



UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN

DEPARTMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LIT.

Course Title: Special Subject in Translation

Course Code: 1502363

Pre-requisite: None

I. Course Description

The course aims at developing the students' feel of the journalistic discourse by way of approaching a variety of journalistic texts- Arabic and English. By the end of the course, students are expected to mainly enhance their translation competence in the field of journalism. Both terminology and style are emphasized. Critical skills of discourse analysis are highlighted and will be based on texts from leading English-based and Arabic-based newspapers.

II. Objectives

The main objectives of the course are:

1. to generally introduce the students to the concepts of translation theory and translation studies,
2. to recognize the basic theories in translation (old and new) and their theorists and apply them to journalistic texts.
3. to pinpoint the main pitfalls of journalistic texts and investigate the most effective translation strategies thereof.
4. to, by and large, recognize the key issues of the field such as "equivalence" vs. "non-equivalence", "translatability" vs. "non-translatability", "translation vs. origin", "word-for-word" vs. "sense-for-sense", "faithless beauty" vs. "faithful ugliness", etc.
5. to recognize the main concepts pertaining to translation theory such as: "free", "literal", "letter", "spirit", "loyalty", "faithfulness", "fidelity", "bias", "accuracy", "exactness", "transparency", "impartiality", "naturalness", "effect", "meaning", "style", "tone", "text type", "register", "context", "pragmatics", "collocation", "idioms", "fixed expressions", among many others.

III. Intended Learning Outcomes

A. Subject-specific Skills:

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- A1. translate a variety of texts pertaining to journalism from English into good idiomatic Arabic and vice versa,
- A2. observe the style, format and presentation of journalistic TTs on all levels of equivalence, and
- A3. identify shortcomings of the source text and apply a range of strategies thereto.

B. Intellectual Skills

At the end of the course, students are hopefully expected to:

- B1. analyze the source text as a prelude to its rendition into a natural target text.
- B2. employ critical thinking skills to solve lexical, structural and cultural problems by finding the closest equivalence of the target 'journalistic' text, and
- B3. recognize the most apparent complexities between the two languages of journalistic texts.

C. Personal Skills

At the end of the course, students are hopefully expected to know:

- C1. how to approach a piece of journalistic text in terms of comprehension, analysis into components, decisions on key issues, including terminology and delivery,
- C2. how to put the end product, the text-to-be, into an organic whole, observing cohesion, coherence, naturalness, unity, paragraphing, emphasis, linking devices, etc,
- C3. how to apply the acquired knowledge to translation projects on the ground, and
- C4. how to effect a linkage between theories of translation and practical application.

IV. Learning/Teaching Methods

Learning and teaching methods will mainly confine themselves to an introductory lecture, individual translations (with group participation), critical discussions, comments, back-translations, comparisons and contrasts, analyses, and feedback. The Arabic-based Ad Dustour daily, Al Rai daily together with the English-based The Star and The Jordan Times are highly adopted. In addition to a specialized dictionary in the field, major

learning tools will be bilingual and monolingual general-purpose desk-size dictionaries, extensive readings of journalistic texts and the Internet. A number of students' presentations are given on certain thorny theoretical questions concerning journalistic texts. A translation project is assigned and should be submitted near the end of the semester.

V. COURSE GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS

I. Attendance

Regular attendance is more than required and is a key factor that helps you gain better knowledge and learning. Students must comply with the university regulations of attendance policy.

Participation

Participation includes preparation of class materials and readings, homework, and active involvement in the classroom. All students are required to prepare the course material at home. Every one needs to participate in class so that she/he can develop knowledge and understanding of important and sometimes controversial issues of the course.

No disturbance

As a courtesy to others, please refrain from personal conversations. Disturbance and interruptions are not allowed. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off. You are kindly requested to leave the class if you become a source of disturbance or interruption.

Approachability:

Your instructor is approachable and receptive to all his students concerns and questions. Please feel free to approach him in class or during office hours and appointments if you have any questions or concerns that help you succeed in the course.

VI. Assessment

Mid-term Exam	: 30%	Final Exam	: 50%
Participation (& Presentations)	: 10%	Assignment	: 10%

VII. References

- Baker, Mona. *In Other Words. A Coursebook on Translation*. London and New York: Routledge, 1992. (The theoretical Textbook).
- _____. *Translation and Conflict: A Narrative Account*. Routledge. London & New York, 2006.
- Shunnaq, A. *Monitoring and Managing in the Language of Broadcasting and Newspapers*. A Ph.D. Thesis.
- Al- Hail, A. *Teaching Media Studies: A Study in Theory and Practice*. Unpublished Ph.D. thesis, University of Durham, UK, 1995.
- Kartama, A. *News Discourse, Ideology and the Translator: A Critical Perspective*, Unpublished M.A thesis. University of Salford, 1996.
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- Nida, Eugene. *Toward a Science of Translating*. Netherlands: Leiden E. J. Brill, 1964.
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