電腦輔助翻譯獎勵通訊

香港中文大學翻譯系電腦輔助翻譯碩士課程出版

CAT Bulletin
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Department of Translation
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

電腦輔助翻譯碩士課程五周年誌慶

課程主任 陳善偉教授

電腦輔助翻譯碩士課程設立於二零零二年，今年九月是五周年。翻譯系有多項慶祝活動及措施，以發展課程及推動研究。

（一）〈電腦輔助翻譯：理論與實踐〉國際研討會
翻譯系會在九月二日（星期六）假香港中文大學利黃瑞壁樓舉行〈電腦輔助翻譯：理論與實踐〉國際研討會，邀請英美、中國、台灣及本港學者宣讀論文，並獲多家著名電腦軟件公司到場示範最新軟件的特色及使用方法。

（二）翻譯技術研究中心
翻譯系獲大學批准，成立「翻譯技術研究中心」，是本系第一個研究中心。中心成立的目的是以翻譯技術支援翻譯教學及研究及提高翻譯實踐的質素。

（三）電腦輔助翻譯碩士校友會
課程經過五年的發展，畢業生已接近一百人。今年適逢五周年，校友會在今屆畢業生的努力下正式成立。成立典禮會於五周年晚會上舉行。

（四）電腦輔助翻譯課程五周年晚宴
翻譯系將於九月二日假崇基學院教職員聯誼會宴會廳舉行課程五周年晚宴，會邀請所有任教課程的教授，畢業生及在讀生，校友會執事，及研討會與會人士出席晚宴。晚會有表演及抽獎，精彩可期。

（五）電腦輔助翻譯全日制課程
翻譯系準備考慮提供全日制碩士課程，以方便希望一年內完成課程的人士，包括國外的同學。由於電腦輔助翻譯課程不但深化同學翻譯的知識與技能，而最重要的是開拓視野，提供最新的技術訓練去應付當今資訊時代的需要。所以課程發展至今，已經廣受注意，中國著名院校亦打算做成。全日制課程提供另一個選擇予有興趣修讀電腦輔助翻譯的人士。
Celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the MACAT Programme

By September, the Master of Arts in Computer-aided Translation programme will be in its fifth year. To celebrate the 5th anniversary, the Department of Translation will hold the following activities to promote the programme and conduct research on computer-aided translation.

1) **International Conference on “Computer-aided Translation: Theory and Practice”**

The Department will hold a conference on computer-aided translation on 2 September (Saturday) at Esther Lee Building, Chung Chi College. Scholars and CAT experts in the United Kingdom, the United States, China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong have been invited to present papers, and several well-known computer software suppliers will demonstrate their latest products.

2) **Centre for Translation Technology**

The University has approved the establishment of the Centre for Translation Technology at the Department of Translation, the first research centre of the Department. This Centre has been set up to support teaching and research and raise the quality of translation in the field with the use of translation technology.

3) **The Alumni Association of MACAT**

Graduates of the MACAT programme are now close to one hundred. Thanks to the efforts of the graduates of 2003-2005, the Alumni Association of the Programme has been formed and the founding ceremony will be held at the 5th-anniversary Dinner.

4) **The 5th Anniversary Dinner**

The 5th Anniversary Dinner will be held on 2 September at the Staff Canteen of Chung Chi College. All teachers, students, and Executive members of the Alumni Association will be invited to attend the anniversary dinner, which will have lucky draws and musical performances.

5) **Full-time Programme for MACAT**

The Department will seriously consider the possibility of offering a full-time MACAT Programme for students who wish to complete their studies in one year, including those in Mainland China. MACAT not only deepens the translation knowledge and skills of its students, but also provides them with cutting-edge technology training to meet the needs of the present age of information technology. The Programme has received enormous attention from other institutions, and similar programmes will be created by top universities in China. The full-time programme, when in place, should be a useful option for students interested in computer-aided translation.
CLS Communication, headquartered in Switzerland, is a globally active service and technology provider specialized in translating, editing and processing multilingual content for the finance, life science and telecommunication industries.

The question has been often raised. “What is the future of the translation business? Will there still be a market and a need for translators?”

In the wake of globalisation, multilingual documentation has become a necessity. That already answers the first question. While the demand for translation has risen, the budget allocation has not followed and clients have been coming up with ever increasing requirements. Companies also want to use a personal language to address the client and hence stress on corporate language and consistent terminology. And to make things more challenging, with today’s pace, time-to-publish and consequently time-to-translate are getting shorter.

