THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSLATION

2017-18

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE CODE
TRAN2020A

ENGLISH TITLE
Writing Skills and Translation

CHINESE TITLE
寫作技巧與翻譯

NUMBER OF UNITS
3

DESCRIPTION
This course introduces the stylistic features and writing skills of English and Chinese, as well as the corresponding translation techniques. Lectures combined with drills aim to raise the students' awareness of the intricacies of the English and Chinese languages at the pragmatical level and improve their writing and translating skills.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Primarily focusing on the features of both English and Chinese languages, this course aims to enhance students' translation competence and writing skills through highlighting the subtleties and intricacies of the English and Chinese languages. The features of these two languages will be introduced separately as well as in comparison. Issues addressed will centre around languages in use, particularly the confusions and frequently seen errors made by Chinese speakers in the cases of English writing and C-E translation. Topics that will be discussed include the usage of English articles, the importance of word order, the trickiness of collocation, sentence structures, difficulties in structuring ideas logically, writing genres and styles, and the pervasiveness of Europeanized Chinese, all discussed in the context of translation. Regarding English language, special attention shall be paid to the linguistic mannerisms of Chinese speakers. In terms of Chinese, an awareness of the multiple variations and the foreign influences on the language will be discussed. Real-life examples will be provided in class so that students will be aware of the discrepancies between prescribed rules and actual usage.   The exercises used in class are not fossilized practices on grammar like fill-in-the-blank or multiple-choice questions. Instead, students will be asked to apply their linguistic knowledge acquired in the course to analyse and appreciate the way of presentation by languages in use and in translation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Expected learning outcomes
After completing this course, students are expected to: 1. Develop a more in-depth understanding of the features of the English and Chinese languages, English in particular, as the students in Hong Kong may have been trained to use

the language according to rigid grammatical rules. (K and V)

2. Be able to identify different writing genres and styles and thereby apply translation strategies accordingly. (K and S)

3. Develop a self-awareness of the linguistic mannerisms and hence evaluate the appropriateness of the language during translation processes. (K and S)

4. Improve their writing and translation skills in terms of accuracy, fluency and style. (S)

5. Better analyze languages and understand the meanings of both source and target texts at different stages of translation. (S)

Implication for learning activities

Students will be exposed to basic language theories, have chances of critiquing pieces of writing and should be in a better position to make appropriate language choices in writing and translation.

Implication for assessment

Students will be assessed via several assignments, take-home tasks, and a final test, which enables them to apply the skills that they have learnt. These several components ensure that all students have the chance to demonstrate improvements over time instead of having their course grade dependent entirely on one final examination.

LIST OF TOPICS

- The nature of English and Chinese languages
- The importance of writing competence for translation
- The 'myths and facts' of article usage
- Word order in translation
- The logical and contextual use of connectors as the stitches of languages
- Good and bad sentence fragments
- Conciseness vs redundancy in writing and translation
- Genres and styles
- English and Chinese variations
- Europeanization of Chinese

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Lecture	Tutorial	**Others:** Please specify
Hours per week	**Hours per week**	**Hours per week**
1 hr 45 min	45 min	N.A.

ASSESSMENT SCHEME

Task nature	Weight

Attendance and participation	10%
In-class drills and discussions	10%
Assignments	40%
Final test	40%

