

**KOREAN TRANSLATION:**  
**INTRODUCTION TO PRACTICAL TRANSLATION AND TRANSLATION THEORIES**  
**(574:320 Spring 2013)**

Department of Asian Languages and Cultures  
Rutgers University

Instructor: Flora Kim

Location & Time: M & W 1:10-2:30 pm, SC-104

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**Course Description:**

This practical translation class covers materials that have a high demand for translation (medical and legal forms, government and court documents, news articles and headlines, manuals and instructions, and short writings from diverse disciplines) as well as fundamentals of translation theory. Students will work on both Korean-to-English and English-to-Korean translations through weekly assignments, applying translation theories, methods, and techniques discussed in class, and will also learn to evaluate each other's work. While the primary language used for instruction will be English, and a heavier emphasis is on Korean-to-English translation, proficiency in both languages is expected.

**Learning Objectives:**

Students will:

- Distinguish when to emphasize a dynamic (figurative) or formal (literal) approach
- Explore different styles of writing used in the target language
- Discuss their strategies to resolve problems particular to the text's subject matter
- Constructively critique translated works
- Be introduced to sight translation and simultaneous interpretation

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students will:

- Be able to apply translation theories to the translation processes and practices
- Build a stronger vocabulary and improve their understanding of the idioms in both languages, making connections thereof
- Develop strategies for effective translation

### **Required Books:**

There is no required textbook to purchase for this class. We will, however, discuss some parts from the following book: Gouadec, Daniel. (2007). *Translation as a Profession* (John Benjamins Publishing Company: Amsterdam/Philadelphia). A pdf version is available on-line at [http://ymerleksi.wikispaces.com/file/view/Translation+as+a+Profession+-+Gouadec,+Daniel+\(John+Benjamins\).pdf](http://ymerleksi.wikispaces.com/file/view/Translation+as+a+Profession+-+Gouadec,+Daniel+(John+Benjamins).pdf) .

Reading and exercise materials are either available on line or posted on Sakai. Extra readings may be handed out by instructor during class as needed.

### **About the Course:**

As the number of Korean immigrants and students in the United States increased, and with Korea's ever-growing interest in the American culture, the demand for translation between the Korean and English languages has steadily gone up over the years. Korean culture is spreading fast, as seen with the "Korean Wave" in music and international television broadcasting. Many official and advertising documents published in the US now are in both English and Korean, and the judicial system demands more qualified Korean interpreters and translators.

Even though there are many bi-lingual Americans who understand and speak each language sufficiently, most feel inadequate when translating or interpreting from one language to the other. This course will be a survey or "taster" of different kinds of translations, through which students will gain both skills and confidence. Each genre or subject area to be translated requires a knowledge of certain terms or styles, which can be quickly referenced or learned. Based on their existing familiarity with both languages and cultures, students will enhance their ability to translate efficiently and functionally.

### **Requirements & Grade Distribution:**

(1) Attendance (5%) and Participation (5%):

Class attendance is required. If you are 15 minutes late for class, this will be counted as a half absence. You are allowed only one absence. Any further absences will result in a reduction of one full point for each class you miss. **More than five unexcused absences will automatically result in a failing grade for the entire course.**

Students are expected to demonstrate that they have read the assigned materials for each week and to be prepared to discuss them in class. Much discussion, however, will be on the assignment for the week, and in most cases we will discuss the reading material in connection with the assignment.

(2) Weekly Assignments (40%): 10 assignments, each weighing 4% of the overall grade

There will be 10 assignments spread throughout the semester, each weighing 4% of the overall grade. Each assignment consists of one part Korean-to-English translation and one part English-to-Korean translation. Like writing, translation can be best learned from an actual practice-and-feedback process, and it is crucial that students complete their assignments and be ready to discuss them.

Assignments will be assessed in the following criteria:

- Completion
- Accuracy
- Style
- Grammar and spelling

**Each assignment should be submitted in person before the class on Monday of each week it is due. Only if you are going to be absent that day, submit it on-line, through our Sakai class page, before the scheduled class time, i.e., 1:10 pm. Late assignment will result in partial credits.**

(3) Midterm Exams (40%)

Each of the two midterm exams makes up 20% of the overall grade. The exams will contain sight translation questions, identification questions on translation theory terms, and short essay questions on translation theory and practice based on readings and class discussion.

