



*Az alábbi cikk Maureen Freely, amerikai újságíró és fordító írása, amely Orhan Pamuk, török Nobel-díjas író műveinek fordításával kapcsolatban jelent meg a Washington Post-ban. Fordítsa le az alábbi angol szöveget magyarra, hogy a magyar közönség is megismerkedhessen a fordítás körülményeivel.*

### **Orhan Pamuk's Translator Discusses Her Work**

It began seven years ago in 2002, during an idle conversation over lunch. My longtime friend and schoolmate Orhan Pamuk had just completed what he described as his first and last political novel. As we gazed at the crowds reveling in Istanbul's first snowfall that winter, I asked whether he thought the book might bring him trouble. He laughed in that offhand and reckless way I had noted in so many others who had challenged Turkey's fiercely defended myths over the years. He was not at all concerned, he said. Judges don't read novels.

In those days, few people outside Turkey were interested in its literature. Though Pamuk had won prizes all across Europe and was respected in literary circles in London and New York, he had yet to crack the Anglophone market. So later that year, when I agreed to translate "Snow," my first aim was to recreate the narrative trance that makes the novel so hypnotic in Turkish.

In truth, I needed a break from the disruptions of freelance journalism and the heartache of my own novel, which, after four years of neglect in my effort to raise four children and perform a very demanding job, had been shunted aside. Set in Istanbul, my novel featured an American narrator whose Turkish classmates had been implicated in a political murder following the 1971 coup. Though they had survived torture and prison, my characters had gone on to challenge Turkey's national myths, live dangerous lives, and categorically refuse to explain themselves. Pressed with a direct question, they took long drags from cigarettes and composed evasive answers.

What a relief it was to escape into another writer's world and immerse myself in questions of language. The details proved to be all-consuming, as the distance between Turkish and English is great. Turkish is an agglutinative language, which means that root nouns often carry a string of 10 or more suffixes. Add to that the Language Revolution, which began in the 1930s with the aim of replacing all words of Arabic and Persian origin.

