# . – Translation Theory and Techniques

## Prof. Giovanni Gobber

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

### The course aims to provide skills in translation practices and techniques. 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, with attention to documents related to the business world. The use of tools for machine translation and assisted translation will be considered.

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.
* 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***

Texts written in several languages will be considered; the different versions are compared so as to identify similarities and differences in structures and functions. Attention will be paid to machine and computer-assisted translation practices. Subsequently, the management of revision and editingactivities is considered.

***READING LIST***

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

For more in-depth reading:

Sándor Hervey (*et alii*), *Thinking Italian Translation*, Routledge, London [ecc.] 2000.

Brian Mossop (*et alii*), *Revising and Editing for Translators*, Routledge, London 20204

Further bibliographic materials will be made available on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

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

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

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. The second part of the exam is an oral exam, in which each student applies the contents of the lectures to the analysis of a translation, carried out on a text assigned according to the study interests communicated to the lecturer.

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.