Course Title : Dialogue Interpreting: Chinese and English
Course Code : CLB9013
Recommended Study Year : 1 to 4
No. of Credits/Term : 3
Mode of Tuition : Lecture-tutorial
Class Contact Hours : 2-hour lecture per week
                   1-hour tutorial per week
Category : Core curriculum: Creativity and Innovation Cluster
Prerequisite : Nil
Co-requisite : Nil
Exclusion : Nil
Exemption Requirement : Nil

Brief Course Description:
This course examines the linguistic, cultural, and contextual considerations in the rendition of verbal utterances in exchanges between Chinese and English in general, daily, and non-technical situations. The source audio materials in Chinese may be in Cantonese or in Putonghua. For tasks requiring students to interpret into Chinese, students may choose to use Cantonese or Putonghua.

Simple and short texts of general exchanges will be used to illustrate the politeness and cooperative principles of quantity, quality, relation, and manner in interpreted exchanges. Further topics include bilingual knowledge of terminologies and expressions in food items, cooking style, Chinese dishes, physical discomfort, common medical terms, and English usage in work setting, for example, the way to agree, disagree, and to interrupt.

Language of instruction: English / Cantonese / Putonghua

Aims
This course aims to enhance students’ understanding of language in action in cross-cultural and cross-linguistic contexts. It highlights to students the importance of going beyond words in achieving the intended social and communicative functions of language use, both from English to Chinese and vice versa. It also enables them to learn the techniques of producing short spontaneous communicative exchanges between Chinese and English in various social and work contexts.

Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate the ability to discern and apply the English politeness protocol in bilingual communication, with appropriate cross-cultural and cross-linguistic considerations;
2. Explain how verbal utterances are shaped by national culture and social structure in the Chinese-speaking and English-speaking worlds;
3. Identify the nature and consequences of cultural interference in bilingual exchanges;
4. Recognize the major problems of cross-cultural translation of short exchanges and dialogues;
5. Apply the linguistic and cultural knowledge acquired in the course to formulate appropriate strategies for communicating short exchanges in Chinese and English; and
6. Interpret effectively and accurately short dialogues and exchanges that involve Chinese and English in a range of general topics covering catering, medical terms, small talk and commercial negotiation.

Indicative Contents

1. What is conversation analysis and how meaning is confined in contexts? Politeness in English speech and usage; cultural and linguistic blunders in cross-linguistic exchanges;
2. Negation communicated in English and Chinese: Cultural differences in speech style; how to express negative sentiments in English in formal and informal contexts;
3. Negotiation of meanings in cross-cultural exchanges; dialogues in the English culture (using monolingual or bilingual dialogue materials containing linguistic traps for Chinese speakers);
4. Impromptu interpreting of naturally occurring English and Chinese utterances mentioning terms in catering, medical and work contexts;
5. Common medical terms (bilingual glossaries); and
6. Inter-lingual exchanges in initial business negotiations (specific details, such as figures, dates and commodities, mediated discussions commonly found in work places, would be included in the textual contents).

Teaching Methods

Lectures, in-class interpreting exercises and tutorial discussions are the basic modes of teaching and learning in this course. The lecture is not conducted in language laboratories, but the tutorial session will serve to provide interpreting practice opportunities for students. The lecture materials, in the form of reading materials, dialogue scripts, articles, video clips and audio-visual clips, would introduce various issues and concerns in the operation of dialogue interpreting. For example, the use of words and expressions and the intended and perceived messages in an exchange that criss-crosses languages and cultures would be
discussed. These various concerns and considerations would be applied in students’ practice of dialogue interpreting in tutorials. Students seem to have more problems in the production of idiomatic English in Chinese to English interpreting of dialogues; more emphasis would be placed on this aspect in the course teaching.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

In a Chinese and English dialogue interpreting context, students will be assessed by their ability to:

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<tr>
<th>Assessment Methods</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz on interpreting short general utterances (Chinese and English)</td>
<td>Quiz on figures interpreting in contexts (Chinese and English)</td>
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1. Demonstrate the ability to discern and apply the English politeness protocol in bilingual communication, with appropriate cross-cultural and cross-linguistic considerations;  
   - X  
   - x  
   - x  
   - X

2. Explain how verbal utterances are shaped by national culture and social structure in the Chinese-speaking and English-speaking worlds;  
   - X  
   - x  
   - x  
   - X

3. Identify the nature and consequences of cultural interference in bilingual exchanges;  
   - X  
   - x  
   - x  
   - X

4. Recognize the major problems of cross-
5. Apply the linguistic and cultural knowledge acquired in the course to formulate appropriate strategies for communicating short exchanges in Chinese and English; and

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6. Interpret effectively and accurately short dialogues and exchanges that involve Chinese and English in a range of general topics covering catering, medical terms, small talk and commercial negotiation.

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**Assessment**

**Important Note:** Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations.

Assessment tasks during semester: 60%
(3 tasks as specified below)
Class Attendance (Lecture and Tutorial) and participation 10%
Examination: 30%

All assessments in this course are conducted in language laboratory.

**Breakdown of Assessments**
1. Quiz on interpreting short general utterances (Chinese and English), applying the linguistic and cultural knowledge acquired in the course; (20%, in week 5);

2. Interpret texts, containing figures, between Chinese and English; (20%, in week 8);

3. Liaison interpreting in a bilingual dialogue, using Putonghua and English (20%, in week 11); and

4. An examination in the form of a bilingual dialogue in which students are required to be the interpreter serving simultaneously a Putonghua speaker and an English speaker (15%). In this examination, students are also required to interpret isolated utterances into Chinese (either Cantonese or Putonghua) (5%) and into English (10%).

5. Class attendance (Lecture and Tutorial) and participation (10%)

Total: 100%

Required Readings
Assorted reading materials prepared in advance for students, to be delivered in lecture.

Supplementary Readings
鍾述孔《實用口譯手冊》，中國對外翻譯出版公司，1995。
戚文琴、張文、王軍編《英語高級口譯教程》，旅遊教育出版社，1997。
郭熙《中國社會語言學》，南京大學出版社，1999。
李悅娥、范宏雅編《話語分析》，上海外語教育出版社，2002。
王武興編《英漢語言對比與翻譯》，北京大學出版社，2003。
戴煒棟、何兆熊編《新編簡明英語語言學教程》，上海外語教育出版社，2003。
呂炳華編《漢英雙向口譯教程》，北京科學出版社，2013。

Bot, Hanneke. Dialogue interpreting as a specific case of reported speech. *Interpreting*


**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/](https://pla.ln.edu.hk/).

“Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations.”