the West

**"What is your role in localizing  
Japanese media? (check all that apply)"**

Translator: 79.6%

Editor: 48%

Project Manager: 15.1%

Timer/Spotter: 11.2%

Lettering/Retouch: 9.2%

Other: 6.6%

ADR Script writer/director: 5.3%

ADR Voice Actor: 2%

<https://youtu.be/OYS0Tx9ekUE?si=7XAuCK1sVZACTakH&t=3348>



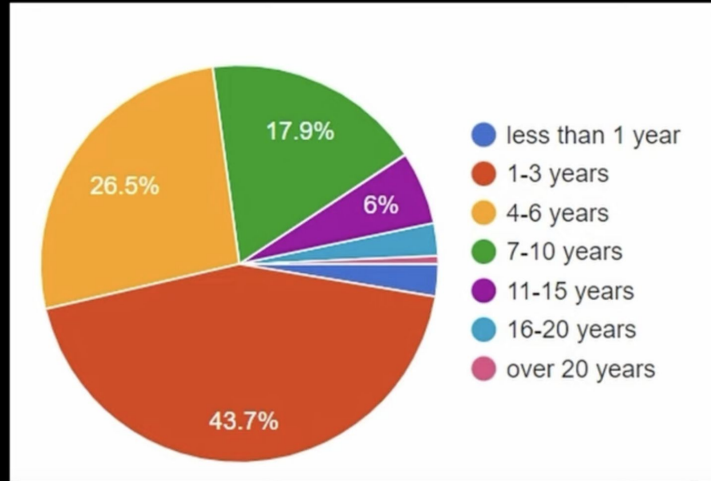


summer ides to the south.  
ny is dying in the banks of boat grass

~~(bonus)~~

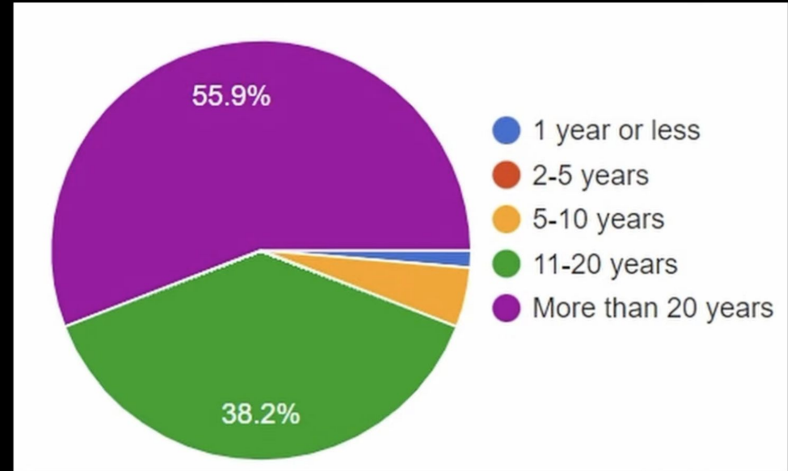
For Fans, BY Fans | Anime in the West

### "How long have you been in the localization industry professionally?"



For Fans, BY Fans | Anime in the West

### "How many years have you been a fan of Japanese entertainment?"

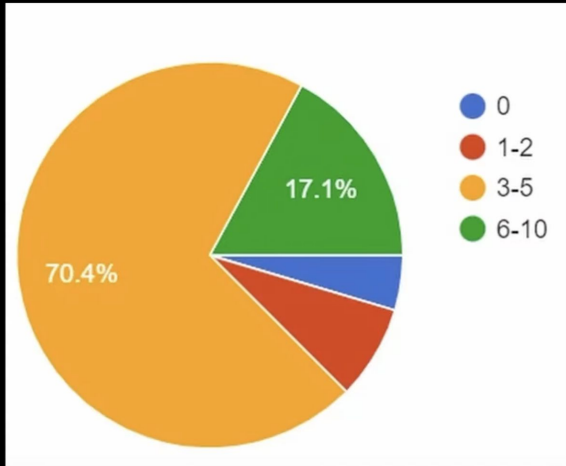


summer dies to the south.  
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**(bonus)**

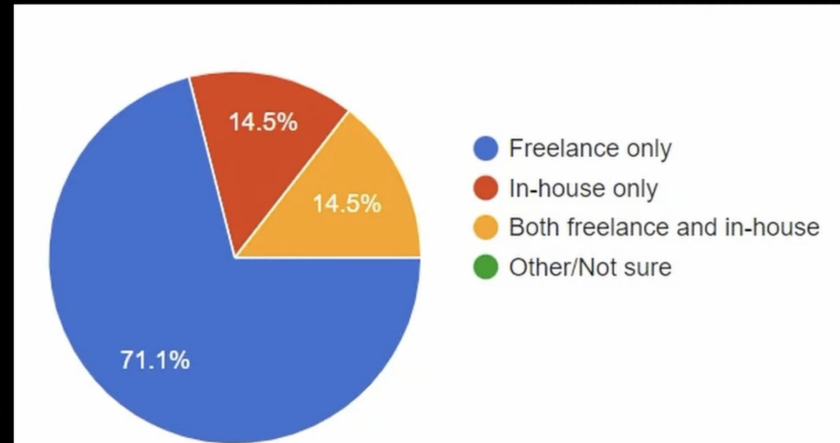
For Fans, BY Fans | Anime in the West

**"How many years of post high school education do you have?"**



For Fans, BY Fans | Anime in the West

**"Are you freelance, or in-house?"**



ore  
kes  
is is  
amcorper m  
a. ipsum d  
n. ipsum a  
ris cursus  
vallis a cra  
rhoncus  
et vel risus  
ipsum dol  
osum a arc  
a iaculis at  
habitasse  
elit ullamc  
sapien ne  
mentum.  
— Arth



