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Translation as the art of the possible

The session will explore some of the dimensions of both 'art' and 'possibility' as they relate to literary translation. In particular it will consider what gets translated and what doesn't; what gets published and what doesn't; and what is involved in the process. Panel members will discuss work originally written in Vietnamese, Indonesian and German, and compare publication experiences in Australia, Southeast Asia and Germany.

The aim will be to respond to questions raised in Nicholas Jose's speech to the Inaugural Meeting of the Australian Association for Literary Translation (AALITRA) in August 2006: 'The process of literary translation needs to be articulated and understood ... The things that literary translators do, the strategies that they adopt, the choices of what to translate and how, for whom, for which market, the theories, the ethics, the aesthetics, the dialogue with the original, the placing of the work in context, the relationship with the author, with the publisher, all these things, along with the expertise, the time, the successive stages, the myriads of decisions ... all that needs to become visible.'