

TRAN3870 - Translation of Texts in the Social Sciences

Course learning outcome

1. Students should become more aware of social science texts as a rather distinct discipline to warrant specific translation techniques not like those commonly employed in technical and literary texts.
2. Students should have their understanding of social science texts enhanced, including their vocabulary and language structures so that their relevant translation skills will be improved.

Course syllabus

1. Social science as a discipline 甚麼是社會科學
2. General features of social science texts (Types, vocabulary usage, sentence structures, tone, grammatical aspects like tense use, and paragraphing etc.) 社會科學文本的類別、用字、句式、語氣、文法特色如時態、結構特色如如何分段等
3. Topics on argumentation, cohesion, and coherence (How points are made and how social science texts are constructed) 社會科學的論證過程及方法，及社會科學文本的銜接與連貫性
4. Modality (meanings expressed by (but not limited to) modal verbs) in social science texts and the concept of 'hedging' 社會科學文本的情態表達及 '含糊言語' 的使用
5. An overview of some general translation skills (basing on social science texts) 基本翻譯方法 (以社會科學文本為例)
6. Cultural aspects of social science texts and how they are relevant to the translator 翻譯社會科學文本的文化問題

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

Required readings

None

Recommended readings

1. Heim, H Michael and Andrzej, W Tymowski. 2006. Guidelines for the translation of social science texts. http://www.acls.org/sstp_guidelines.pdf
2. Newmark, Peter. 1988. *A Textbook of Translation*. New York: Prentice Hall.
3. Price, M Joshua. Translating Social Science. Good versus bad utopianism. *Target* 20:2 (2008), 348–364.
4. Strunk, William, Jr. *Elements of Style*. <http://www.bartleby.com/141/>
5. Wallerstein, Immanuel, “Concepts in the Social Sciences: Problems of Translation.” *Translation Spectrum: Essays in Theory and Practice*. Ed. Marilyn Gaddis Rose. (1981). 88-98. Albany: State University of New York Press.
6. Web Concordancer. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. <http://vlc.polyu.edu.hk/concordance/>
7. 劉密慶 1986. 《文體與翻譯》北京:中國對外翻譯

Students can also conduct an online search via EBSCOhost, IngentaConnet, and SpringerLink etc. with the library system of CUHK for the electronic journal articles which offer various perspectives on the topics discussed (punching keywords like “translation” and “culture”). You need to sign in as a student of CUHK via the library system to gain free access to most articles. More on this later.

Other useful reference sources will be introduced/distributed throughout the course.