



**PREMJU NAZZJONALI TAL-KTIEB – NATIONAL BOOK PRIZE  
(KOTBA 2016) – (BOOKS 2016)  
Traduzzjoni - Translation  
Linji gwida u kriterji – Guidelines and Criteria**

---

## **Translation**

### *guidelines and criteria*

The following are the adjudication criteria to be used in the process of evaluating texts in translation.

The definition of *Translation* in this context for the purpose of competing for the Award is the following:

*a linguistic interpretation of a literary text of universally-accepted literary genres originally written in any language (to be referred to as the Source Language) into Maltese (to be referred to as the Target Language).*

The phrase *Linguistic interpretation* is hereby defined as:

*a textual rendering where a reasonable balance is kept between ‘faithfulness’ to the original authorial intention in both content and form, **and** the translated/interpreted text incorporating intrinsically accepted literary values in its own right.<sup>1</sup>*

### **Guidelines to apply to the Translates Texts category of the Award**

- The accepted categories of literary genres to be presented as translated texts into Maltese is **Prose Fiction** (excluding *The Short Story*).
- The published translated text presented is to be accompanied by the text in the Source Language, either in its original or latest edition version thereof. A copy of the Source Text, or a photocopy of the original in the case of the translation of rare texts is to be submitted.
- Ideally, all translated texts should be translated directly from the Source Text. In cases of the use of ‘bridge translations’ or in the case of translations of other translations, the version/edition used is to be declared. Likewise to be declared is the translator’s use of sources other than the original one, or other bridge translations, if any.

---

<sup>1</sup> In such cases, the wedding of ‘fidelity’ and ‘effectiveness’ is ideal. Both schools of translation theory (the one subscribing to *les belles infideles*, and the other upholding ‘the faithful ones’) have their virtues and limitations. In this respect, it may be advisable, though not obligatory, for the translator to declare upfront (ideally in the Foreword) his intention regarding his balanced allegiance to **text-faithfulness** and **text-creativity**. Another authorial intention to be specifically included in the Foreword by the translator should refer to the roles of *form* and *function* (i.e. expected outcome of the translated text), and the target reader/s.

- In cases where the original text is either in Italian, French, Spanish or German, there is no need of presenting a ‘bridge’ version in English. In such cases, the adjudicated text shall be the direct translation into Maltese. In all other cases – that is where the original is not written in the four languages mentioned above – the translator should present a ‘bridge’ version in English.
- Linguistically-competent judges will be locally found in the various languages presented in both Source and Target Languages. There might be cases where additional judges to the original three might have to be brought in for specific language combinations.

### Criteria used in adjudicating translated texts of literary content

The texts in all the accepted genres (**Prose Fiction** only, excluding *The Short Story*) are to be evaluated as per the adjudicating criteria listed below. Applications will be evaluated on the basis of a rigorous examination of both the Source Text (and its relation to the finished translated work in Maltese) and the translated Target Text, based on the following ratio:

- **20%: quality of the published Source Text**
- **80%: quality of the translation**, with an eye to the potential impact of the original Source Text on the Target Text, and to the pertinent experience of the translator or translators.

### Adjudication criteria and marking scheme

#### 1. Quality of the published Source Text (amounting up to 20% of the total marking score)

It is made use of the same criteria adopted for the correspondingly identical literary genres of the other non-translated texts in the other categories of the Award. This is to be calculated as 20% of the total scored and is to be added to the total points awarded in section 2. These are: theme, plot, characterization, setting/atmosphere and stylistic/linguistic features (i.e the creative use of language).

Please refer to the guidelines and criteria for *The Novel* (please see [The Novel: guidelines and criteria](#)).

#### 2. Quality of the translation (consisting of the remainder 80% of the total marking score)

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| <b>Significance of the translated work</b>                   | <b>(24 points max)</b> |
| In its source culture  | 12                     |
| In its target culture  | 12                     |
| <b>Translation accuracy and precision</b>                    | <b>(32 points max)</b> |
| Retaining the content/spirit of the original text            | 12                     |
| Accuracy and consistency of idiomatic rendering              | 12                     |
| Additions (comments, footnotes/endnotes, bibliography, etc.) | 4                      |
| Deletions  | 4                      |

**Translation stylistics and aesthetics**

|                        |
|------------------------|
| <b>(24 points max)</b> |
| 12                     |
| 12                     |

---

Language use

---

Readability and smoothness

Comments:

---

---

---

---

---