



Yau Shing-yue Lecture in Translation

Interpreters at the British war crimes trials against the Japanese in Hong Kong

Professor Kayoko Takeda, Rikkyo University

Date: 24 January 2018 (Wednesday)

Time: 5:30pm

Venue: LT7, Cheng Yu Tung Building, CUHK

Abstract:

This lecture discusses various ways in which interpreters were involved in post-World War II war crimes trials against the Japanese. Beyond the well-known Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal, over 2,200 military trials were held by individual Allied nations in 49 locations throughout the Asia-Pacific involving over 5,700 defendants. From the standpoint of interpreting studies, the most remarkable feature of these trials is the fact that about 100 wartime interpreters were prosecuted and convicted (and executed in some cases) as war criminals. Notably, Taiwanese and Korean

interpreters as well as Nisei (second-generation Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians) interpreters in the Imperial Japanese Army numbered among those convicts. Drawing on trial documents and other archival records, I will first present an overview of interpreters as war criminals: who they were, how they were recruited, what they did, why they were prosecuted, and how they defended themselves. Then, I will focus on the British military trials in Hong Kong, which resulted in at least seven convictions of interpreters. In particular, the case of Kanao Inouye, a Canadian Nisei, will be discussed in

detail to illuminate the complex position of heritage language speakers in war.

About the speaker:

Kayoko Takeda is Professor of Translation and Interpreting Studies in the College of Intercultural Communication at Rikkyo University in Tokyo. Previously, she was the head of the Japanese translation and interpreting (T&I) program at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS) in the United States. She received an MA in T&I from MIIS and a PhD in Translation and Intercultural Studies from Universitat Rovira i Virgili in Spain. Her research interests lie in the history of interpreting and translation, sociocultural aspects of interpreting and translating, interpreter and translator education, and audiovisual translation. She is the author of *Interpreting the Tokyo War Crimes Trial* (University of Ottawa Press) and co-editor of *New Insights in the History of Interpreting* (John Benjamins). Kayoko's articles have appeared in *Meta*, *Interpreting*, *Across*, *Linguistica Antverpiensia*, and other major journals.



All are welcome