

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

Post by "Pacatus" of January 2, 2025 at 4:59 PM

## [Quote from Don](#)

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.'"

Maybe not just ancient languages:

"A serious and good philosophical work could be written consisting entirely of jokes." Ludwig Wittgenstein

I'll let it there - except to say that Wittgenstein was a serious philosopher of language, so I'm not sure if he was joking! 😊