RTU Course "Main Concepts of Translation Theory"

01A01 Speciālā lietojuma valodu katedra

General data

Code	VIA602
Course title	Main Concepts of Translation Theory
Course status in the programme	Compulsory/Courses of Limited Choice
Course level	Post-graduate Studies
Course type	Professional
Field of study	Languages
Responsible instructor	Larisa Iļjinska
Academic staff	Tatjana Smirnova
Volume of the course: parts and credits points	1 part, 3.0 Credit Points, 4.5 ECTS credits
Language of instruction	LV, EN, RU
Possibility of distance learning	Not planned
Abstract	This course consists of a series of lectures and seminars which deal with selected topics in translation theory and provide a forum for students to conduct critical discussions. The course Readings will be assigned for the theoretical component of the course. Articles and handouts should be read in advance for class discussions. Throughout the course, the students are encouraged to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject as well as to undertake independent reading both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught. Students develop their competence in Translation Theory they acquired during the Bachelor studies. Case studies and discussion of translation problems help students to improve their professional performance. The course provides students with the survey of literature on Translation Studies promoting further reading on the subject.
Goals and objectives of the course in terms of competences and skills	The aim of the course: The aim of the course is to promote critical thinking about different approaches to translation (philosophical, linguistic, socio-linguistic, literary, technical, semiotic, computer-aided, etc) and provide students with advanced background knowledge to be applied in their professional activities. Objectives of the course are: -to intensify theoretical and practical background knowledge about different concepts of the translation theory; -to consider the impact of modern linguistics on theoretical and practical aspects of interlingual translation and/or interpretation: the concept of meaning in translation, equivalence and the debates around the concept of equiv
Structure and tasks of independent studies	Extensive reading of literature in the field of Translation Studies; analysis of the relevant concepts, practical application of the knowledge acquired while discussing, analysing and translating sample texts and dealing with potential translation problems.
Recommended literature	1. Baker M. (2011) In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation, Routledge, GB 2. Baker M. (2005) The Routledge Encyclopedia of Translation Studies, Routledge, GB 3. Baldunčiks J (2005) Tulkotāju viltusdraugu problēma: no vārdiem pie darbiem, VVA, Rīga 4. Cronin M. (2004) Translation and Globalization, Routledge, GB 5. Hatim B. (2001) Teaching and Researching Translation, England 6. Hatim B., Mason I. (1997) Discourse and the Translator, Longman, Singapore 7. Ilyinska L (2004) English for Science & Technology: Course design, text analysis, research writing, RTU Publishing House, Riga 8. Munday J. (2005) Introducing Translation Studies: Theories and Applications, Routledge, GB 9. Nord C. (1997) A Functional Typology of Translation in Text Typology and Translation, in A Trosbry (ed.) Benjamins 10. The Translation Studies Reader (2004) edited by L.Venuti, Routledge, GB 11.Veisbergs A. (2005) Mutvārdu tulkošanas pamati, Rīga 12. Zauberga I (2001) Developing Translation Competence, Riga: the University of Latvia
Course prerequisites	English language skills at the level B2 according to CEFR

Course outline

Theme	Hours
Introduction: translation studies; translator training institutions. Text linguistics and translation.	2
Main issues of translation studies: the concept of translation; translation as a version of the original	2
The process of translation. The unit of translation; the linear model; a three-stage communicative link	2
Equivalence and equivalent effect: the nature of linguistic meaning and equivalence.	2
Equivalence and equivalent effect: dynamic vs. formal equivalence; the principle of similar response.	2
The translation shift approach: comparative-descriptive model of translation shifts.	2
Functional theories of translation: text types. Skopos theory; translation-oriented text analysis.	2
Discourse and translation. Discourse, register and genre analysis.	2
Semantics and translation. Types of linguistic meaning and their transference in the process of translation	2

Terminology and science. Translation of terminology: parallel texts, consistency, standardisation, coinage of new terms.	2
Pragmatics and translation. Discourse and context analysis. Pragmatic level analysis.	2
Translation and Deconstruction: linguistic coding, de-coding and re-coding.	2
Descriptive translation studies: translation norms and conventions; scenes and frames; ‘acceptability’ and ‘adequacy’	2
Cultural context: culture specific problems; intercultural reality; non-equivalent vocabulary	2
The (in)visibility of translation: the cultural and political agenda of translation; ‘foreignizing’ vs. ‘domesticating’	2
Models of translation. Theoretical models. Analogue models. Models and norms.	2
Translator’s tools: machine translation; translation software; translation and IT.	2
Interpreting: principles of consecutive interpreting; note taking; communicative skills	2
Translator’s skills: professional ethics, translator’s responsibility, translator’s reliability.	2
Translation studies as an interdiscipline: interdisciplinary approaches; integrated approach.	2
Seminar. Test, discussion, case study	8

Learning outcomes and assessment

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods
Students are able to enlarge theoretical and practical fundamental knowledge of the main concepts of transaltology.	Students enlarge theoretical knowledge reading literature and compiling the notes on translatology; demonstrate their practical competence precisely using respective terminology. Assessment: discussions, seminars, exam.
Students are able to recognize the influence of contemporary linguistics in theoretical and practical aspects of translation.	Students take part in seminars analyzing functional theories of translation in practical application. Assessment: discussions, seminars, exam.
Students are able to discuss professional practical issues, recognize various translation problems and develop a strategy for their solution in written and oral translation.	Students demonstrate their competence in written and oral translation, discussing the main concepts and issues of translation, solving problems at seminars and exam. Assessment: discussions, seminars, exam. Evaluation: mark according to 10 grade scale.
Students are able to distinguish different research methods studying the source text while developing their master paper.	Students develop guidelines for using various translation methods in order to apply them in translation of the source text while developing their MP. Assessment: mark according to 10 grade scale.

Study subject structure

Part	CP	ECTS	Hours per Week			Tests		
			Lectures	Practical	Lab.	Test	Exam	Work
1.	3.0	4.5	2.0	1.0	0.0		*	