

Spring 2023

Basic Translation (English-Chinese)

Instructor: Emily Zhang (yatsun.chang@gmail.com)

Meeting time: 13:20-15:10 (Tuesday)

Office hours: by appointment

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce the basic translation skills used in translation from English into Chinese. Students will learn these techniques by translating various texts during this semester. Through practice, students will learn the procedure of translation such as, how to analyze a text, how to transfer meaning from English into Chinese, and how to restructure the message in the target language. Students will also learn how to use tools needed for translation. Tools, such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, Chinese word processors, and the Internet, are indispensable part of translation. Moreover, students will also be guided by the instructor to explore some basic theoretical concepts and theories about translation.

Course Objectives:

It is expected that after taking the course, students will be more sensitive to linguistic and cultural differences between English and Chinese, a crucial part of becoming a professional translator. It is also expected that students will be able to use some translation techniques and know how to make the best use of tools which can greatly facilitate their translation process. In short, by the end of this course, students should have learned the basic skills needed in English-Chinese translation.

Required Textbook:

廖柏森 (2017) 《英譯中基礎練習：18種翻譯技巧實戰演練》(ISBN: 9789575324964, 眾文)

Reference books:

廖柏森 (2013) 《英中筆譯 1：基礎翻譯理論與技巧》(ISBN: 978-957-532-434-6, 眾文)

廖柏森 (2013) 《英中筆譯 2：各類文體翻譯實務》(ISBN: 978-957-532-435-3, 眾文)

廖柏森 (2019) 《中英筆譯：翻譯技巧與文體應用》(ISBN: 978-957-532-513-8, 眾文)

Course Structure:

All assignments will be posted to eLearn after the Tuesday class. Students are expected to submit their work by Sunday 5 p.m.; late work will be accepted at a descending grade of 20% off. Work turned in after this class starts on Tuesdays will not be accepted. Two in-class exams will be given – one at the midterm and one at the end of the semester.

Grading Scheme:

Class Participation and attendance: 20%

Weekly homework: 20%

Group presentations: 10%

Mid-term: 25%

Final: 25%

Texts to be used during this course (subject to change if necessary)

week	dates	Topic	Assignments due
1	2/14	course Orientation	
2	2/21	Overview of translation (chapter 1)	1st assignment (autobiography in Chinese)
3	2/28	<i>No class (Peace Memorial Day)</i>	
4	3/7	Translation technique introduced: amplification & repetition (Ch4)	
5	3/14	Translation technique introduced: omission & simplification (Ch5)	
6	3/21	Translation technique introduced: change conversion and inversion (Ch6 - 8)	
7	3/28	Translation technique introduced: avoiding passive tense	
8	4/4	<i>No class (Children's Day)</i>	2nd assignment (translation)
9	4/11	Translation technique introduced: the abstract to the particular	
10	4/18	Midterm (computer lab I)	
11	4/25	Midterm review	
		Translation technique introduced: detour of translation/ negation (Ch2 & 3)	
12	5/2	Translation technique introduced: combination & shifting (Ch11 & 12)	3 rd assignment (revised midterm work)
13	5/9	metaphors & unfamiliar expressions/ idioms (Ch13 & 14)	
14	5/16	Group presentations	
15	5/23	Introducing video translation	

16	5/30	Subtitle translation review	4th assignment (video translation)
17	6/6	Final (computer lab I)	
18	6/13	wrap-up	