Translation Memory and Termbases

Most of the time, clients who want to keep translation prices low have one concern: They want to have more translations for the same amount of money. So the only possibility for the provider is to see how it is possible to increase productivity and efficiency and how it is possible to save some time on searching and translation. Computer aided tools like translation memory and terminology systems can assist translators to achieve these ambitious goals.

And in fact, all translators’ desktops at CLS Communication are equipped with such tools. All translators work hands-on with translation memories and a client-specific terminology database. Translation memories exist for each client and for each language direction. Right now, there are approximately 600 translation memories at CLS. Segments already translated once can be saved, aligned and re-used easily with the appropriate translation memory tool.

Each terminology database is available in 5 languages. Searching for the adequate term is time-consuming, all translators struggle with the problem and working with a termbase is an invaluable support. Once a term has been searched by one person in the company, it can be stored and is then available for the other translators, whether they work on the same project or for the same client, concurrently or at a later stage. This also guarantees a consistent corporate language as there are databases related to each client. A whole team of 11 in-house terminologists are supporting translators. They develop and maintain over 33 terminology databases, some subject-related, some company-specific.
Corporate clients have urged to have CLS Communication offer them another service: A secure tool for instant translations. The internal communication of multinationals can no more be limited to one language. Translating all internal communication can be very costly. And most of the time, it is enough to understand the gist of an internal document. Customized Machine Translation had to be developed.

Based on the Comprendium Lingua System, CLS Machine Translation offers quick automatic translations via the client’s browser. In-house resources such as memory and terminology databases are regularly imported and integrated in the lexicon by a dedicated in-house team and contribute together with translation analyses to the best machine translation quality. Since the launch of the service in 2003, over 50 million words have been translated by CLS Communication’s clients via CLS Machine Translation and most users have been relying on this tool in their daily work with foreign documents.

For internal communication purposes, a brief post-editing service is also available. Qualified translators who are native speakers of the language involved go through the machine-translated text to remove the most serious errors or select the correct alternatives. As a result, the text reads better and can then be used on a limited basis for short-lived texts.

For more information on the application of computer-aided translation tools at CLS, please contact bruna.toubia@cls-communication.com.
The talk focused on the use of data-driven techniques pertaining to machine translation. It covered some of the research work done at the Human-Computer Communications Laboratory, such as example-based machine translation, bi-directional translation and data-driven machine transliteration.

Syntax and semantic structures of the source and target languages are essential in creating grammar rules for example-based machine translation. However, handcrafting such rules is a laborious procedure and it requires the knowledge of an expert. To solve the bottleneck, Helen and her team has developed a statistical approach known as “Semi-automatic Grammar Induction” – the grammars are learnt automatically from corpora following by slight manual refinement, reducing manual effort from weeks to hours.

Thereafter, the work is extended to achieve bi-directional machine translation. The grammars try to capture syntactic and semantic structures and reduce that for English and Chinese sentence pairs. Therefore given a similar English sentence, the machine translation system can look for its Chinese counterpart to generate the Chinese translation output and vice versa. Research effort is also put into automatic machine transliteration of proper names using data-driven techniques. English phonemes are converted to Chinese phonemes using Cross-Lingual Phonetic Mapping obtained with machine learning approach. For example, the Chinese transliterated result of the English name Christopher (phonemes: /kk rr ih ss tt aa ff er/) is 基里斯特弗 (phonemes: /k e l i s i t uo fu/ → syllables: /ji li si te fu/)

The talk also covered an automatic machine translation evaluation metric called BLEU (Bilingual Evaluation Understudy), which is developed by IBM. The metric is convenient and very popular on information translation evaluation.

Professor Meng’s group has been pushing forward on this front among a lot of other research related to speech and language technologies. They are currently focusing on Chinese-to-English translation because the language discrepancy and inflectional forms in English create a challenge in automatic translation. They are also trying to develop the ability to filter transliterated names from comparable corpora. That will be a way to enrich the transliteration dictionary and also to enrich the capability of doing the cross-lingual phoneme mapping for transliteration.
TRA 7005 Computer-aided Translation Project

Under supervision, students are required to complete an individual or group project related to computer-aided translation or computer translation. Each student should submit a written report (in English) of no less than 7,500 words. For students formed in groups, their report should include 80% of individual work and 20% of group work.