summer dies to the south.  
my is dying in the banks of boat grass

**(bonus)**

For Fans, BY Fans | Anime in the West

**"What areas of Japanese media would you consider yourself a fan or regular consumer of?"**

Games: 90.8%

Manga: 82.9%

Anime: 82.2%

Online Stuff: 52.6%

Film: 40.1%

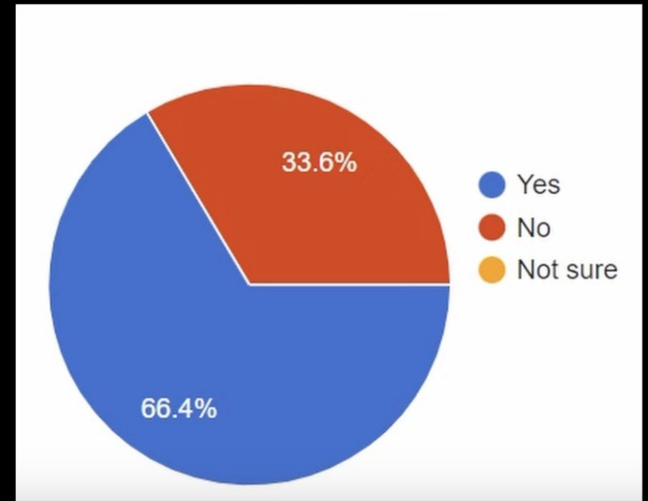
TV: 36.2%

Novels: 28.3%

Light Novels: 25.7%

For Fans, BY Fans | Anime in the West

**"Have you ever worked on unofficial "fan" localizations? (scanlations, fansubs, etc.)"**



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~~(bonus)~~

For Fans, BY Fans | Anime in the West

## "Check everything that describes you"

Female/Femme: 56.9%

LGBTQIA+: 48.9%

Neurodivergent: 32.8%

Not White: 29.2%

Immigrant: 16.1%

Disabled: 6.6%

For Fans, BY Fans | Anime in the West

## Localization Professionals Are:

- Freelance
- Work from home
- College-educated
- SUPER OTAKU



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# Getting a job in manga

\*Check out my website  
using the QR code on the  
final page for non-manga  
Japanese translation job  
tips coming soon

**Japanese skill is important, English writing skill is more important**

Job options: editor, translator, letterer, proofreader

Large publishers: Seven Seas, Yen Press, Viz, Square Enix, Kodansha, JNovel Club

Small publishers: One Peace, Star Fruit, Kaiten, Glacier Bay, Denpa

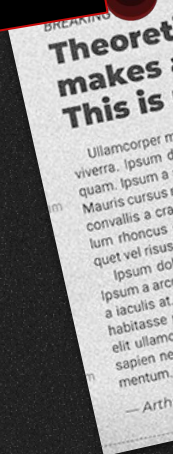
**Editors do the hiring! (for freelance)**

Market for adult-oriented translations

*Networking (the fun way!)* ~~Twitter~~ is a great community to learn more!  
Possibly Blue Sky? Also, anime conventions! Translators are fans too!

@lme5081

**Cooperate, don't compete! We're stronger together!**

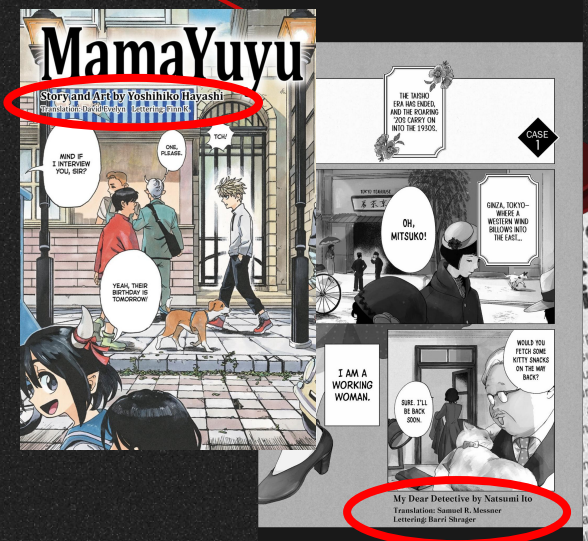




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# Supporting Manga Translators

- ❖ How do I check who's translating my manga?
  - For simulpub, check the first page of each chapter, and for tankobon volumes, check at the back!
- ❖ Buy manga!
  - Although manga translators don't receive royalties, you help our employers stay in business (and pay us!)
- ❖ When you read a good translation, speak up!
  - (Who doesn't like hearing they did a good job?)
- ❖ Don't buy AI
  - Discourse mongers cry for machines translation that will translate directly without 'wokalization', but...
  - Translators aren't out for 'revenge' on your favs!
  - Human care, human quality.



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KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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ny is dying in the banks of boat grass

# What have we learned today about translating manga?

1. How to start studying and reading manga in Japanese
2. Translations aren't 1-to-1 (no 'right' answer)
3. What manga translators think about when translating
4. How translations come to print
5. What it's like working on manga
6. Where to look for manga jobs
7. How to support manga translators

