

Fall 2023

Basic Translation (English-Chinese)

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

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

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)

Scott Dreyer, 廖柏森 (2008) 《美國老師教你寫出好英文》(ISBN: 978-957-532-357-8, 眾文)

Course Structure:

All assignments will be posted to eLearn after the Wednesday class. Students are expected to submit their work by Monday noon; late work will be accepted at a descending grade of 20% off. Work turned in after this class starts on Wednesdays will not be accepted. One in-class exam will be given.

Grading Scheme:

Class Participation and attendance: 20%

homework: 20%

Group presentations: 20% (see notes below)

Mid-term: 20%

Final report: 20% (*)

Notes:

* Students will be divided to several groups and do a presentation on the evaluation of translated Tangs poems.

* Students will select a book related to the studies of translation and write a report. Recommended books include 《分水嶺上》、《翻譯再思：可譯與不可譯之間》、《翻譯理論：學習與思辨》、《你的耳朵裡是魚嗎？》、《翻譯乃大道，譯者獨憔悴》

* The minimum word count of the final report is **2000 Chinese characters**.

* Students aren't allowed to use AI related tools for any of the assignments in this course. If students' work is found to be generated through AI, the assignment/ report will NOT be accepted.

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

week	dates	Topic	Assignments due
1	9/13	course Orientation	
2	9/20	Overview of translation (chapter 1)	1 st assignment (autobiography in Chinese)
3	9/27	Translation technique introduced: amplification & repetition (Ch4)	
4	10/4	Translation technique introduced: omission & simplification (Ch5)	
5	10/11	Translation technique introduced: change conversion and inversion (Ch6)	2 nd assignment (translation)
6	10/18	Translation technique introduced: change conversion and inversion (Ch7 - 8)	
7	10/25	Translation technique introduced: avoiding passive tense	
8	11/1	Translation technique introduced: the abstract to the particular	
9	11/8	Midterm	
10	11/15	No class (Sports Day)	
11	11/22	Midterm review	

		Translation technique introduced: detour of translation/ negation (Ch2 & 3)	
12	11/29	Translation technique introduced: combination & shifting (Ch11 &12)	3 rd assignment (revised midterm work)
13	12/6	metaphors & unfamiliar expressions/ idioms (Ch13)	
14	12/13	metaphors & unfamiliar expressions/ idioms (Ch14)	
15	12/20	Group presentations	
16	12/27	Chinese-English Translation – collocation/ expression/ grammar	
17	1/3	Introducing video translation	
18	1/10	Wrap-up	Final report