

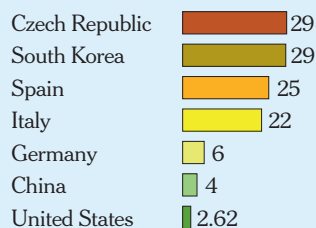
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Us and them ...

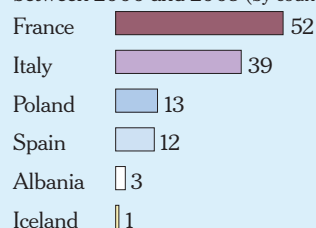
Approximate number of new books published worldwide last year 1.5 million
 Approximate percentage that were in English 30
 Percentage of the world's population that speaks English as a first language 6

Approximate number of languages spoken on Earth 6,912
 Number of original languages of books in translation reviewed by Publishers Weekly last year 28

Percentage of books published in various countries in 2004 that were translations:



Works of modern literary fiction newly translated in the United States between 2000 and 2005 (by country):



Percentage of new adult fiction titles published in the United States in 2005 that were translations 3.54

Number of French novels bought by American publishers in 2005 42
 Number of American novels bought by French publishers in 2005 153

Number of American books bought by Chinese publishers in 2005 3,932
 Number of Chinese books bought by American publishers in 2005 16

Meanwhile, in the Middle East ...

Books published in Iran in 2002 35,854
 Percentage that were translations 23

New books published in Turkey in 2004 15,398
 Percentage that were translations 17
 Books banned by Turkey, 2000-5 284
 Books for which the ban was lifted 47

Persian titles published in English translation in the United States last year 23
 Turkish titles published in English translation in the United States last year 20
 Arabic titles published in English translation in the United States last year 49

Fiction titles translated this year by the Arabic Book Program of the United States Embassy in Amman, Jordan: Cormac McCarthy, "Blood Meridian"; Amy Tan, "The Joy Luck Club."

Import-export business ...

Membership of American Literary Translators Association 701
 National Endowment for the Arts funding for literary translation into English, 2006 \$200,000
 French Ministry of Culture funding for translation of French literature abroad in 2006 \$13,300,000

Still waiting for a full English translation ...

"Historia de un Deicidio," Mario Vargas Llosa's 1971 biography of Gabriel García Márquez; "The Book of Ruses," a 14th-century collection of Arabic tales of political morality; "Napoléon et le Management," by Alexis Suchet, a relative of the general.

Dan Brown, Harry Potter and other international megasellers ...

Top international fiction best sellers for 2006 (with country of original publication), according to a list produced by Publishing Trends newsletter:

1. Dan Brown, "Digital Fortress" (United States)
2. Daniel Kehlmann, "Measuring the World" (Germany)
3. Dan Brown, "The Da Vinci Code" (United States)
4. Ildefonso Falcones de Sierra, "The Cathedral of the Sea" (Spain)
5. Carlos Ruiz Zafón, "The Shadow of the Wind" (Spain)
6. Dan Brown, "Deception Point" (United States)
7. J.K. Rowling, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" (United Kingdom)
8. Arturo Pérez-Reverte, "The Painter of Battles" (Spain)
9. Paul Auster, "The Brooklyn Follies" (United States)
10. Khaled Hosseini, "The Kite Runner" (United States)

Copies of Paul Auster's "Brooklyn Follies" sold in the United States in 2006 70,000
 Copies sold in France 165,000
 Minimum copies sold worldwide 400,000

Copies of "The Da Vinci Code" in print worldwide 75 million
 Copies of French translation in print 5.4 million
 Copies of Korean translation in print 3.2 million
 Copies of Chinese translation in print 1.7 million
 Copies of Catalan translation in print 162,500
 Copies of Albanian translation in print 6,000

Number of languages into which the "Harry Potter" series has been translated . . 64
 Rendering of the name Harry Potter in Andrew Wilson's ancient Greek translation of the series Hareios Poter ("Goblet of Ares")

Some titles of unauthorized Harry Potter ripoffs:
 "Harry Potter and Leopard-Walk-Up-to-Dragon" (China)
 "Tanya Grotter and the Magic Double Bass" (Russia)
 "Porri Gatter and the Stone Philosopher" (Belarus)

The long and the short ...

Number of "novellas in three lines" written for a French newspaper in 1906 by the anarchist Félix Fénéon, and translated by Luc Sante for a forthcoming book 1,066
 (Sample: "If my candidate loses, I will kill myself," M. Bellavoine, of Fresquienne, Seine-Inférieure, had declared. He killed himself.")

Words in the longest sentence in George Szirtes's English translation of "War and War" by the Hungarian novelist Laszlo Krasznahorkai 3,095
 Chinese characters in the shortest story in "Loud Sparrows," an anthology of contemporary Chinese short stories 230
 Words in Howard Goldblatt's English translation of that story 173

Oddities

Copies of the 13-volume "Complete Works of Guy de Maupassant" in Yiddish translation currently held at the National Yiddish Book Center 611
 Palindromes in "Palindromska Apokalipsa" ("Palindrome Apocalypse"), a Croatian poem by Dubravka Oraic-Tolic translated into English last year 575
 Number of palindromes in English translation 0
 Year in which the out-of-print 1995 Esperanto version of "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, translated by the Scottish poet William Auld, is scheduled to be reissued in Russia . . 2007
 Minimum number of languages understood by the stray mongrel who narrates "Dog Days," a recently translated novel by the Cameroonian writer Patrice Nganang . . . 5

SOURCES: "Us and them": Andrew Grabois, Bowker's Books in Print; David Crystal; Ethnologue.com; German Book Office; Chad Post; Syndicat national de l'édition; General Administration of Press and Publication, China, via Wen Huang, Independent Chinese PEN Center. "Middle East": Frankfurt Book Fair; Turkish Publishers Association; Andrew Grabois, Bowker's Books in Print; United States Embassy in Amman. "Import-Export": American Literary Translators Association; National Endowment for the Arts; Cultural Services of the French Embassy. "Still waiting": PEN American Center, French Publishers' Agency. "Megasellers": Publishing Trends; Nielsen Bookscan; Actes Sud; Henry Holt; Sanford J. Greenburger Associates; Christopher Little Literary Agency; Andrew Wilson; Tim Wu, Slate.com. "Long and short": Luc Sante; George Szirtes; Aili Mu. "Oddities": National Yiddish Book Center; Sibelan Forrester; Sezonoj Publishers; University of Virginia Press.