TRAN2020 - Writing Skills and Translation

Course learning outcome

The course aims at the following:

1. Offering a new perspective to English for Hong Kong students who probably have been trained to view grammar skills of English as something that can be acquired by fossilized practices like multiple-choices or fill-in-the-blanks exercises.
2. Improving students' English writing and translation skills in terms of accuracy and style.
3. Enabling students to be in a better position to analyse and break down sentence structures and understand meaning in the pre-translation stage when working on English-Chinese translations.

Course syllabus

1. An overview of the differences between Chinese and English 中英文的語言特色以及其差異
2. Structures of English and Chinese and what makes it a relatively more scientific language by nature 中英文結構分析（藉此討論英語因何較 '科學化'）
3. Article usage 冠詞的使用
4. Verb forms and what functions they serve in a sentence (The notion of 'finiteness' and the like) 動詞形態及動詞在句子中的功能（關於限定動詞等的概念）
5. The notion of a sentence (Addressing the common definition that it signals a complete 'sense') 甚麼是句子（有關 '句子即表達完整意義' 這一界定）
6. Good and bad sentence fragments 使用得當及不當的斷句
7. Style as a matter of choices of diction and sentence structures 選詞用字及句子結構如何影響語言風格
8. The logic of connectors and how they might be misused 關聯詞語的邏輯及其誤用
9. Punctuation usage and its relationship with sentence structures 標點符號的使用及標點符號與句子結構的關係
10. Attaining clarity and conciseness in writing 如何寫出清晰的句子及精煉的語言

Assessment type and percentage

Assessment Type	Percentage
1. Essays	60%
2. Other	10%
3. Short answer test or exam	30%

Feedback for evaluation

Students are welcome to provide their feedback on the course through 歡迎學生透過以下途徑發表課程意見
- mid-term questionnaires 學期中問卷調查
- end-of-term questionnaires 學期尾問卷調查
- emails 電郵
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Required readings

None

Recommended readings

1. Crewe, William J. The illogic of logical connectives. ELT Journal. p. 316-25, Vol. 44, 1990.
2. Darling, C. Guide to Grammar and writing. http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/
3. Editors of the American Heritage Dictionaries. (1996). The American Heritage Book of English Usage. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.
4. Goldbort, R. Some Issues in Scientific Language: Precision, Conciseness, and English as a Second Language. Journal of Environmental Health, Vol. 64, 2001
5. Purdue University. Purdue Online Writing Laboratory. http://owl.english.purdue.edu/
6. Strunk, William. Elements of Style. http://www.bartleby.com/141/
7. 羅選民. 2001. 《話語分析的英漢語比較研究》長沙: 湖南人民出版社