学生需在指导下完成個人或小組專題作業，題目必須關於電腦輔助翻譯或電腦翻譯。每位學生均需提交一份不少於七千五百字的英文報告。小組專題作業個人部份應佔報告百分之八十，小組部份佔百份之二十。

Prof. Chan Sin-wai
陳善偉教授
Dr. Leung Chi Hong (right)
梁智康博士(右圖)

TRA 7006 Translation Theory and Methodology

This course offers a comprehensive study of the major translation theories and translation methodology in the contemporary period for evaluating and studying translation. Students are accessed through class participation, assignments and tests if necessary.

本科全面介紹當代主要翻譯理論及方法，讓學生掌握理論與方法以致力翻譯評價和研究。學生需參與堂上討論，課堂習作或測驗以作評分。

Dr. Simon Chau
周兆祥博士

TRA 7007 Editing Skills for Computer Translation

Computer Translation (or some refer to it as Machine Translation) is an efficient tool to generate translation for communication purposes. However, the automatic translation output, especially for Chinese/English, may still be far from satisfactory. This course introduces the skills essential to the editing of the source and target texts before and after computer translation so as to optimize efficiency and translation quality. Students are accessed through class participation, assignments and group presentation.

電腦翻譯(又稱機器翻譯)提供快捷的翻譯，有助理解文意。但自動翻譯出來的譯文質量往往未盡理想。本科介紹電腦翻譯中原文的譯前編輯及譯文的譯後編輯技巧，掌握技巧後，學生可更妥善配合電腦自動翻譯功能，提高翻譯效率及質素。

學生需參與堂上討論，課堂習作及小組報告以作評分。

Prof. Chan Sin-wai
陳善偉教授

TRA 7008 Introduction to Computer-aided Translation

This is a practice-oriented course that focuses on the use of translation technology in translation practice. Translation tools such as concordancers, localization software, and translation memory systems will be introduced. Students are required to do assignments and present in groups.

本科旨在教授學生如何在翻譯實踐中應用翻譯科技，並介紹各種翻譯工具的使用，例如索引系統、本地化軟件及翻譯記憶系統。學生需提交課堂習作及小組報告以作評分。

Prof. Chan Sin-wai
陳善偉教授
**TRA 7104 Advanced Scientific Translation**

This course studies the methods and techniques in translating scientific texts, discusses the historical, practical and theoretical aspects of scientific translation and explores the resources available to scientific translators. Students are required to do assignments and present in groups.

Dr. Lam Kui Kwong

林鉅光博士

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**TRA 7204 Natural Language Processing**

This course introduces basic concepts and techniques of Natural Language Processing (NLP), which include NLP as part of artificial intelligence (AL), context-free formal grammars, parsing models and augmented transition network, programming for NLP, and commercial software of NLP. Students are accessed through assignments and presentations.

Prof. Wang Shi-Yuan

王士元教授

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**TRA 7206 Approaches to Computer Translation**

This course introduces various approaches to computer translation and the concerning techniques involved in the development of the systems. Base on different needs and requirements, translation systems are developed with diverse approaches, such as corpus-based, example-based, rule-based, knowledge-based, memory-based, pattern-based, probability-based and statistics-based approaches. Each approach perform each approach carries its own advantage and disadvantages. This course helps Students to see the characteristics of these approaches and to evaluate the performance of systems in different conditions. Students are accessed through assignments and presentations.

Dr. Cecilia Wong

王淑雯博士
Message from ....

Catherine Lo, Year two student, MA in CAT

Two years in CAT have been my precious experience in study. Teachers and classmates in it are terrific, and I appreciate three of them in particular. First, throughout our prolonged cooperation, Tony Lo has generously showed me lots of different skills in task planning, coordination, library search, thesis structuring and writing, etc. You are undoubtedly a good teammate to work with! Second, my lecturer, Dr. Leung, remarkably proved us the great significance of a supervisor in project work. Your 110% devotion and professional comments benefited us a lot. Third, efforts and initiatives of our respectful monitor, Frank Siu, surely cannot be denied for developing such a friendly relationship among our classmates.
Leung Tsui Wah, Anne, Year one student, MA in CAT

Farewell Tea Party

For MA in CAT year two students, the last lecture on April 22nd had a special meaning as it marked an end to their studies for the past two years. While all gathered for a farewell tea party, sunny weather, food and drinks, and most of all those participated, may it be professors or students, made the atmosphere though not particularly touching yet warm and delightful. I watched enviously aside as they chatted and took photos, and cheered in my heart for their prosperous futures, "All the best!"

