Metanoia in Translation: Bourdieusian Perspectives

Michael Grenfell
Trinity College
University of Dublin, Ireland

Content

- Translation as social practice
- Bourdieu and language
- Methodology
- Field Analysis
- Sociology of sociology of translation
- Case Example: Bourdieu
- Summary

1. Translation as Social Practice

- Susceptible to social analysis

- Activity
- Cultural Artefact
- Training
- Profession: Translators; Authors; Publishers
- Audience: General; Specialist

2. Bourdieu and Language

- Study of language

- Critique of sciences of language

- Own Specialist language

What's in a word?

- Comte, Locke, Saussure, Heidegger, Habermas, Chomsky, Labov

- 'Saussure's work reduces individual practice, skill, everything that is determined by reference to practical ends, that is, style, manner, and ultimately the agents themselves, to the actualisation of a kind of historical essence, in short, nothing.

(Bourdieu, 1990: 33)

Word

- The dictionary word is ' a product of neutralisation of the practical relations within which it functions'.

- Language gains meaning in a field:

  By a kind of transformation and transubstantiation: 'the substance signified is the signifying form which is realised'.

3. Methodology

Bourdieu's Thinking Tools

"**Habitus** and **Field** designate bundles of *relations*.

A **field** consists of a set of objective, historical relations between positions anchored in certain forms of power (or capital);

habitus consists of a set of historical relations 'deposited' within individual bodies in the forms of mental and corporeal schemata of perception, appreciation and action."

(Bourdieu 1992: 16).

Ontological complicity

Capital: A Medium for Field Manoeuvres

Bourdieu identifies three distinct forms of **capital**:

- **Cultural Capital** - embodied dispositions, cultural goods and educational qualifications;

- **Social Capital** - social connections and obligations, including those associated with associations and institutions;

- **Economic Capital** - into which, given certain conditions, all other capitals can be converted.

(based on Bourdieu 1986/83)

In place of *grammaticalness* it puts the notion of *acceptability*, or, to put it another way, in place of 'the' language (*langue*), the notion of *legitimate* language. In place of *relations of communication* (or symbolic interaction) it puts *relations of symbolic power*, and to replaces the *meaning* of speech with the question of the *value* and *power* of speech. Lastly, in place of specifically linguistic *competence*, it puts *symbolic capital*, which is inseparable from the speaker's position in the social structure.

(Bourdieu, 1977c: 646 italics in the original)

3. Methodology Translation in Terms of Field Theory

- 1. Construction of the Research Object

- 2. Field Analysis

- 3. Participant Objectivation

1. Construction of the Research Object

- Representation of one 'objective' reality
- To
- Another representation of 'objective' reality
- By
- A subjective Other

Construction of the Research Object

The *summum* of the art, in social science, is, in my eyes, to be capable of engaging very high 'theoretical stakes' by means of very precise and often mundane empirical objects. We tend too easily to assume that the social or political importance of an object suffices in itself to grant importance to the discourse that deals with it. What counts, in reality, is the rigor of the *construction* of the object. I think that the power of a mode of thinking never manifests itself more clearly than in its capacity to constitute socially insignificant objects into scientific objects.

(Bourdieu, 1989: 51)

Translation

- Ethnography
- History/ Cultural Context
- Objective/ Subjective
- Knowledge – truth
- Epistemology – ontology
- Representation
- Explanation/ Understanding
- Language

2. Translation as Field

- Field within the Field of Power

- Field

- The Habitus of those in the Field

1.Field and the Field of Power

- Training

- Profession: Translators; Authors; Publishers

- Audience: General; Specialist

2. Field

- Positions: professions, publishers and translators
- Structure
- Capital: Volume and Configuration
- Age
- Generating principles
- National and International

Symbolic Capital: Text

- Position in the field

- Social and historical

- What is translatable

- Heteroglossia – invisible and apparent

- Pattern in texts

- Institutional presence

Bourdieu and the Publishing Field : Level 1/ 2

- 'The Social Conditions of the International Circulation of Ideas' (1976/1999)

  Construction of the research object

- 'Une Révolution conservatrice dans l'édition' ACTES, mars, 1999

  Field Analysis

- Intra and inter-field

- Capital

- Field

Bourdieu as Editor Level 2/3

- Les Editions de Minuit

- Created in 1942 under Occupation

- Silence de la Mer

- Resistance Publication

- After war: Bataille (*Critique*)

