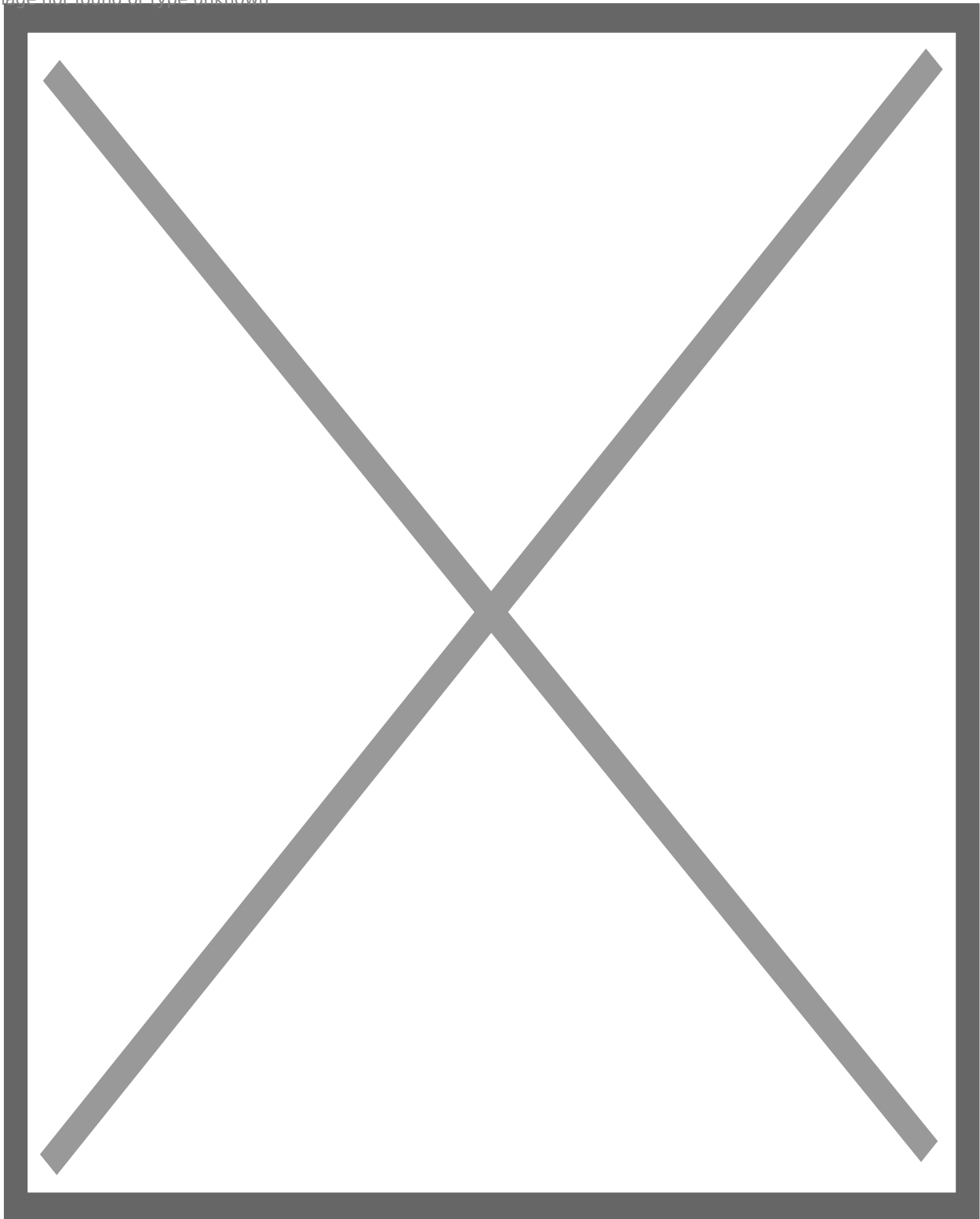


How Do We Have Confidence In Dealing With Texts Written In Languages To Which We Are Not Native?

Post by “Don” of January 1, 2025 at 3:40 PM

Great thread. I would add that this doesn't only apply to translations of text from non-English languages. Consider the difficulty people have with reading Shakespeare or even trying to read something in English from the 18th or 19th century. Your point about "familiarity with idiomatic terminology" is applicable there, too. For ancient languages, consider how hard it is to get the jokes in a translated play by Aristophanes or to understand the "oldest joke" - "A dog walks into a bar and says, 'I cannot see a thing. I'll open this one.'"

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[What makes the world's first bar joke funny? No one knows.](#)

A 4,000-year-old Sumerian proverb about a dog that walks into a tavern has left scholars and thousands of online commenters scratching their heads. The joke's...

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