

Course Title	: Studies on Translators
Course Code	: TRA3241
Recommended Study Year	: 2 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	: Elective (Category B)
Prerequisite	: Nil
Co-requisite	: Nil
Exclusion	: Nil
Exemption Requirement	: Nil

Brief Course Description:

Translators are the producers of translations, and the study of translations is inseparable from the study of translators. This course introduces the name and nature of “translator studies” as an “emerging subfield” of translation studies (Chesterman 2009) and the research methods in this subfield. In this subfield of study, “texts are secondary, the translators themselves are primary” (Chesterman 2009:15). Important translators, particularly in the present era, such as Howard Goldblatt, Eric Abrahamson, and Nicky Harman, will be analysed from the cultural, cognitive and sociological perspectives.

Languages of Instruction: English / Chinese

Aims:

The aims of this course are to introduce the name and nature of “translator studies” as an “emerging subfield” of translation studies and the cultural, cognitive and sociological approaches to the study of translators/interpreters, and to analyse the roles played by important translators/interpreters in the society, particularly in the present era, and the factors which may exert influence on their decision-making processes.

Learning Outcomes (LOs):

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

1. identify the factors which may exert influence on the decision-making processes of the translators/interpreters.
2. explain the name and nature of “translator studies” as a subfield of translation studies;
3. examine translators/interpreters from cultural, cognitive and sociological perspectives;
4. analyse the roles played by important translators/interpreters in the society, particularly in the present era; and
5. analyse the relationship between translator/interpreter’s habitus and translation.

Indicative Contents:

1. The name and nature of translator studies;
2. The roles and influences of translators and interpreters as agents of cultural evolution;
3. The cultural branch of translator studies;
4. The cognitive branch of translator studies;
5. Translators' decision-making processes, attitudes to norms, etc.;
6. The sociological branch of translator studies;
7. Translators' observable behaviour as individuals, their social networks, status and working processes, and their relations with others;
8. Research methods in translator studies;
9. Translator's telos;
10. Translator's habitus and translation;
11. Case studies on translators such as Yang Xianyi, Xu Yuancong, Howard Goldblatt, John Minford, Jonathan Stalling, Eric Abrahamson, and Nicky Harman.

Teaching Method:

There are two hours of lecture and one hour of tutorial per week. Whilst lectures are designed to introduce broader concepts of the above content, tutorials will give students the opportunity to engage in discussions of more specific issues.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes:

Learning Outcomes	Tutorial Presentation (20%)	Term Paper (30%)	Test (40%)	Class Participation (10%)
1. identify the factors which may exert influence on the decision-making processes of the translators/interpreters	X	X	X	X
2. explain the name and nature of "translator studies" as a subfield of translation studies	X	X	X	X
3. examine translators/interpreters from cultural, cognitive and sociological perspectives	X	X	X	X
4. analyse the roles played by important translators/interpreters in the society, particularly in the present era	X	X	X	X
5. analyse the relationship between translator/interpreter's habitus and translation	X	X	X	X

Assessment:

Continuous assessment: 100%

One Tutorial Presentation (20%)

(Students will give a 35-minute presentation on the reading materials, and are required to interpretate, analyse and evaluate relevant topics from a variety of critical perspectives.)

One Term Paper (30%)

(Students are required to write a paper of about 2500 words. They are required to apply the theories learned in class and do a case study of a translator/interpreter.)

One Test (40%) [consisting of MC questions (10%) and 2 essay questions (30%)]

(A 2-hour test consists of both MC questions and essay questions, which will cover issues related to various aspects of the five learning outcomes.)

Class Participation (10%)

(Students are expected to complete the required readings, attend all the lectures and tutorials, and participate in the discussions. The quality of questions and comments will be much valued.)

Essential/ Required Readings:

- Chesterman, Andrew, "The Name and Nature of Translator Studies." *Hermes – Journal of Language and Communication Studies*, (42):13-22, 2009.
- Delisle, Jean and Judith Woodsworth, eds. *Translators through History*, Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Pub. Co., 2012.
- Lung, Rachel, *Interpreters in Early Imperial China*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins Pub. Co., 2011.
- Meylaerts, Reine, "Habitus and Self-image of Native Literary Authors - Translators in Diglossic Societies." *Translation and Interpreting Studies*, 5 (1): 1-19, 2010.
- Munday, Jeremy, "The Role of Archival and Manuscript Research in the Investigation of Translator Decision-Making." *Target: International Journal of Translation Studies*, 25 (1): 125-139, 2013.
- Pym, Anthony, "Humanizing Translation History." *Hermes – Journal of Language and Communication Studies*, (42): 23-48, 2009.
- Simeoni, Daniel, "The Pivotal Status of the Translator's Habitus." *Target: International Journal of Translation Studies*, 10 (1): 1-39, 1998.

Recommended/Supplementary Readings:

- Bai, Liping, "'Translator Studies': Liang Shiqiu's Discourse on Translation." *Across Languages and Cultures*, 12 (1): 71-94, 2011.
- Bourdieu, Pierre, *Outline of Theory and Practice (Translated by Richard Nice)*, Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1977.
- Chesterman, Andrew, "Bridge Concepts in Translation Sociology." In *Constructing a Sociology of Translation*, edited by Michaela Wolf and Alexandra Fukari, 171-183, 2007.
- Dam, Helle V. and Karen Korning Zethsen, "Translator Status: A Study of Danish Company Translators." *The Translator*, 14 (1): 71-96, 2008.

- Gouanvic, Jean-Marc Gouanvic, “Is Habitus as Conceived by Pierre Bourdieu Soluble in Translation Studies?” In *Remapping Habitus in Translation Studies*, edited by Gisella M. Vorderobermeier, 29-42. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2014.
- Hill, Michael Gibbs, *Lin Shu, Inc.: The Translation and the Making of Modern Chinese Culture*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Lung, Rachel, “A Cultural Approach to the Study of Xuanzang”, In *Cross-cultural Transmission of Buddhist Texts: Theories and Practices of Translation*, edited by Dorji Wangchuk, Hamburg: Universität Hamburg, 99-117, 2016.
- Reay, Diane, “‘It's all Becoming a Habitus’: Beyond the Habitual use of Habitus in Educational Research.” *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, 25 (4): 431-444, 2004.
- 郭著章：《翻譯名家研究》，武漢：湖北教育出版社，1999年。
- 孫會軍：《葛浩文和他的中國文學譯介》，上海：上海交通大學出版社，2016年。
- 許鈞：《文學翻譯的理論與實踐：翻譯對話錄》，南京：譯林出版社，2010年。
- 楊麗華：《中國近代翻譯家研究》，天津：天津大學出版社，2011年。
- 辛紅娟，馬孝幸，吳迪龍：《楊憲益翻譯研究》。南京：南京大學出版社，2018年。

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/>.