RECOMMENDED LEARNING RESOURCES

1. 陳定安（1996）《英漢修辭與翻譯》，香港：商務印書館。
2. 思果（2001）《翻译新究——這句譯文像中文嗎？》，台北：大地出版社。
3. 董橋（2001）《鍛字煉句是禮貌上、下》，香港：明報。
4. 陳會軍（2004）《中國人英文寫作全攻略——技巧與訓練》，北京：外文出版社。
5. 劉宓慶（1986）《文體與翻譯》，北京：中國對外翻譯。
6. 胡曙中（1993）《英漢修辭比較研究》，上海：上海外語教育出版社。
7. 汪福祥（2002）《英語寫作技巧新編》，北京：外文出版社。
8. 張今、張克定（1998）《英漢語資訊結構對比研究》，開封：河南大學出版社。
9. Broderick, J, P. (2005). *English grammar: Patterns and choices,* Norfolk, VA: Old Dominion University.
10. Crewe, W. J. (1990) 'The illogic of logical connectives', *ELT Journal* 44: 316-25.
11. Darling, C. 'Guide to grammar and writing', available at http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/.
12. Downing, A. & Locke, P. (2006) *English grammar: A university course*, 2nd ed., Florence, KY: Routledge.
13. Editors of the American Heritage Dictionaries, (1996) *The American heritage book of English usage,* New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company.
14. Fiske, R. H. (2002). *The Dictionary of Concise Writing: 10,000 alternatives to wordy phrases*, Oak Park, IL: Marion Street Press.
15. Loffredo, E. & Perteghella, M. (Eds.) (2006) *Translation and creativity: Perspectives on creative writing and translation studies*, New York, NY: Continuum.
16. Purdue University. Purdue Online Writing Laboratory. http://owl.english.purdue.edu/.
17. Strunk, W. & E. B. White (2007) *The Elements of Style*, London: Penguin Books.

Notes:
- ❖ Required readings are to be confirmed later.
- ❖ Reading materials will be distributed in-class, thus, there is no need to buy any of these references.

FEEDBACK FOR EVALUATION

Students are welcome to provide feedback on the course through
- mid-term questionnaires
- end-of-term questionnaires
- emails

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Activities/Requirements
1	Writing and translation: An overview of the features of the English and Chinese languages	Reading 1
2	Writing and translation: The importance of writing competence for translation (Cont'd)	
3	The trickiness of English articles: A consideration of some examples in	Reading 2

	everyday life usage	
4	The trickiness of articles in E-C / C-E translation (Cont'd)	Assignment 1
5	National Day and Mid-autumn Festival	
6	Word order in writing and translation: Why word order matters	Reading 3
7	Logical connectors as the stitches of languages	Assignment 1 due
8	Conciseness vs. redundancy: Linguistic mannerisms of Chinese speakers	Reading 4
9	Conciseness vs. redundancy: Styles and choices (Cont'd)	Assignment 1 discussion
10	Genre and translation: Why genre matters	Reading 5
11	Genre and translation: Genres as reflected in translation (Cont'd)	Assignment 2
12	Language variations and translation: Do we use the same English and the same Chinese worldwide?	
13	Translating into CHINESE: The trickiness of Chinese conjunctions and classifiers	Reading 6 Assignment 2 due
14	Overcoming Europeanization of Chinese: Accuracy, collocation and 'tense' (Cont'd)	
15	Optional topics: • Rhetoric and translation • The close relationship between punctuation: Mark usage and sentence structures in English and Chinese	Assignment 2 discussion
16	Final test	

CONTACT DETAILS

Professor/Lecturer/Instructor	
Name:	Chuan YU (Dr.)
Office Location:	TBC
Telephone:	TBC
Email:	TBC
Teaching Venue:	TBC
Website (optional):	
Office Hours:	TBC

Teaching Assistant/Tutor	
Name:	
Office Location:	
Telephone:	

Email:	
Teaching Venue:	
Website:	
Other information:	

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Course announcements and materials will be posted on CU eLearning System / distributed in class (please delete as appropriate)

Policy on Absenteeism
In respect of individual courses, a student who, without permission to take leave, has been absent for a continuous period exceeding 4 weeks shall, subject to the Department Board's approval, be given Grade F for the course(s) concerned.

Policy on Penalties for Late Submission of Written Work
Late submission of written work 1-7 days: Minus **ONE** Sub-grade.
Late submission of written work beyond 7 days: The work will not be graded and **Grade F** be given.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. In the case of group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible should there be any plagiarized contents in the group project, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed directly or indirectly to the plagiarized contents.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submission. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.