

Sujet

L'homme le plus riche des Etats-Unis, sinon du monde, n'a pas lésiné sur les moyens, devenant un rouage à part entière de la campagne de Donald Trump – qui lui a promis de le nommer à la tête d'une commission chargée de faire un audit du gouvernement américain, en vue de le « réformer » en profondeur. [...]

Après avoir investi 75 millions de dollars (69 millions d'euros) dans la campagne du candidat républicain, Elon Musk a promis d'offrir 1 million de dollars chaque jour à un électeur choisi « au hasard » sur les listes électorales des swing states en échange de la signature d'une pétition déclarant intouchables le premier et le deuxième amendement de la Constitution américaine – ceux qui garantissent la liberté d'expression et le port d'armes –, dont « les médias traditionnels ne veulent pas parler », dit-il.

Les médias, autre cible de la sphère complotiste ... Le réseau X lui offre « une puissance de feu sans pareille ». Elon Musk fait siennes les accusations contre les démocrates d'acheminer massivement des migrants « illégaux » dans les Etats-clés afin qu'ils y obtiennent la nationalité américaine et votent pour eux ;

Le 5 novembre 2024

Comment:

A pretty typical BCE / *Le Monde* translation, which is made much easier by familiarity with the political language and ideas currently dominating the US. Much of this language (and grammar) is to be found in our summer 2025 course.

Grammar points:

1. superlatif + de > IN ØF e.g. *le meilleur restaurant de Paris* > the best restaurant IN Paris
2. *en vue de* > with a view to DOING sthg
3. *après avoir investi* > 3 words in French, 2 words in English.
EITHER: having + past participle OR: after + -ing. So: Having invested or After investing
AVOID: after having invested
4. *faire un audit* > avoid ~~to do~~ / ~~to make~~; prefer **to conduct** / **to carry out**
4. 75 million dollars but millions of dollars etc.
5. *en échange de* > in exchange FOR
6. *autre cible de* > experienced translators know that French sentences run on NOUNS while English sentences run on VERBS. The transposition of *cible* to a verb – **to target** – (ditto à la tête de > **to head** in line 2) is absolutely normal and stylistically superior.
7. note the date of the article – 5 November 2024. At **that** date, the time context of Musk's promise to pay voters (line 5) had expired > simple past tense, whereas Trump's promise to appoint (line 2) is unclear with respect to time context (> present perfect or simple past).

Vocabulary points:

In class we saw: *nommer* > to appoint; *réformer en profondeur* > to overhaul; *médias traditionnels* > the mainstream media. But you will almost ALWAYS face one or two expressions which you have not seen before. Here: *lésiner sur les moyens* / *listes électorales* / *puissance de feu* / *faire sien*. Do not get depressed! The point of this is to test your resourcefulness in English. How close can you get with your English to the French meaning. Never leave a blank – but *spend a lot of money* / *lists of voters* / *power (or ammunition)* / *to adopt* – *to agree with* are acceptable translations which will involve minimal penalties.

Translation:

The richest man in the United States, if not the world, spared no expense, becoming a vital cog in the campaign to elect Donald Trump – who (has) promised to appoint Musk to head the committee tasked with carrying out an audit of the American government with a view to overhauling it completely.

Having invested 75 million dollars (69 million euros) in the republican candidate's campaign, Elon Musk has promised to give 1 million dollars every day to a voter randomly chosen from the electoral rolls in the swing states in exchange for that voter's signature on a petition endorsing the inviolable status of the First and Second Amendments of the US constitution – respectively guaranteeing freedom of expression and the right to bear arms – which “the mainstream media won't talk about” he said.

The media are also targeted by conspiracy theorists ... The social media network X gives him “unrivalled/unmatched fire power”. Elon Musk has sided with those accusing democrats of overwhelmingly sending “illegal” migrants to certain key states, so that the latter may get US nationality and vote democrat.