7. Translation and Dictionaries

Sometimes when you don’t know the word you are looking at it is useful to translate it into your own language or find out a simple explanation of what it means. You can do this in a number of different ways.

* Google translate - just highlight the word and click on the translate icon in the toolbar
* Translate whole document - go to Tools/Translate document and choose the language you want and a copy of the whole translated document will be made
* Cambridge Language Dictionaries - <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english-russian/> have a choice of some languages to use for translation, just choose the language you want and type the word into search. Other languages can be found at <https://www.dicts.info/dictlist1.php>
* Cambridge Learners Dictionary - gives you simple good definitions of words you don’t understand. Just type the word into the search. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/learner-english/>
* Having a physical Bilingual Dictionary can be useful too, particularly if you are familiar with it.
* Make up your own word lists in English and then the translations you have found.
* Use bilingual glossaries for different subjects can be useful. There are lots of Polish examples <https://wsh.wokingham.gov.uk/learning-and-teaching/mea/eal/polish-resources/subject-key-words/> but you could make your own or search the internet for ones in your language.
* Switch between home language and English on your keyboard (in settings/advanced/languages/add languages). Changes web pages to your language if wanted.

You could also try writing an extended essay in your home language (L1) and then use Google Translate to translate it into English to hand it. It would be best to put a line at the top of your work such as “I wrote this in xxxxx language and then translated it using Google Translate” to warn the teacher that this is how you made the work.

Using translation tools can be really helpful but BE CAREFUL!!

* Always try to translate back into English to see if you get the same word and to check the translation hasn’t changed it.
* Be aware of ‘false friends’ and words that have a double or different meaning in English usage. False friends are words which look the same in two languages but have quite different meanings.