(4) Group Project & Presentation (20%): Topics TBA

The class will form groups of 3-4 persons each for this purpose. Each group will translate two pieces of legal document, one Korean and the other English, as a team and then make a presentation, discussing the methods they used, theories they applied, and obstacles they encountered as a team. The written translation will be due on the date of presentation, Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, copies of which should be distributed to the class.

This project aims to teach students the importance of teamwork and stylistic consistency in group translation as well as skills called for when translating legal documents. The written component of this project will be assessed based on the evidence of quality check as a group, aside from the criteria for weekly assignments.

**SAKAI:** Course materials will be available on Sakai on a timely basis. Announcements will also be posted on Sakai.

**E-mail:** Some announcements might be made by e-mail. Please make sure that your valid e-mail is in the Rutgers database.

**Note:** Please do not enquire your grade via e-mail. It is the university policy that under no circumstances instructors are permitted to transmit grade via e-mail. All your midterm grades will be made available on Sakai, and the final course grade will be posted on the Rutgers Web site.

### **Code of Student Conduct:**

Students are not allowed to use any electronic devices including cell phones, audio players, and laptop during the lecture except for presentation.

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Code of Student Conduct and will not be tolerated. Violators will be dealt with according to the university policy.

### **Tentative Schedule: (subject to slight changes with advance note)**

#### **Week 1: Introduction (1/23)**

Objectives: Explain course syllabus, diagnostic quiz (not for grade), and general overview

- Read: “Wikipedia About Translation”
- Review definitions in <http://www.translatum.gr/etexts/translation-theory.htm#Machine-AidedTranslation>

#### **Week 2: News Articles and Headlines (1/28 & 1/30)**

- Objectives: Tackle the condensed writing style of news articles about economy, politics, and foreign affairs, including the difficult task of translating headlines
- Read: “A Few Words on Translations” by Sylvain Galibert
- **Assignment #1 Due 1/28:**
  - “박근혜 대통령 당선” (from *Dong-A Daily*)
  - “North Korea Mourns Dead Leader, Son is ‘Great Successor’” (from *Reuters*)

#### **Week 3: Magazine & Blog Articles (2/4 & 2/6)**

- Objectives: Familiarize with more informal writing styles for lighter topics
- Read: “Translation Theory” by Juan Daniel Perez Vallejo

- Read: Introduction, *The Craft of Translation* (1989), by John Biguenet & Rainer Schulte
- **Assignment #2 Due 2/4:**
  - “영화 도가니 의 실제 주인공과 숨겨진 공범” (from Blog Site *impeter*)
  - “Korean Pop, with Online Help, Goes Global” (from *Time World*)

#### **Week 4: Academic Articles and Titles (2/11 & 2/13)**

- Objectives: Learn to utilize keywords and databases when translating esoteric academic articles; when to keep the source language terms; writing styles particular to academic writing
- Read: “Equivalence and Equivalent Effect” by Jeremy Munday
- **Assignment #3 Due 2/11:**
  - Korean Article Titles from DBpia search
  - The “Theory and Practice” section in the above reading

#### **Week 5: In Relation to Literature (2/18 & 2/20)**

- Objectives: A quick try at poetry and literary translation; revisit dynamic v. formal equivalences; keeping the voice of the narrator
- Read: “Can Korean-to-English Literary Translation Be Taught?: Some Recommendations for Korean Funding Agencies” by Ross King
- Read: “Translating Korean Fiction into English: Theory and Practice”
- **Assignment #4 Due 2/18:**
  - 피천득 “인연”
  - “The New Haiku?” (from *The Boston Globe*)

