

LT6514: ADVANCED LEGAL TRANSLATION IN THE AI ERA

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Advanced Legal Translation in the AI Era

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

6514

Academic Unit

Linguistics and Translation (LT)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Instruction

English is the primary medium of instruction and assessment, but where necessary, Chinese is used for discussing issues relating to legal translation.

Medium of Assessment

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Assessment

English is the primary medium of instruction and assessment, but where necessary, Chinese is used for discussing issues relating to legal translation.

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

LT6505 Legal Translation in the AI Era

Equivalent Courses

CTL6514 Advanced Legal Translation

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details**Abstract**

This course engages students in examining translation challenges specific to legal discourse, focusing on the lexical, syntactic, semantic, discursive, pragmatic, and sociolinguistic features of legal texts. It aims to develop students' analytical and critical skills for addressing the subtle and complex issues inherent in translating complex legal materials, particularly in the context of emerging technologies and the AI-driven era.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify, explain, and tackle a variety of linguistic and conceptual problems inherent in legal translation		x	x	
2	Identify, explain, and tackle peculiar problems inherent in the translation of legal texts between English and Chinese		x	x	
3	Critically evaluate the quality and effectiveness of legal translations in terms of accuracy, clarity, and compliance with legal and communicative requirements		x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture	Students will grasp the main features of the Chinese/English language used in legal writing and will be able to apply translation theories and skills to legal translation.	1, 2, 3	3 hours

2	Class activities	Students will engage in small-scale creative translation tasks during class to foster understanding and mutual learning.	1, 2, 3	1 hour
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Classwork	1, 2, 3	10	1. Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit language. 2. Students should give proper acknowledgment to all the content from GenAI tools that they incorporated into the assignment and keep a journal of their GenAI conversations. 3. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes

2	Group assignment	1, 2, 3	20	1. Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit language. 2. Students should give proper acknowledgment to all the content from GenAI tools that they incorporated into the assignment and keep a journal of their GenAI conversations. 3. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes
3	Individual home assignment	1, 2, 3	30	1. Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit language. 2. Students should give proper acknowledgment to all the content from GenAI tools that they incorporated into the assignment and keep a journal of their GenAI conversations. 3. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes
4	In-class Test	1, 2, 3	40	No AI tools are allowed to be used.	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Classwork

Criterion

Ability to effectively and critically apply theories/principles and skills/techniques in translating different kinds of legal texts

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Enthusiastic participation in class assignments and discussions

Good (B+, B, B-)

Active participation in class assignments and discussions

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Occasionally active participation in class assignments and discussions

Marginal (D)

Inadequate participation in class assignments and discussions

Failure (F)

No participation in class assignments and discussions

Assessment Task

Group assignment

Criterion

Ability to effectively and critically apply theories/principles and skills/techniques in translating different kinds of legal texts

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Able to produce a highly readable and accurate translation

Good (B+, B, B-)

Able to produce a largely readable and accurate translation

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Able to produce a clumsy translation with inaccuracies

Marginal (D)

Able to produce an understandable but highly inaccurate translation

Failure (F)

Unable to produce a translation that is understandable or sensible

Assessment Task

Individual home assignment

Criterion

Ability to apply skills and techniques to translating different legal texts

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Able to produce a highly readable and accurate translation

Good (B+, B, B-)

Able to produce a largely readable and accurate translation

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Able to produce a clumsy translation with inaccuracies

Marginal (D)

Able to produce an understandable but highly inaccurate translation

Failure (F)

Unable to produce a translation that is understandable or sensible

Assessment Task

In-class Test

Criterion

Ability to master skills and techniques to translating different legal texts

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Able to produce a highly readable and accurate translation

Good (B+, B, B-)

Able to produce a largely readable and accurate translation

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Able to produce a clumsy translation with inaccuracies

Marginal (D)

Able to produce an understandable but highly inaccurate translation

Failure (F)