Frank Siu, Year two student, MA in CAT

I enrolled in the programme with two aims in mind. The first was to acquire new knowledge beyond my previous studying in translation. The second was to look into languages from a computer perspective. I have achieved these two aims, but what I have achieved is more than I expected. During my learning journey, the teachers, some of whom are well-known scholars, have provided me a close guidance. It is my great honour to have learnt from them. In addition, the relationship of our fellow students is harmonious and pleasant. We have learnt and shared from each other. I have benefited from them very much. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wife for her support. She had to shoulder all the work of caring for our new-born baby when I was busy with assignments.

Jessica Ng, Year two student, MA in CAT

The two years CAT course reminded me of my secondary school life. It was the closeness, friendliness and helpfulness of our classmates gave me such a warm feeling. I must say that I had obtained more than I expected under this course. As my job involves translation, I find myself benefited a lot from the course and I believe every translator should have at least a basic concept of CAT. I would like to thank Dr. Leung for giving us the theoretical concept of CAT. Also, I have learnt a lot from my final project and would like to thank Professor Chan for his valuable advices and my partners Jenny and Wendy for their kind assistance and cooperation. More than that, the course of Bilingual Lexicography cultivates my interest in lexicography. I must thank Dr. Lam and Professor Arthur. I would also like to thank Tiffany for her helpfulness particularly after office hours and Xiaolei for her demonstrations.
The night of the 27th day of May was an ordinary Saturday night. The restaurant at the clubhouse of a Kowloon Tong’s resident estate was a simple restaurant. To me, it was another usual gathering of our classmates. I came to the venue at my ease. I found the decoration here was minimal, but the dazzling banner reminded me that the today’s event was more than usual. After receiving a Teddy Bear wearing a graduate cap, I realized I had come to in a banquet.

Our classmates arrived one by one, and the party started to get out of control when classmates signed their names on my Teddy Bear and I did the same to them. At this moment, I discovered behind the lovely faces of our classmates, they were still young at heart. The game went on. Our classmates were reluctant to take seats until the timely arrivals of Professor Chan Sin-wai, Dr. Jacqueline Lam, Dr. Leung Chi Hong, Miss Yeun Xiaolei, a doctoral student of our department, and Miss Tiffany Fung, coordinator of our programme. The dinner was going to start but I noticed other teachers had not come yet. Had they not been invited? I asked the organizers. The answer was some of them were out of town, and others had important appointments.

When my tummy began to rumble, I gave an opening speech. Instead of touching or encouraging words, it was a summary of our study life in the past two years. Eventually, of course, I expressed my gratitude to the teachers wholeheartedly. Then Professor Chan, Director of our programme, was invited to say a few words.

But he preferred presenting us souvenirs than speaking to us. We were delighted to accept such an arrangement, and received the “Forever Friends” bears from him.
By that time, my tummy roared louder. I took a glance at the menu. It was a standard dinner set with twelve bottles of soft drink. I could not say it was a lavish meal. Luckily, our classmates brought us with half a case of red wine and a handful of gifts for the lucky draw. More happiness was added to the dinner. When tasting the good wine, I appreciated the fine arrangements, and said at heart: thank you all.

Apart from some brief remarks by teachers, students did not seem to have a chance to speak out their mind. Professor Chan then suggested that each one of us could say a few words. My words came from the heart and soul. So were theirs. Some of them had tears in eyes. I wondered whether it was the effect of alcohol. But I found the wine remained untouched in many glasses.

Dessert would make a perfect ending of the meal. But there was just no room for cookies and puddings. Unexpectedly, an ice-cream cake was presented in front of us. The cake was bought by Wendy who missed the dinner but thought of us. It was yummy and down to the tummy, as I was saying, “I’m full.”

A group photo-taking marked the end of the dinner. Cheer! Click. The photos captured the happiest moments of the night, and also the good memorable times of the past two years.

Cake Sharing Ceremony

Group Photo

全體畢業生．老師及職員大合照
Computer-aided Translation: Theory and Practice
A 5th Anniversary Conference-cum-Software Exhibition of the Master of Arts in Computer-aided Translation Programme

Organized by
Department of Translation
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

2 September 2006
Lecture Theatre 2, Esther Lee Building, Chung Chi College
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

This conference provides a platform for researchers and scholars in the fields of translation and computing to discuss the theoretical and practical aspects of computer-aided translation in the present age of information technology.

Themes
- Computer-aided translation
- Computer-aided translation systems
- Computer translation
- Computer applications in translation
- The use of corpora in translation

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