- Pro Algeria

- Authors: Beckett, Robbe-Grillet, Derrida, Deleuze

Les Editions de Minuit

- 1962: Le Sens Commun

- Own publications -> 1992

- Key writers and translations: Durkheim; Cassirer; Mauss; Panowsky; Goffmann

Anthony Giddens: Polity Press

- Founded in 1985
- Oxford/ Cambridge Links. Boston USA
- Authors: Bourdieu; Habermas; Derrida;Dylan; Bowie; Bob Marley
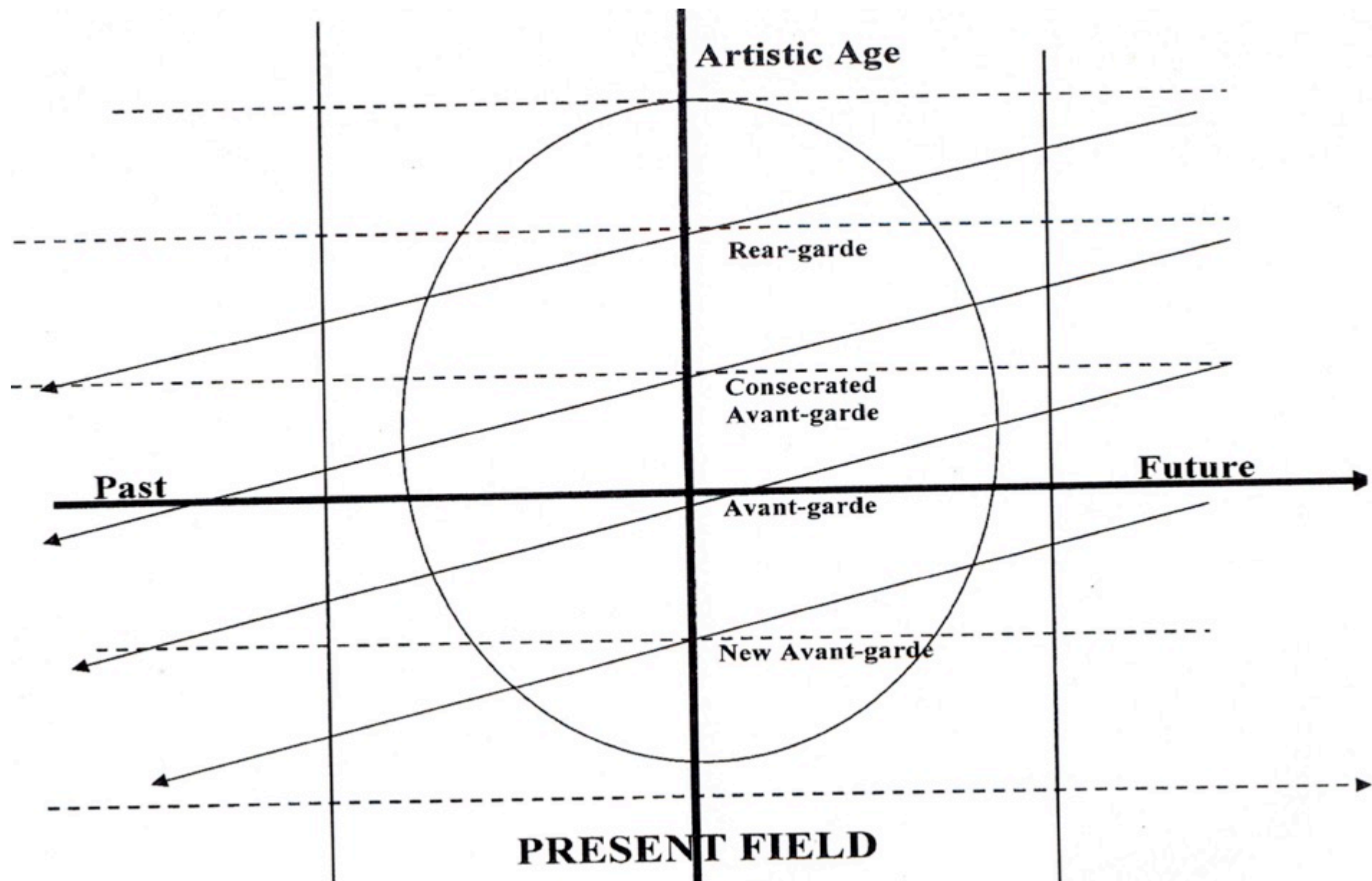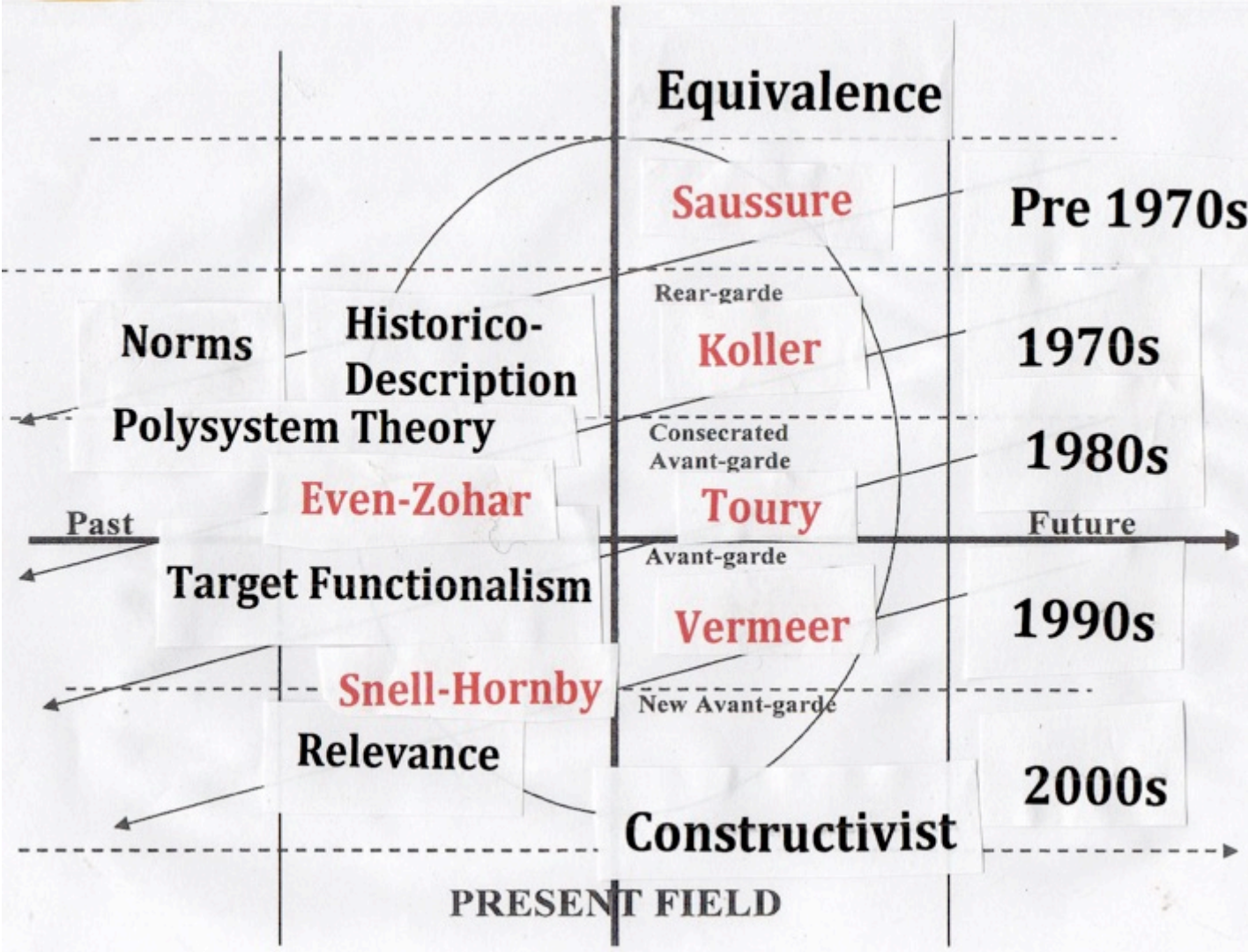- Link with Tony Blair and Third Way Politics/ Publications

3. Habitus

- Influences translation
- Confers symbolic capital
- Position in the field – of subject and translation
- What is translatable
- Who translates?
- Background and training

3. Participant Objectivation

- Objectifying the Objectifying Subject (structure) – *disarm* objectivity

- Position in social space/ habitus/ life trajectory/Gender

- Orthodoxy of the field: in terms of translation and the field of texts

- Skholè/ leisure (scholastic fallacy)

=> Reflexive Objectivity

1. Fields in relation to the field of power – my connection/ connecting.

2. My relationship to the doxa in the field; held in institution. What am I connected to? Doxa of the discipline – Aims. Position in field.