#### **Week 6: Instructions, Manuals, and Letters (2/25 & 2/27)**

- Objectives: Pay attention to imperatives in instruction writing; learn the distinctive letter writing style in each language
- Reading: “Causes of Failure in Translation and Strategies” by Aiwei Shi
- **Assignment #5 Due 2/25:**
  - “My Firewall 사용 설명서” (Manual for “My Firewall”)
  - “탕수육 만드는 법” (Recipe)
  - “Sample Cover Letter”

#### **Week 7: Sight Translation and Simultaneous Interpretation—Strategy & Practice (3/4 & 3/6)**

- Objectives: Practice simultaneous interpretation in small groups; try sight translation in class; discuss ways to translate quickly without confusing listeners

- Read: “Translation Procedures, Strategies and Methods” by Mahmoud Ordudari
- **MIDTERM EXAM #1: 3/4**
- No assignment due

#### **Week 8: Audio Visual Materials (3/11 & 3/13)**

- Objectives: Fun and practical work! Write English subtitles while watching a Korean drama; translate a song lyric; translate Korean movie titles and slang that make sense to American audience
- Read: “Dynamic Equivalence (D.E.) and Idioms Translation” by Heba Alkady
- Read: “Good Translation: Art, Craft, or Science?” by Mahmoud Ordudari
- No assignment due

#### **Week 9: Spring Recess—No Class (3/18 & 3/20)**

#### **Week 10: Medical Documents and Forms (3/25 & 3/27)**

- Objectives: Learn to utilize forms that have already been translated; importance of accuracy
- Read: IMIA (International Medical Interpreters Association) Guide on Medical Translation found in <http://www.imiaweb.org/uploads/pages/438.pdf>
- **Assignment #6 Due 3/27:**
  - “4J 교육구 학생 건강 검진 의무 기록 양식” (Student Health Form)
  - “Pre-Employment History and Physical Form” (Page 3 only)

#### **Week 11: Advertisements and Forms (4/1 & 4/3)**

- Objectives: Familiarize with expressions and terms used in advertisements and forms
- Read: “These Embarrassing, Costly, Terrible Typos” by Rolf Gompertz
- **Assignment #7 Due 4/1:**
  - “한아름 마트 구인 광고” (H-Mart Classified)
  - “사망 증명서” (Death Certificate)
  - “New Jersey Disability Benefits Claims Form” (Part B only)

#### **Week 12: Legal Translation—Forms (4/8 & 4/10)**

- Objectives: Notice the particularities of legal forms and documents; importance of using correct terms
- Read: “Law, Language and Translation” by Deborah Cao
- **Assignment #8 Due 4/8:**

- “유언장” (Sample Will)
- “General Affidavit”
- “Order Granting Modification of Child Support”

### **Week 13: Legal Translation—Contracts (4/15 & 4/17)**

- Objectives: Familiarize with difficult legal terms; pay particular attention to the wording; discuss legal ethics when translating legal documents or interpreting in legal proceedings
- Read: “Code of Professional Responsibility for Court Interpreters and Legal Translators” by Susan Berk-Seligson, in *Bilingual Courtroom* (1990: University of Chicago), pp. 234-238
- **Assignment #9 Due 4/15:**
  - “프리랜서 용역 계약서” (Sample Employment Contract)
  - “Standard Form of Lease” (Paragraphs 5, 6, and 7 only)

### **Week 14: Legal Translation—Interpretation (4/22 & 4/24)**

- Objectives: Introduction to the career of the Certified Court Translator; what to expect in the certification process; interpreting under pressure
- Read: “Why Is Translation Into the Mother Tongue More Successful Than Into a Second Language?” by Omar Jabak
- **MIDTERM EXAM #2 (4/22)**
- No assignment due

### **Week 14: Legal Translation—Court and Government Documents (4/29 & 5/1)**

- Objectives: Distinguish the legal writing style; more legal terms
- Read: “Law and Language” by Susan Berk-Seligson, in *Bilingual Courtroom* (1990: University of Chicago), pp. 12-25
- **Assignment #10 Due 4/29:**
  - “이 맹희 대상 과거양육비 상환 청구 소장” (Sample Complaint)
  - “Notice of Deposition of Plaintiff”

### **Week 16: Group Presentations (5/6)**

- **Group Translation Project Due 5/6**