

Macao Polytechnic Institute

School of Languages and Translation

Bachelor of Arts in International Chinese Language Education

(Applicable to non-native speakers of Chinese)

Module Outline

Learning Module	Chinese-English Translation		Class Code	TRAN3112	
Pre-requisite(s)	TRAN3111				
Medium of Instruction	Chinese / English		Credit	2	
Lecture Hours	20 hrs	Lab/Practice Hours	10 hrs	Total Hours	30 hrs

Description

This course is a continuation of TRAN3111 (English-Chinese Translation). It assumes that the students, having taken the previous course, have already been familiarized with the general differences between the Chinese and English languages.

Where TRAN 3112 has focused on the problematics inherent in the translation of texts from English into Chinese, the current course deals with issues that may arise when one translates from Chinese into English. Like its predecessor, it focuses not so much on the 'techniques' of translation as on how one might work with these two languages from a comparative socio-linguistic perspective. Unlike its predecessor, where there has been adequate contrasting of Chinese and English languages and cultures, this course will spend a large amount of time discussing the relationship between rhetoric and ideology. The students will see how such issues are foregrounded in Chinese-English translation and how they might feel obliged to indulge in a bit of textual and ideological manipulation while they translate.

The lectures are designed for the discussion of the key issues involved, whereas the seminars or workshops provide the main vehicle for the analysis of translation problems encountered in students' exercises and of published translated texts.

Learning Outcomes

The aim of this course is to introduce to students some common techniques in Chinese to English translation adopted by professional translators.

After successfully completing this course the students should be able to:

1. exercise professional judgement and apply appropriate techniques in translation practices;

2. choose the best word according to different cultural, social and ideological contexts;
3. reconstruct sentences according to the conventions and rules of the target language;
4. creatively transform the source text to convey the overall effect of the target text.

Content

WK	LECTURE	SEMINAR / WORKSHOP
SALVETE, DISCIPULI ET DISCIPULAE!		
1	Words and Phrases Or, Hitting Every Note Right	Workshops <i>In-class translation exercises</i>
2	<i>cultural connotations; contextual meanings; idioms;</i>	Seminars <i>Discussing last home assignments</i>
3	<i>metaphorical usages; puns; euphemisms; addressing terms; phatic greetings</i>	
4	Clauses and Sentences	
5	Or, Speaking as Our Minds are Structured <i>differences in sentence structure; passive voice and</i>	Seminars <i>Discussing last home assignments</i>
6	<i>active voice; topic prominence and subject prominence; ‘de 得’ clauses and ‘ba 把’ clauses;</i>	
7	<i>consecutive verbs; rhetorical repetitions and restatements; long and complex sentences</i>	Workshops <i>In-class translation exercises</i>
8		
9	Rhetoric and Ideology	
10	Or, Translator as Mediator and Manipulator <i>inflated rhetoric; political speak; translator as</i>	Seminars <i>Discussing a published translation (group work)</i>
11	<i>image-maker; paradoxes/ambiguities of ethics</i>	
12	Passages Or, Pulling Yourself Together <i>discourse analysis; textual profile; cohesion;</i>	Workshops <i>In-class translation exercises</i> Seminars <i>Discussing last home assignments</i>
13	<i>coherence; unity; stylistic concerns</i>	
14	Course Review	* Course Consultation

Teaching Method

Lectures.

Attendance

Attendance requirements are governed by the “Academic Regulations Governing Bachelor’s Degree Programmes of Macao Polytechnic Institute”.

Assessment

This learning module is graded on a 100 point scale, with 100 being the highest possible score and 50 being the passing score.

1) Portfolio 60%

By the end of the course the students will have produced a body of revised, polished translations from Chinese into English (including in-class as well as take-home assignments). These will form the portfolio as a major part of the students’ continuous assessment.

2) Exam 30%

There will be a written exam towards the end of the semester to test their understanding of the art and craft of translation.

3) Participation 10%

Participation refers to how actively the students engage themselves in the course. It is not equal to attendance. Students who are relatively less active in group discussions, for instance, will be given a lower mark in participation even if they have come to all the classes.

Cheating Warning: Plagiarism is an act of fraud. It is using others’ ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information. A zero mark will normally be given to that piece of work if a student copies someone else’s work or lets someone copy his/her own work.

Teaching Material(s)

Excerpts from published translations of works from Chinese into English, that can be used for comparisons and analyses as well as serve as model translations for the languages in question (to be used for student workshops).

Assorted shorts to be translated by the students from Chinese into English.

Reference(s)

1. Bassnett, Susan. Translation Studies (London and New York: Routledge, 1991). [IPM Library: PN241.B265 1991]
2. Chen, Dezhang 陳德彰. Approach to Translation Between English and Chinese (Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2005).
3. Chen, Hongwei 陳宏薇 and Li Yadan 李亞丹 (eds.). Xinbian Han-Ying fanyi jiaocheng 新

編漢英翻譯教程. Shanghai: Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press, 2004.

4. Han, Xiaoqiu 韓曉秋, Xian Hongli 綫宏力 and Wei Yunqian 魏雲千 (eds.). A Course in Chinese-English Translation 漢英翻譯教程. Ha'erbin: Heilongjiang renmin chubanshe, 2009.
5. Steiner, George. After Babel: Aspects of Language and Translation (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998). [IPM Library: P306.S66 1998]
6. Zhang, Zhenyu 張振玉. Principles of Translation 譯學概論. Taipei: Zhang Zhenyu, 1968. [IPM Library: PL1277 .Z436 1968]