3. My habitus and that of other people in the site context;

   Their habitus and mine; personal relationships/ networks. My position and proximity.

Artistic Age

Rear-garde

Consecrated
Avant-garde

Past   Future

Avant-garde

New Avant-garde

PRESENT FIELD

Equivalence

Saussure — Pre 1970s

Rear-garde

Norms — Koller — 1970s

Historico-
Description

Polysystem Theory

Consecrated
Avant-garde

Even-Zohar — Toury — 1980s

Past — Future

Avant-garde

Target Functionalism

Vermeer — 1990s

Snell-Hornby

New Avant-garde

Relevance

Constructivist — 2000s

PRESENT FIELD

Polysystem Theory

- Static: Saussure but Russian Formalists (Tynjanoz)

- Functionalist approach (belonging to systems)
- Therefore: functions and mutual relations

- Theory of Static Systems: Synchronic
- Theory of Dynamic Systems: Diachronic

Bourdieu on Culture: Two Traditions

- 1. Structural Tradition: instrument of communication and knowledge (shared consensus)

    – *structured structure*

2. Functionalist Tradition: ideological force or power

    - *structuring structure*

Structure

- Structuring *and* Structured Structures

- Externalisation of Internality and the Internalisation of Externality

=>

  'A science of dialectical relations between objective structures...and the subjective dispositions within which these structures are actualised and which tend to reproduce them'

Four Breaks

- From Empirical Knowledge

  (Translator transparent)

- From Phenomenological Knowledge

  Translation: Socio-historical relativity

- From Objective Knowledge

  Equivalence

- Reflexive Translation/ Reading   =>

Case Example: Bourdieu

- Approach to translation

- As Publisher Editor

- Actual texts

A Bourdieusian Perspective on Translation

- A Historical Sociology and Sociological History of the:

- Texts
- Translator
- Translation

Process and Product

Hermeneutic Circle

Field of Translation

- 1. Construction of the Research Object

- 2. Field Analysis

- 3. Participant Objectivation

Translation/ Translator/Text

1. Construction of the Research Object

2. Field Analysis
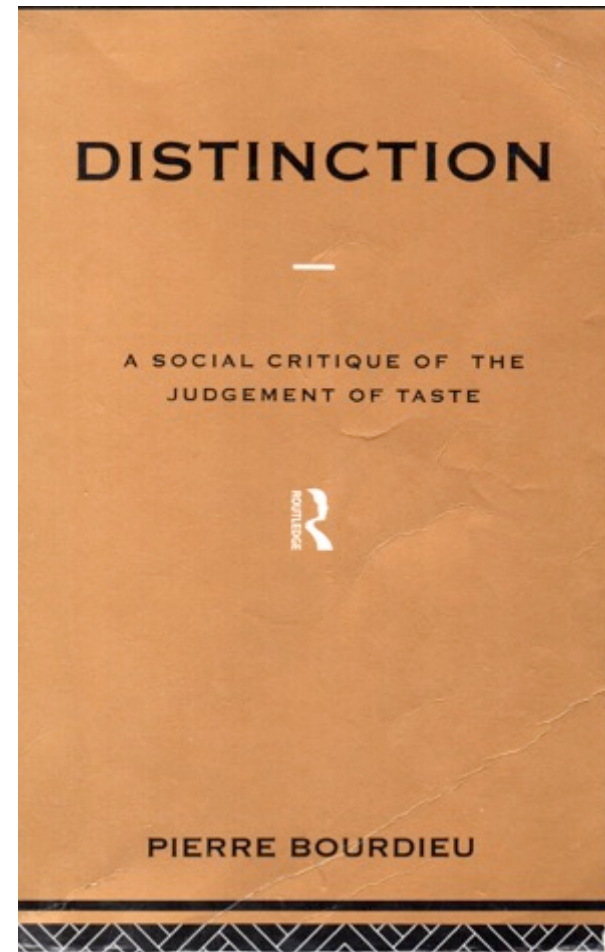
3. Participant Objectivation

Hermeneutic Circle

"Thus, there is a sort of hermeneutic circle:

in order to construct a field, one must identify the forms of specific capitals that operate in it, and to construct the forms of specific capital one must know the specific logic of the field. There is an endless to and from movement in the research process that is lengthy and arduous."

