Rodney Keith Woods Jr.

Frank Sharpe

English 205

9/15/2014

Sonnet Assignment

In the poem “Whoso List to Hunt”, both the translated and the non translated version take place in a mystical setting. The Narrator begins talking about how a white doe appeared to him with golden horns, between two rivers. He also speaks on how the doe put him in somewhat of a trance stating,” Her look was so sweet and proud that to follow her I left every task “. Although the Poems are the same, the question is: Does the translation make the two poems significantly different?

In the translated version, one can easily tell that the writing is more concise and easier to understand. The Modern Prose actually translates, where the average reader knows exactly where the sonnet is taking place and what is going on. In the non translated version of the poem is basically the same except for the terminology makes it sound like a completely different sonnet. There’s a slight differences in both translations. For example in the non translated version it does not mention the deer disappearing, but in the modern translation it states,” When I fell into the water, and she disappeared”. The old English makes the first sonnet a lot more difficult to comprehend. The overall materials from both sonnets are relatively similar but the Old English makes it seems like there are significant differences between the poems. One major difference between Wyatt and the non translated version is that the non translated version uses Iambic pentameter opposed to having no rhyme scheme.

The translated version is more effective considering that it is in the 21st century; the average person would not be able to comprehend Old English. The terminology used in the non- translated version is no longer used. Also the clarity and accuracy of The Modern Prose Translation is more effective because the reader can read thoroughly through the sonnet. The Modern Prose Translation achieves making a classic work into something that the everyday person can enjoy. The Modern Prose Translation also achieves getting the overall gist of the sonnet. The fancy terminology used by Old English is not needed and The modern Prose provides a more condensed version. Overall the two poems are basically the same, just one is just a better fit for today’s generation.