# . – Translation Theory and Techniques

## Prof. Giovanni Gobber

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

### The course aims to provide skills in translation practices and techniques. Particular attention is dedicated to identifying the structural properties and communication functions of the text one wishes to analyse and describe, with a view to reworking it using the expressive strategies of another linguistic system. The systematic comparison of texts in different languages ​​will make it possible to bring out both the specialised and literary trend lines of translational action, which merge, with different intensity, in the various areas of verbal communication. Therefore, automatic translation tools and tools for assisting translation will be used.

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

* Compare versions of similar texts in different languages and identify the characteristics of the original version compared to the translation.
* By observing and comparing the original text and the translation, recognise the use of the main translation techniques: borrowing; calque; repeating the structure in the original text (or “literal translation”); grammatical transposition; modulation; equivalence; re-contextualisation methods.
* Beginning with the comparison of texts in different languages, carry out translations and give reasons for certain decisions during the translation process.
* Use automatic translation systems sensibly for specialised texts and develop sensitivity for proofreading; learn basic skills for managing translation memory.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Part 1: ***the empirical basis***

Linguistic translation practices in the Western tradition: an empirical approach, with a focus on grammatical re-workings, semantic remodulations and re-contextualisations.

Part 2**: *Applications***

Specialised texts written in English and in another language are evaluated and the different versions compared with the aim of identifying their structural and functional similarities and differences. Emphasis will also be placed on automatic and computer-assisted translation. A subsequent stage involves the translation of a short text, which each student will expound on according to his or her interests and linguistic skills.

***READING LIST***

## Giovanni Gobber, *Strumenti per il corso di traduzione*– contributions will be posted on Blackboard, in tandem with course topics.

For non-attending students:

Sándor Hervey (*etalii*), *Thinking Italian Translation*, Routledge, London [etc.] 2000.

recommended further reading:

Stefano Arduini, *Con gli occhi dell’altro. Tradurre*, Jaca Book, Milano 2020

## Additional reading material will be posted on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, with analysis of translated texts and identification of criteria for developing and motivating translation proposals.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD***

The written test is held at the end of first semester: students will be asked to read some examples of translations (together with their source text), and comment the translation strategies adopted by the author. During the oral exam, instead, they will have to present a proposal for the translation of a text of their choice.

Assessment will be based on 1) relevance and completeness of answers, 2) clarity and accuracy of presentation, as well as 3) grasp of language, with emphasis on the use of specialised terms from general linguistics. Each of these three criteria is worth a third of the final mark. Marks will be deducted for mistakes in vocabulary, grammar and also for spelling in the written part.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students should have a good command of Italian; spelling, grammar and vocabulary.

Students should be able to write a text which is relevant (i.e, corresponds to the task assigned) and whose internal parts are consistent with each other.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.