(Bourdieu and Wacquant 1992:108)

Bourdieu: Translation (Symbolic Capital)

Books and Texts

sens commun

pierre bourdieu

la
distinction

critique sociale
du jugement

les éditions de minuit

DISTINCTION

—

A SOCIAL CRITIQUE OF THE
JUDGEMENT OF TASTE

ROUTLEDGE

PIERRE BOURDIEU

pierre bourdieu
et jean-claude passeron
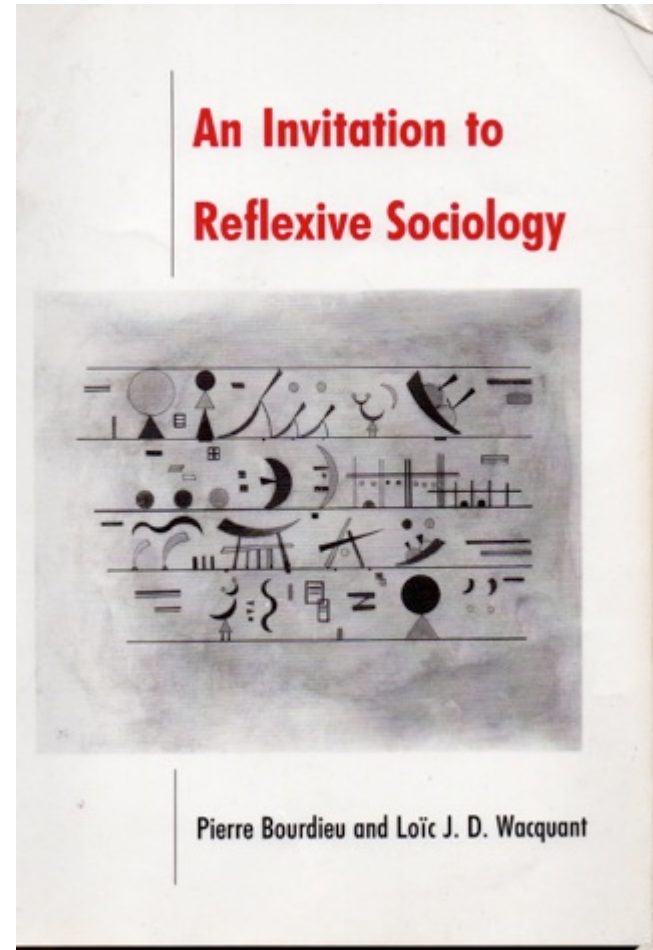
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éléments pour une théorie
du système d'enseignement

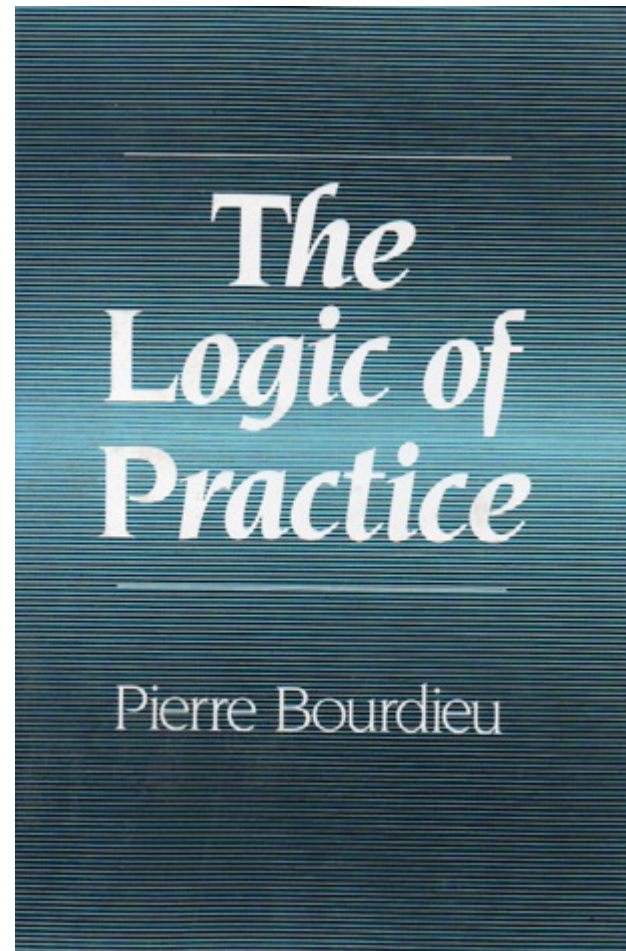# Reproduction
in Education, Society and Culture

