

I am currently in my final semester of Masters in Interpreting and Translation (Chinese) at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). During this course, I have not only improved my general interpreting and translation skills, gaining important foundational knowledge about these professional fields, but I have also gained invaluable practical experience and technical skills that have lead me to become better equipped to handle real interpreting and translation work.

The subjects related to interpreting that I have studied are *Interpreting in Legal Settings* and *Interpreting Practicum*. I am currently studying *Interpreting in Business and Community Settings* and *Conference Interpreting* this semester.

The subjects related to translation that I have studied include *Translation Theory*, *Text Analysis for Translation*, *Media Translation*, *Technical Translation*, *Technology for Translation* and *Translation Practicum*. I am also currently preparing for the Level 3 NAATI accreditation examinations for both interpreting and translation later this year.

In the *Text Analysis* class, I learnt about systemic functional linguistics from Dr Mira Kim. In this class, combined with my knowledge of linguistics from my undergraduate degree, I further developed my understanding of language as a system, and I learnt how to analyse texts at a deeper level. This in turn helped me learn how to translate more accurately and efficiently.

In the *Technology for Translation* class, I worked with various Computer Assisted Translation (CAT) tools including memoQ and Memsourc. These systems allow translators to translate various different file types while also working more efficiently and producing more accurate and consistent work. Through working with these systems, I learnt how to create, use and export translation memories and term bases, and how to perform quality assurance checks.

As a part of this class, I also completed an assignment where I had to perform a feasibility study into the use of machine translation as an alternative to human translation in a large scale project. I used a machine translation tool to translate a sample text and then analysed the output by assessing fluency, accuracy and a detailed diagnostic of the errors made. I used this data to create a set of language rules to be used in altering the wording of the source text with the aim of improving the output of the machine translation.

In the end, I analysed the improvements and performed a cost benefit analysis of this method compared to human translation while taking into consideration the client's needs, the target audience and the type of text being translated.

In the *Translation Practicum* class, I spent most of the semester working as one of two Project Managers managing a team of 26 translators and editors to translate a total of over 70,000 words from English into Chinese. While our lecturer provided essential guidance where needed, he wanted us to get as much out of this experience as possible, and so he gave my fellow Project Manager and I complete responsibility for the entire project and allowed us to work autonomously the entire time.

For the majority of my time as Project Manager, we translated articles for Akvopedia, a not-for-profit organisation involved in water resource management in developing countries. The Akvopedia website uses a type encoding similar to Wikipedia. I processed the articles to be translated by copying the text into an MS Word file, hiding the encoding and uploading them to Memsourc. I then used the Memsourc system to distribute the work to the translators, editors and master

editors through three separate workflow steps. I created and maintained the translation memory and term base, monitored the translators and editors progress, resolved various issues and communicated regularly with our client.

When the translated texts were finished, I exported them, revealed the encoding and fixed small errors before publishing the Chinese articles on the Akvopedia website. While publishing the articles, certain issues related to the Akvopedia encoding arose as a result of the texts being altered during the translation process, such as broken links and problems with embedded videos and images. Through using my problem solving skills, I found out how to resolve all of the issues.

As a result of this project, I gained essential organisational and management skills and I feel that I am now much better prepared to handle translation work in future real-life projects. I can also potentially exchange my practical experience and knowledge with others in the field to find ways of making the most out of technology in order to work towards optimising the art of translation in the ever-changing modern environment.