



RTU Course "Machine Translation (Basics of Computer Translation)"

01A01 Speciālā lietojuma valodu katedra

General data

Code	VIA203
Course title	Machine Translation (Basics of Computer Translation)
Course status in the programme	Compulsory/Courses of Limited Choice; Courses of Free Choice
Course level	Undergraduate Studies
Course type	Professional
Field of study	Languages
Responsible instructor	Anastasija Žiravecka
Academic staff	Oksana Samuilova
Volume of the course: parts and credits points	1 part, 2.0 Credit Points, 3.0 ECTS credits
Language of instruction	LV, EN, RU
Possibility of distance learning	Not planned
Abstract	Students study stylistic, semantic and other features of informative, descriptive, evaluative texts on the theme "Machine Translation". Within the framework of the course students translate texts in various special fields aimed at different target groups (young adults, students, non-specialists, people interested in the field). They analyze communicative situations in the written form, examine mistakes in machine translated texts. Students present their portfolios, ask and answer questions of various degrees of complexity, work in pairs and groups evaluating personal and other students' performance.
Goals and objectives of the course in terms of competences and skills	The aims and tasks of the course: 1. to acquire basic skills in working with machine translation software (MTS); 2. to study how to identify, analyse and correct mistakes made by MTS; 3. to improve presentation, listening and speaking skills; 4. to improve learning and communication skills; 5. to improve translation skills and competence translating texts at intermediate and advanced levels from English into Latvian/Russian and vice versa; 6. to use the following software programmes: Word, Excel, Power Points, PROMT, TRADOS, as well as electronic glossaries, dictionaries and the Internet.
Structure and tasks of independent studies	To find a text in a special field in a language defined by the instructor (1,800 printed signs), which meets the requirements of the study course. To translate the text using translation software, to compile a glossary of 10-15 new words and terms, to prepare the medium for presentation and deliver the presentation, to be able to evaluate and analyze both the texts selected and the communicative situation.
Recommended literature	1. McEnery A., (2006) Corpus-Based Language Studies: An Advanced Resource Book (Routledge Applied Linguistics), Routledge, UK 2. Newton J., (2005) Computers in Translation: A Practical Appraisal by John 3. Nirenburg S., Somers H. L., Wilks Y. A., (2002) Readings in Machine Translation 4. Richardson S. D., (2002) Machine Translation: From Research to Real Users, Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, Germany. 5. Sin-Wai Chan, Chan Sin-wai (2003) Translation and Information Technology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong 6. Somers H. L. (2003) Computers and Translation: A Translator's Guide (Benjamins Translation Library, 35) Benjamins, the Netherlands 7. Teubert W., Cermakova A., (2007) Corpus Linguistics: A Short Introduction 8. Thompson J., Hunston S., (2006) System And Corpus: Exploring Connections (Functional Linguistics) 9. Trujillo A., (1999) Translation Engines: Techniques for Machine Translation, Springer-Verlag London Limited, UK Internet resources: 1. http://www.systransoft.com/ 2. http://babelfish.altavista.com/ 3. http://www.ectaco.co.uk/Software-for-translation-and-education/ 4. http://www.freetranslation.com/services/translation-software.htm 5. http://www.lingvosoft.com/ 6. http://www.e-prompt.com/
Course prerequisites	English language skills at B2 level according to CEFR

Course outline

Theme	Hours
Machine translation software	8
Main concepts of machine translation	8
Machine translation software	8
Post-processing of machine aided translations	6
Tests	2

Learning outcomes and assessment

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods
Students are able to purposefully use machine translation software in translation of professional texts from English into Latvian/Russian and vice versa.	Assessment: translations, special tasks, exam. Are able to translate authentic texts in different fields.
Students are able to use different software and translation software including MS Word, MS Excel, Google, Prompt to reach the necessary results.	Assessment: translations, special tasks, exam. Students are able to purposefully use translation software in translation EN?LV/RU and LV/RU?EN.
Students are able to develop a translation strategy and account for specific machine translation challenges.	Assessment: translations, special tasks, exam. Are able to implement definite translation strategies precisely.
Students are able to assess translation versions effectively and correctly and edit the mistakes and imprecision.	Assessment: translations, special tasks, exam. Are able to produce a final translation version correcting all mistakes. Evaluation : test translations –tested/not tested; exam – mark according to 10 grade scale.

Study subject structure

Part	CP	ECTS	Hours per Week			Tests			Tests (free choice)		
			Lectures	Practical	Lab.	Test	Exam	Work	Test	Exam	Work
1.	2.0	3.0	0.0	2.0	0.0		*				