CHIN 3540: 中英文互译 Translating from & into Chinese

Instructor: Li Guo   li.guo@usu.edu   1:30-2:45pm TR, Lib 405
Office Hrs: TTR 8:30-9:30am, 002B Main

Course Description:

Should translation value fidelity more than style and elegance? Is translation imitation, adaptation or re-creation? Among modern and contemporary China's translators, Lin Shu 林纾 (1852-1924) used the style of Tang dynasty and translated western novels such as Uncle Tom's Cabin into classical Chinese. Qian Zhongshu 钱钟书 (1910- ) wrote that the highest standard of translation is transformation (化, the power of transformation in nature): bodies are sloughed off, but the spirit, appearance and manner are the same as before. In this class, we will consider translation from and into Chinese in diverse contexts, while assessing different principles of translation through practice. Starting from techniques in translating phrases, idioms and habitual expressions, we will proceed to translate sentences and short passages from various contexts, such as news and reportage, business documents, literature, culture and film narratives, and oral translation skills. The learning outcomes of this course include the following aspects.

- To study the processes and competences in translating documents from and into Chinese.
- To acquaint students with the professional and ethical principles required for professional written and oral translation.
- To develop proficiency in the use and application of different translation tools including dictionary, software, internet, and others.
- To develop sensitivity and awareness of the situational implications of words, phrases, sentences and expressions through hands-on comparison and analysis of both monolingual and bilingual authentic texts.
- To build self-revision and peer-review skills and cultivate the ability to be quality producers and self-directed learners.

Textbook:

Course requirements:

- 10% Attendance
- 5% Paired teaching demo
- 5% Quizzes (1% each)
- 50% Weekly translation tasks on canvas (5% each, 50% total)
- 15% Translation presentation (in pairs, 15 minutes)
- 10% Final Exam
- 5% Portfolio

Grading:

End of semester grades will be assigned based upon the following percentages of the total number of points:

- A = 93 - 100%
- A- = 90 - 92%
- B+ = 87 - 89%
- B = 83 - 86%
- B- = 80 - 82%
- C+ = 77 - 79%
- C = 73 - 76%
- C- = 70 - 72%
- D+ = 65 - 69%
- D = 60 - 64%
- D- = 55 - 59%
- F = 54% or less

Students with ADA-documented impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. Accommodations are coordinated through DRC in Rm 101 of the University Inn, 7-2444 voice, 7-0740 TTY, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact DRC as early as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.

Attendance:

Regular attendance of the class is important and highly related to a student’s performance in class. You are allowed 3 absences. Each additional absence takes 2% off from your total points for the class. In case of illness, emergency, or university activities, please notify me by email in advance, and submit an official university excused absence sheet when you return to class.
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| Jan 8 | 导言：翻译的基本原则  
Introduction “Basic concepts of translation” |
| Jan 13-15 | 试谈中英文比较  
“Some comparisons between English and Chinese” |
| Jan 20-22 | 翻译中的转换  “Conversion”  
Jan 22 Q1 |
| Jan 27-29 | 视角变化  “Changing the perspective” |
| Feb 3-5 | 成语和习惯用语的翻译  “Metaphors and idioms”  
Feb 5 Q2 |
| Feb 10-12 | 商务翻译中的互信和责任  
“Translating the business world: trust and obligation” |
| Feb 19 | 新闻报章的翻译  “Translating news and reportage”  
Feb 19 Q3 |
| Feb 24-26 | 国家形象与翻译 "Translating the nation" |
| Mar 3-5 | 民间故事的翻译  “Case study: translating folk tales”  
Mar 5 Q4 |
| Mar 17-19 | 中英文诗歌翻译 “Case study: translating poetry.” |
| Mar 24-26 | 电影字幕翻译 “Case study: film dubbing”  
Mar 26 Q5 |
| Mar 31-Apr 2 | 翻译与幽默 "Translating humor" |
| Apr 7-9 | 口译的技巧 "Oral Translation" |
| Apr 14-16 | 翻译工作坊 Translation workshop. |
| Apr 21-23 | 口头报告 Oral presentations |
| Final | April 30, TR, 1:30-3:20 |