



FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND TRANSLATION
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN CHINESE-ENGLISH TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION
LEARNING MODULE OUTLINE

Academic Year	2024/2025	Semester	1
Module Code	TRAN4114-413		
Learning Module	Legal Translation		
Pre-requisite(s)	Nil		
Medium of Instruction	English and Chinese		
Credits	2	Contact Hours	30 hrs
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MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module is designed to familiarize students with general practice of legal translation for the purpose of their acquiring the associated translation skills. It aims to assist students in understanding specialized features of legal language, which is a branch of ESP, so as to develop their competence in understanding, translating, interpreting and writing legal documents/texts in a formal and professional manner.

MODULE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (ILOS)

On completion of this learning module, students will be able to:

M1.	Have some rudimentary knowledge of the legal systems of relevant countries & regions;
M2.	be familiar with the contrastive features of legal writings between Chinese and English in terms of vocabulary, sentence structure and style;
M3.	be familiar with the key issues and obtain some basic strategies and techniques in translating legal texts between Chinese and English;
M4.	Apply the basic strategies and techniques in translating legal texts between Chinese and English.

These ILOs aims to enable students to attain the following Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs):

PILOs	M1	M2	M3	M4
P1. Knowledge and skills of translation and interpreting in the areas of public administration, tourism, commerce and mass media;	✓	✓		
P2. Knowledge of translation theories, critical understanding of translation and interpreting;		✓	✓	✓
P3. Knowledge and skills of both Chinese and English as language professionals;	✓	✓	✓	✓



P4. Knowledge of cross-cultural communication;	✓	✓	✓	
P5. Master Chinese-English translation and interpreting skills, strategies and technologies;			✓	
P6. Apply Chinese and English writing competence into translation practices;			✓	✓
P7. Apply knowledge of languages and translation studies into bi-lateral translation practices between English and Chinese;			✓	✓
P8. Apply strategies and techniques in public speaking, consecutive and simultaneous interpreting;				
P9. Gain cross-cultural awareness in translation and interpreting practices;	✓	✓	✓	✓
P10. Obtain basic research abilities.	✓	✓		

MODULE SCHEDULE, COVERAGE AND STUDY LOAD

Week	Content Coverage	Contact Hours
1	Introduction: Relation between law, language and translation; definitions of legal language and legal translation	2
2	Translation competence of a legal translator: Possible difficulties of in legal translation and qualifications for a legal translator	2
3	Basics of legal translation (1): Differences between legal families, legal systems and subtypes of legal texts	2
4	Basics of legal translation (2): Characteristics of legal language and principles of legal translation	2
5	Terminological issues in legal translation: Lexical characteristics of legal language and difficulties and solution of translating legal lexicons	2
6	Translation of basic expressions in legal texts (1): Syntactical characteristics of legal language; Employment and translation of “otherwise” and “subject to” in legal texts	2
7	Translation of basic expressions in legal texts (2): Employment and translation of “without prejudice to” and “where” in legal texts	2
8	Translation of basic expressions in legal texts (3): Employment and translation of “any person who...shall...” and “for the purpose(s) of” in legal texts	2
9	Translation of basic expressions in legal texts (4): Employment and translation of “provided that” and “notwithstanding” in legal texts	2



10	Translation of basic expressions in legal texts (5): Employment and translation of “save/except (for)” and “in respect of” in legal texts	2
11	Modal verbs in legal texts: Employment and translation of “shall”, “must” and “may” in legal texts	2
12	Technological means in legal translation: Use of online legal glossaries and corpuses, and translation software	2
13	Quiz: Content- and competence-based test on legal knowledge, expressions and sentences	2
14	Review (optional)	2
15	Final exam	2

TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

In this learning module, students will work towards attaining the ILOs through the following teaching and learning activities:

Teaching and Learning Activities	M1	M2	M3	M4
T1. Lectures and group discussions	✓	✓	✓	✓
T2. On-class and out-of-class translation practice		✓	✓	✓
T3. Knowledge- and practice- based assignments and tests	✓	✓	✓	✓

ATTENDANCE

Attendance requirements are governed by the Academic Regulations Governing Bachelor’s Degree Programmes of the Macao Polytechnic University. Students who do not meet the attendance requirements for the learning module shall be awarded an ‘F’ grade.

ASSESSMENT

In this learning module, students are required to complete the following assessment activities:

Assessment Activities	Weighting (%)	ILOs to be Assessed
A1. Class participation and performance	10%	M1-M4
A2. Quiz	10%	M1-M4
A3. Assignments	30%	M2-M4
A4. Final exam	50%	M1-M4

The assessment will be conducted following the University’s Assessment Strategy (see www.mpu.edu.mo/teaching_learning/en/assessment_strategy.php). Passing this learning module indicates that students will have attained the ILOs of this learning module and thus acquired its credits.



MARKING SCHEME

Excellent: Strong evidence of original thinking; good organisation, capacity to analyse and systemise; superior grasps of subject matter; strong evidence of extensive knowledge base.

Very Good: Evidence of grasps of subject; strong evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; good understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Good: Evidence of grasp of subject; some evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

Satisfactory: Profiting from the study experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.

Pass: Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the learning module.

Fail: Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weak in critical and analytical skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

REQUIRED READINGS

Cao, Deborah. *Translating Law*. Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press, 2008.

張法連. *法律英語翻譯教程*. 北京大學出版社, 2016.

中國政法大學法律英語教學與測試研究中心. *法律英語翻譯教程*. 中國法制出版社, 2016.

REFERENCES

董曉波, 于銀磊. *法律翻譯*. 北京大學出版社, 2020.

宋雷. *法律英語同義•近義術語辨析和翻譯指南*. 法律出版社, 2004.

王道庚. *法律翻譯—理論與實踐 [第二版]*. 香港城市大學出版社, 2013.

STUDENT FEEDBACK

At the end of every semester, students are invited to provide feedback on the learning module and the teaching arrangement through questionnaires. Your feedback is valuable for instructors to enhance the module and its delivery for future students. The instructor and programme coordinators will consider all feedback and respond with actions formally in the annual programme review.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Macao Polytechnic University requires students to have full commitment to academic integrity when engaging in research and academic activities. Violations of academic integrity, which include but are not limited to plagiarism, collusion, fabrication or falsification, repeated use of assignments and cheating in examinations, are considered as serious academic offenses and may lead to disciplinary actions. Students should read the relevant regulations and guidelines in the Student Handbook which is distributed upon the admission into the University, a copy of which can also be found at www.mpu.edu.mo/student_handbook/.