Second edition

Pierre Bourdieu
& Jean-Claude Passeron

Pierre Bourdieu
avec Loïc J. D. Wacquant
Réponses

SEUIL

An Invitation to

Reflexive Sociology

Pierre Bourdieu and Loïc J. D. Wacquant

le sens commun

le sens
pratique

pierre bourdieu

les éditions de minuit

The
Logic of
Practice
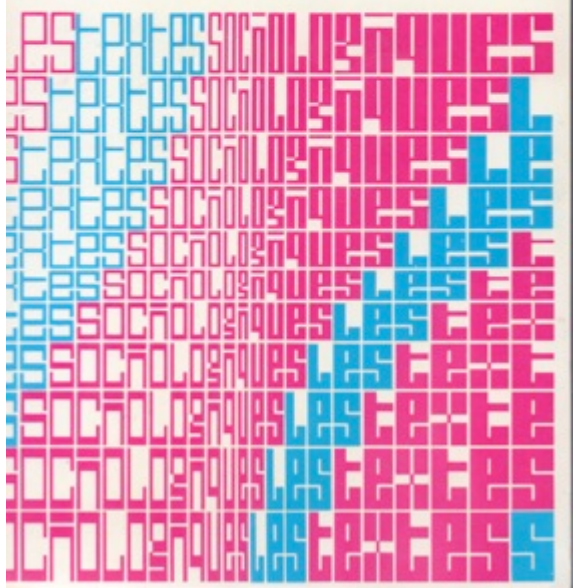
Pierre Bourdieu

PIERRE BOURDIEU
JEAN-CLAUDE CHAMBOREDON
JEAN-CLAUDE PASSERON

le métier

de sociologue

Pierre Bourdieu
Jean-Claude Chamboredon
Jean-Claude Passeron

The Craft of Sociology

Epistemological
Preliminaries

de Gruyter

Texts: Distinction

Ceux qui classent ou se classent, en classant ou s'appropriant des pratiques ou des propriétés classées, ne peuvent ignorer que, au travers des objets ou des pratiques distinctifs où s'expriment leurs pouvours et qui, étant appropriés par des classes et appropriés à des classes, classent ceux qui se les approprient, ils se classent aux yeux d'autres sujets classants (mais aussi classables), pourvus de schèmes classificatoires analogues à ceux qui leur permettent d'anticiper leur propre classement.

- *Those who classify themselves or others, by appropriating or classifying practices or properties that are classified and classifying, cannot be unaware that, through distinctive objects or practices in which their powers are expressed and which, being appropriated by and appropriate to classes, classify those who appropriate them, they classify themselves in the eyes of other classifying (but also classifiable) subjects, endowed with classificatory schemes analogous to those which enable them more or less adequately to anticipate their own classification'*

Faux amis

- Acheter un fond de commerce

- purchase a commercial fund ✖

- business takeover ✔

Aussi: Thus or Also?

- Il serait aussi

- Aussi serait-il

Social Class/ Classe Sociale

- Bourgeois/ Petit Bourgeois/ Peuple ?

- Classe dirigeante: Ruling Class? Upper management?

- Professions libérales: middle management?; professional people?

Ecole Normale (Superieure)

- Training college

- Elite university

Summary: Metanoia in Translation : Boudieusian Perspective

- Theory of Language
- Translation as Social Practice: Thinking Tools
- Construction of Research Object
- Field Analysis
- Participant Objectivation (Sociology of Sociology)
- Approach to Field of Translation and Translating
- => A Reflexive Approach to Translation and Translating (AND READING!)

THE END