

READING and  
SPEAKING

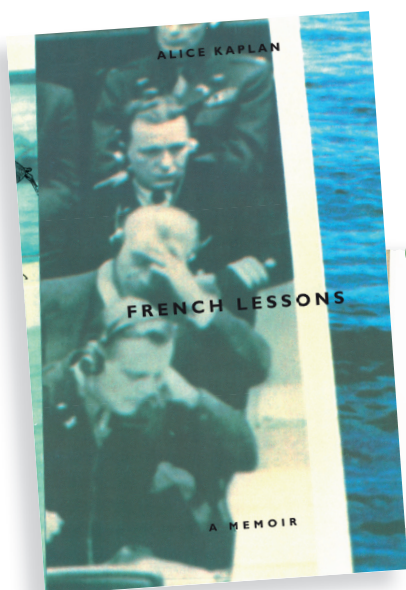
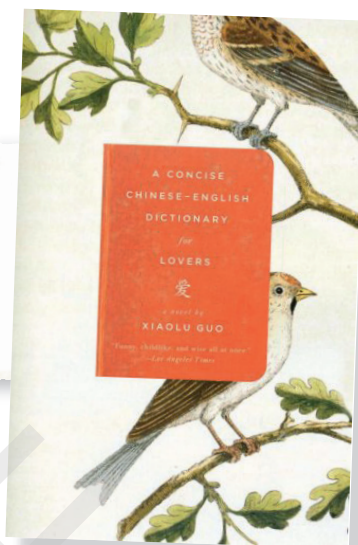
## 5 a Do you think these statements are true? Why / Why not?

- 1 Learning a new language can lead you to adopt a different identity.
- 2 It's difficult to translate directly from one language to another.
- 3 It's important to find your own 'voice' in a foreign language and express your own personality.

## b Read three extracts from novels with language learning as their theme. How do they reflect the statements in 5a?

A

Chinese, we not having grammar. We saying things simple way. No verb-change usage, no tense differences, no gender changes. We bosses of our language. But, English language is boss of English user.

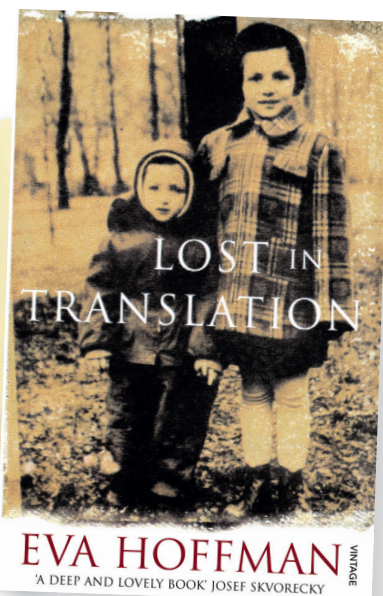


B

I could feel the French sticking in my throat, the new muscles in my mouth ... I was full of French, it was holding me up, running through me, a voice in my head, a tickle in my ear, likely to be set off at any time. A counter language.

C

All around me, the Babel of American voices ... Since I lack a voice of my own, the voices of others invade me as if I were a silent ventriloquist. They ricochet within me, carrying on conversations, lending me their modulations, intonations, rhythms. I do not yet possess them, they possess me. But some of them satisfy a need; some of them stick to my ribs ... Eventually, the voices enter me; by assuming them, I gradually make them mine.



## 6 a Read the extracts again and identify where these points are made.

**The new language:**

- 1 obeys different rules and has a different form.
- 2 works in opposition to the speaker's mother tongue.
- 3 is absorbed little by little by the learner.
- 4 can be triggered at any moment.

**Learning a new language:**

- 5 can be a violent process.
- 6 involves issues of control.
- 7 requires adopting different sounds and speech patterns.

## b Do you agree with the points? Do any reflect your experiences?