Unable to produce a translation that is understandable or sensible

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Linguistic and conceptual problems in legal translation; complex legal texts translating between English and Chinese.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Morris, Marshall. (Ed.). 1995. Translation and the Law. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
2	Poon, Emily Wai-yee. 2002. The Pitfalls of Linguistic Equivalence: The Challenge for Legal Translation. Target 14(1), 75-106.
3	Sarcevic, Susan. 1997. New Approaches to Legal Translation. The Hague: Kluwer Law.
4	Zhao, Yuhong. 2000. Drafting Policy on Bilingual Legislation: Comments on the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Bill. The Legislative Council Library, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China 1-25, http://sc.legco.gov.hk/sc/library.legco.gov.hk:1080/search*cht/X?SEARCH=m%3A%28drafting+policy+on+bilingual+legislation%29&searchscope=10&l=&m=&Da=&Db=&SORT=D]

5	管歐、劉得寬等編著. 1997. 法律類似語辨異. 臺北：五南圖書出版公司。
6	李宗鐸、潘慧儀編. 1999. 英漢法律大辭典 (English-Chinese Dictionary of Law), 香港: 商務; 北京: 法律。
7	陸文慧編. 2002. 法律翻譯: 從實踐出發. 香港: 中華書局。
8	孫萬彪. 2004. 漢英法律翻譯教程. 上海: 上海外語教育出版社。
9	王道庚. 2006. 法律翻譯: 理論與實踐. 香港, 香港城市大學出版社。
10	王巍. 2002. "論法律翻譯中譯者的創造性." 中國翻譯 2002年3月 Vol. 23, No. 2. 41 – 43.
11	吳靄儀. 1997. "裁決書的翻譯問題" 5文. 明報 1997年10月20-24日.
12	張福林. 1998. 實用法律英漢翻譯. 武漢: 武漢測繪科技大學出版社.
13	張家偉. 1991. "現行法例翻譯上的幾個難題." 載於劉靖之編翻譯新論集. 香港: 商務印書館. 302 – 318.
14	Chan, Clara Ho-yan. 2012. Bridging the Gap between Language and Law: Translational Issues in Creating Legal Chinese in Hong Kong. Babel. 58(2):127–144. DOI: 10.1075/babel.58.2.01cha
15	Chan, Clara Ho-yan. 2011. The Use and Translation of Chinese Legal Terminology in the Property Laws of Mainland China and Hong Kong: Problems, Strategies and Future Development. Terminology: International Journal of Theoretical and Applied Issues in Specialized Communication. 17(2):249–273.
16	Garner, Bryan A. (Ed.). 2009. Black's Law Dictionary (9th ed.). St. Paul, MN: West.
17	Online Resources
18	http://www.legislation.gov.hk/index.htm
19	http://www.lexisnexis.com
20	http://libweb.cityu.edu.hk/lbinst/westlaw.htm
21	http://www.cityu.edu.hk/lib/eres/database/info/chinalawinfo.htm
22	http://law.moj.gov.tw/

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Bidin, Aishah. 1995. "Issues in Translation of Legal Texts in Malaysia." Perspectives: Studies in Translatology 3: 2. 205 – 213.
2	Capellas-Espuny, Gemma. 1998. "The Problem of Terminological Equivalence in International Maritime
3	Davies, Daniel R. 1996. "Trade Mark Law: Linguistic Issues." Language and Communication. Vol. 16, No. 3. 255 – 262.
4	Milsky, Constantin. 1989. "In Search of a Term Translation Strategies for Chinese Medical Classics." In Paul U. Unschuld (Ed.), Approaches to Traditional Chinese Medical Literature. London: Kluwer Academic Publishers. 77 – 81.
5	Sacco, Rodolfo. 1991. "Legal Formants: A Dynamic Approach to Comparative law." The American Journal of Comparative Law. Vol. 39, 1-35.
6	Saeed, John I. 1997. Semantics. Oxford: Blackwell.
7	Ziff, Paul. 1972. "What Is Said." In Davidson and Harman (Eds.), Semantics of Natural Language. Dordrecht: Reidel Publishing Company. 709 – 721.
8	Department of Justice. 2012. Drafting legislation in Hong Kong: A guide to styles and practices. Hong Kong SAR: Department of Justice. https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/publications/drafting.html
9	何美歡. 1995. 香港合同法. 前言. 北京: 北京大學出版社.
10	張慶路. 1996. "為Common Sense正名 兼探其多種漢譯法." 上海科技翻譯. No. 1. 19 – 24.
11	鄭戈. 1999. "法律學術翻譯的規範." 北大法律評論. 第2卷 第1輯. 300 – 316.