



## A Space for Translation: Thresholds of Interpretation

<b>Presentation Details</b>	
<b>Title of Paper:</b>	The Compilation of a Bilingual Dictionary: Meaning in the Third Cultural Space
<b>Speaker:</b>	Audrey HEIJNS, Assistant Professor, School of Foreign Languages, Shenzhen University
<b>Abstract:</b>	<p>In this study, I propose to apply the concept that “meaning is not located in a source culture or a target culture in a univocal signifying movement; rather, it is being created endlessly in a third cultural space of growing conflict and complexity” (Carbonell 1996, 90) to my investigation into Dutch sinologist Gustaaf Schlegel’s translation strategy. When compiling his Dutch-Chinese dictionary, Schlegel was not simply transferring directly from language A (Dutch) into language B (Chinese), but tapping various sources to find what he called “the exact equivalent.” In the dictionary, Schlegel goes beyond his language and culture pair of Dutch and Chinese: a quote in German from <i>Faust</i> helps the understanding of a Chinese idiom, an entry from a Japanese dictionary serves as an alternative option, and a comparison with cultural aspects in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) provides a link that users can associate with. This method made the creation of meaning in the third cultural space complicated. Hence, my research questions are: how did Schlegel’s knowledge of a complex combination of languages and cultures influence the meaning that was being created in the third cultural space? How were cultural differences negotiated? And was Schlegel ultimately successful in giving his intended “exact equivalent”?</p>
<b>Reference</b>	<p>Carbonell, Ovidio (1996). “The Exotic Space of Cultural Translation.” In <i>Translation, Power, Subversion</i>, ed. by Roman Alvarez and M. Carmen Africa Vidal, 79-98. Clevedon; Philadelphia: Multilingual Matters.</p>

### Author's Biography

**Audrey HEIJNS** received her PhD from Leiden University, and is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Foreign Languages, Shenzhen University. Her research interests include the history of early Dutch interpreters and nineteenth-century Chinese bilingual dictionaries.