Course Title	:	ENGLISH THROUGH SUBTITLES
Course Code	:	TRA 3002
Recommended Study Year	:	2 to 4
No. of Credits/Term	:	3
Mode of Tuition	:	Tutorial
Class Contact Hours	:	3 hours per week
Category	:	Elective under Category A of the BA Translation programme, free elective for students pursuing the English Language Enhancement (ELE) curriculum before revamp, and ELE elective for students taking the revamped ELE curriculum
Prerequisite	:	Nil
Co-requisite	:	Nil
Exclusion	:	Nil
Exemption Requirement	:	Nil

Brief Course Description:

With the ever-increasing popularity of closed-captioned videos in English language, modern empirical studies document that video captions, known as intra subtitles, have a great impact on the listening comprehension and vocabulary repertoire of students wishing to improve their English competence. Video captions provide students with aural, visual and textual mediums from an authentic linguistic context. It is widely held now by education experts that this method helps the students not only to speak more fluent English but also to think in English. By implementing this most recent technique, the course exposes students to the English language in its natural settings and thus enhances their command of English. In addition, the course focuses on honing the students' translation and interpretation skills from Chinese into English by incorporating a variety of teaching methods including formal lectures, listening comprehension, role playing in small groups, oral interpretation and written translation exercises. The course will enhance students' capability and confidence in using English as the medium of communication in a multicultural environment, thus developing their capacity to take up professional and leading roles in the increasingly globalized world.

Languages of instruction: English / Chinese

Aims:

Using subtitles as the media, this course aims to enhance not only the English language capability of students such that they can communicate effectively in English in an idiomatic manner, but also their ability to translate Chinese subtitles into English. Through examining English subtitles for audiovisual materials in English and Chinese, students will study how the

language can be used for effective intra-lingual and inter-lingual communication in a given setting. In view of the status of English as a *lingua franca* across the world, students will deepen their understanding of the use of English in the world context, developing an awareness of and respect for cultural differences. This will in turn enable them to play professional roles in an increasingly globalized environment.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. evaluate the effectiveness of English subtitles in handling culturally-specific issues and in conveying messages across cultures;
2. identify and explain linguistic features and differences based on culture and identity in English communications;
3. identify and redress communication breakdowns across cultures in the English subtitles of selected audiovisual materials;
4. translate subtitles of audiovisual materials of various genres from Chinese into English;
5. demonstrate the ability and confidence in taking up a leadership role in an English speaking, multicultural setting based on an enhanced knowledge of how effective communication can be achieved in such a setting.

Indicative Content:

1. Studying how English subtitles in selected audiovisual materials of different genres handle culturally-specific issues and convey messages embedded with cultural meanings to the target audience.
2. Examining linguistic features and differences in contexts of culture, gender, social identity, class, etc.
3. Translating Chinese subtitles into English.
4. Identifying and analyzing mistakes and problems in the English subtitles of selected audiovisual materials.

Teaching Method

The course will adopt a weekly 3-hour teaching mode. In each lesson, analytical and theoretical issues in English language, translation and subtitling will be covered. There will also be practical exercises, role-playing, discussions and group presentations.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

	Reflective notes	Group presentation	Final Exam
1. evaluate the effectiveness of English subtitles in handling culturally-specific issues and in conveying messages across cultures	x	x	x
2. identify and explain linguistic features and differences based on culture and identity in English communications	x	x	x
3. identify and redress communication breakdowns across cultures in the English subtitles of selected audiovisual materials		x	
4. translate subtitles of audiovisual materials of various genres from Chinese into English	x	x	x
5. demonstrate the ability and confidence in taking up a leadership role in an English speaking, multicultural setting based on an enhanced knowledge of how effective communication can be achieved in such a setting	x	x	x

Assessment:

1. Two Individual Assignments (20% x 2);   40%
(Each individual assignment will contain two parts. In Part A, students will be required to write about 600 words in English, containing reflections on a question to be specified by the teacher. In Part B, students will be asked to translate some subtitles from Chinese into English.)
2. One Group Presentation   20%
(Each group will be required to translate the subtitles of a 3-minute video clip of their own choice from Chinese into English, put the English subtitles onto the clip and make a 20-minute presentation on their translation.)
3. Final Examination   40%

(The 2-hour examination will contain two parts. In the first part, students will be asked to translate some subtitles from Chinese to English. In the second part, students will be given a choice out of three questions, the theme of which will have been covered in the course, and compose an English text of around 800 words in which they will present an argument using the knowledge that they have learnt.)

Readings:

Borghetti, Claudia, and Jennifer Lertola (2014). "Interlingual Subtitling for Intercultural Language Education: A Case Study", *Language and Intercultural Communication*, 14:4, 423-440, DOI: 10.1080/14708477.2014.934380.

Crystal, David (2010). *A Little Book of Language*. New Haven and London: Yale UP.

Crystal, David (2003). *English as a Global Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.

Ellender, Claire (2015). *Dealing with Difference in Audiovisual Translation: Subtitling Linguistic Variation in Films*. Bern: Peter Lang.

Fong, Gilbert C. F., and Kenneth Au (eds) (2009). *Dubbing and Subtitling in a World Context*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Holmes, Prue, and Fred Dervin (eds) (2016). *The Cultural and Intercultural Dimensions of English as a Lingua Franca*. Bristol and New York: Multilingual Matters.

Jandt, Fred Edmund (2017). *An Introduction to Intercultural Communication: Identities in a Global Community*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Jenkins, Jennifer, Will Baker, and Martin Dewey (eds) (2018). *The Routledge Handbook of English as a Lingua Franca*. London, New York: Routledge.

Jenkins, Jennifer (2015). *Global Englishes*. Oxon and New York: Routledge.

Monaco, James V. (2009). *How to Read a Film : Movies, Media, and beyond : Art, Technology, Language, History, Theory*. Oxford ; New York: Oxford UP.

O'Sullivan, Carol (2011). *Translating Popular Film*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Important Notes:

(1)   Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.

(2)   Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is "the presentation of another person's work without proper

acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work". Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.

(3)   Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.

(4)   To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on https://pla.ln.edu.hk/.