

General Approach and Situation

Translation, linguistic and cultural studies as bases for professional practical translation

Practical translation taught by native target language speakers

Students with heterogeneous (language and culture) biographies (German, Russian, «heritage speakers»)

→ differentiation, mentor-mentee and tandem language exchange

Lecturers as facilitators providing knowledge and skills by coordinating, advising, moderating classes:

Our goal is to have mature, self-dependent and confident students!

Definitions & didactics of translation

1. Culture

Translation as switching perspectives: intercultural perspectives based on awareness of one's own cultural perspective

Considering cultural-specific concepts (e. g., "space", "time", "identity"), including individual experiences, helps define one's own perspective (via discussion of outside view of own country, etc.), taking into account intended purpose/function and addressee of a translation

5. Mediation

Taking into account, addressing, reconciling people and positions (including own) involved in translating process

Discussion and defense of translations developed in groups of two or more students; switching perspectives

2. Resources

Knowledge, assessment, and responsible use of research tools

Research for and verification of options for translation online and in language corpora; use of mono- and bilingual (hard-copy and online) dictionaries and of parallel and background texts; generating glossaries

3. Text

Text types as defining translation decisions; knowledge of typologies

Text analysis (textual organization and coherence, core ideas, opinions); defining text type-specific structures by use of parallel texts (in target language, same topic, same text type); switching text types; text production

6. Professional Practice

Knowing and taking into account translational process-related factors (time, quality management, etc.)

Translation of authentic texts of topical relevance; translation projects (for non-profit organizations, "Translate for Justice", etc.); group and team work; quality check (finding, analyzing and correcting mistakes, proof-reading)

4. Negotiation

Accepting the multitude of (own and others') options for translation, learning to take responsibility for one's translation

Group discussion of students' translated texts (made anonymous); comparison of different versions of one sentence

7. Language

Learning Russian as a foreign language; language sensitivity/awareness (linguistics, meta-level); comparative language studies

Translation of phrases containing one word (contextual analysis of polysemy); open cloze tasks (collocations); texts without punctuation (syntactic structure analysis); comparing languages; vocabulary work with parallel texts; topical glossaries