

LANGUAGE IS NOT AN OPENING,
FISSURE, “LIGHT SHINING THROUGH”
ETC., IT IS A HOLE THAT I FALL INTO

Tatum Howey

The trans body is always spoken for,
Who *breathes me out and away*?
You do.

The legitimate subject
requires information.
A lexicon to be developed.

In order for them
to be heard
a lexicon needs to be developed
in order to be
understood.

The lexicon, however
resists categorization
fragments bursts apart.

To begin,
the process of articulation,
the lexicon of my speech.
Codified meaning;
these symbols signal a speaking being
who opens their mouth and says...

Queerness is just a subject position,
like the spectacle of opera.

A vocal labour of *going on saying I*
knowing it's not I of
wanting you in the plural.

PRAXIS, OR: I AM TRYING TO FIND A WAY THROUGH AND OUT OF LANGUAGE

You give a lecture on the “Erotics of Translation”
You speak about longing as displacement
The interim, the in-between
You say the translated
Text is foreign, “trans,” othered
Is my body the text which you speak of, with desire?
I repeat to myself Garza’s supposition: *tongue to tongue*
Tongue to tongue
I wonder: is translation an act to establish the other
As a legitimate object, or is the translated text a linguistic system
With its own codified meanings, that seeks to frame the subjugated other’s
experience
And is this, then, why I am suspicious of it
I wanted to live outside of language
Because language does more than lie, like you say it does
I speak through a lattice to you, says Paul Celan
If translation is the act of puncturing holes through a surface
Then it is also a failure
It is always full drama with you

Stop consonants, sibilants, open vowels, fricative and affricate consonants, labiodental affricates, a myriad of notes from voiceless to voiced, alveolar and dental affricates. These all contribute as notation to the score of phonetics. They dictate the utterance: how the tongue should hit the roof of the mouth, the lips separate, how air is directed through and out. And on a more essential, technical, level—they are the nominal elements of language.

Come here to me.

May you love me.

I have to ask you to stop.

It is difficult to address a you that is always shifting.