



# TRAN908

## Research Methods in Translation and Interpreting Studies

S2 Day 2016

*Dept of Linguistics*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

TRAN870 or admission to the MAdvConflnt

Corequisites

Co-badged status

### Unit description

In this unit students will engage critically with a range of approaches to translation and interpreting as evident in theories in these two fields. Students will be given an overview of the dominant directions in thinking about translation and interpreting from the classical era to the contemporary era. The unit will build on the basic introduction to theoretical concepts in TRAN870 and develop a deeper understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of the field of Translation and Interpreting Studies. Although the emphasis will be on guiding students to an understanding of the relevance of theoretical developments to the practice of translation and interpreting, This is necessary in order to creatively resolve complex problems arising in practice. In this unit, students will deepen their knowledge and understanding of the important theoretical movements of the past century.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Select, apply and integrate principles, techniques and theoretical approaches within translation and interpreting studies in applications of theory to quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods research practice.
2. Demonstrate a comprehensive, informed and systematic understanding of key historical and contemporary developments in translation and interpreting research methods.
3. Identify unfamiliar concrete and abstract translation and interpreting research problems by means of sophisticated theoretical reflection, and assess previous research.
4. Apply linguistic skills and knowledge to investigate, analyse and synthesize complex information, problems, concepts and theories within the fields of T&I.
5. Communicate theoretical concepts relevant to translating and interpreting theory for the benefit of peers, clients and the general public.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<a href="#">Literature review</a>	20%	Week 7
<a href="#">Research Methodology</a>	20%	Week 10
<a href="#">Oral presentation of research</a>	10%	Weeks 12 and 13

Name	Weighting	Due
<a href="#">Research proposal</a>	50%	June 12

## Literature review

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **20%**

Based on the topic chosen in week 2 and the one-page motivation, questions and aims, you have to write a critical literature review of studies that have dealt with this topic in the past. This is a library research task which means that you have to plan the literature review in such a way that you:

Show that the research problem is relevant.

Define the terms and concepts relevant to the topic.

Critically engage with studies that have dealt with the topic, including a summary of the main points, a critical discussion of the positive aspects and the limitations of these studies.

Indicate how your study will contribute to addressing the research problem.

Conclude with the main research questions of your proposed study.

Scope:

This literature review should be between 1000 and 1500 words.

A minimum of 5 to 10 references are required, and 75-80% of the references must have been published within the last 10 years. Credit will be given for reading outside of the provided articles and chapters.

Assessment criteria:

- a. Idea introduced clearly with a problem statement (20%)
- b. Report flows well (20%)
- c. Adequate coverage of range of relevant literature (30%)
- d. Clear and cohesive academic writing style (5%)
- e. Synthesis of ideas concluding with a research question (20%)
- f. Appropriate use of APA style for citations and referencing (5%)

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

1. Select, apply and integrate principles, techniques and theoretical approaches within translation and interpreting studies in applications of theory to quantitative, qualitative and mixed-

methods research practice

2. Demonstrate a comprehensive, informed and systematic understanding of key historical and contemporary developments in translation and interpreting research methods.
3. Identify unfamiliar concrete and abstract translation and interpreting research problems by means of sophisticated theoretical reflection, and assess previous research.
4. Apply linguistic skills and knowledge to investigate, analyse and synthesize complex information, problems, concepts and theories within the fields of T&I.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Select, apply and integrate principles, techniques and theoretical approaches within translation and interpreting studies in applications of theory to quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods research practice.
- 2. Demonstrate a comprehensive, informed and systematic understanding of key historical and contemporary developments in translation and interpreting research methods.
- 3. Identify unfamiliar concrete and abstract translation and interpreting research problems by means of sophisticated theoretical reflection, and assess previous research.
- 4. Apply linguistic skills and knowledge to investigate, analyse and synthesize complex information, problems, concepts and theories within the fields of T&I.

## Research Methodology

Due: **Week 10**

Weighting: **20%**

Research methodology

Due: Week 10, 15 May Weighting: 20% In this assignment you have to provide a detailed research methodology for your proposed study. Your methodology should contain the following:

An introduction of no more than 400 words in which you indicate how you will go about finding the answers to your research questions. This should be a summary of your approach (i.e. comparative text analysis, survey-based research, experimental research, etc.) as well as an explanation of why this is the appropriate methodology (25%)

A description of the material you will use in the study (i.e. translated works, recorded interpreting of a specific event) (10%)

A description of your sample (what is the population for your study, how will you select participants or texts, ethics, etc.) (25%)

A description of the type of data you will collect (questionnaires, performance measurements, think-aloud protocols, etc., annotations) (20%)

Timeline for conducting the research. (20%)

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

Select, apply and integrate principles, techniques and theoretical approaches within translation and interpreting studies in applications of theory to quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods research practice

Identify unfamiliar concrete and abstract translation and interpreting research problems by means of sophisticated theoretical reflection, and assess previous research.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Select, apply and integrate principles, techniques and theoretical approaches within translation and interpreting studies in applications of theory to quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods research practice.
- 2. Demonstrate a comprehensive, informed and systematic understanding of key historical and contemporary developments in translation and interpreting research methods.
- 3. Identify unfamiliar concrete and abstract translation and interpreting research problems by means of sophisticated theoretical reflection, and assess previous research.
- 4. Apply linguistic skills and knowledge to investigate, analyse and synthesize complex information, problems, concepts and theories within the fields of T&I.
- 5. Communicate theoretical concepts relevant to translating and interpreting theory for the benefit of peers, clients and the general public.

## Oral presentation of research

Due: **Weeks 12 and 13**

Weighting: **10%**

Oral presentation of research

Due: Week 12 to 13 Weighting: 10% This will be the final opportunity to receive feedback on your research proposal.

Your oral presentation has to be prepared and delivered as a slide show. It will be assessed according to the following criteria:

Focused nature of the research questions

Clarity of contextualisation

Fluency and composition of your argument

Appropriateness of methodology

Delivery of presentation

## Appearance of presentation

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

Select, apply and integrate principles, techniques and theoretical approaches within translation and interpreting studies in applications of theory to quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods research practice

Communicate theoretical concepts relevant to translating and interpreting theory for the benefit of peers, clients and the general public.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 4. Apply linguistic skills and knowledge to investigate, analyse and synthesize complex information, problems, concepts and theories within the fields of T&I.
- 5. Communicate theoretical concepts relevant to translating and interpreting theory for the benefit of peers, clients and the general public.

## Research proposal

Due: **June 12**

Weighting: **50%**

### Research proposal

Due: 12 June Weighting: 50% The research proposal is the framework of your research. The research proposal should be between 2000 and 2500 words and should include the literature review and methodology as revised. You should cover the following elements in your proposal:

Topic

Literature review

Research questions

Research objectives

Methodology/research design

Bibliography

Schedule

Assessment criteria:

Well-written and easily understood (20%)

Provides brief summary of problem and how proposed research would contribute to solving the problem (20%)

Plan is feasible and clear (20%)

Review of related/complementary research (20%)

Realistic projected schedule (20%)

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

Select, apply and integrate principles, techniques and theoretical approaches within translation and interpreting studies in applications of theory to quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods research practice

Demonstrate a comprehensive, informed and systematic understanding of key historical and contemporary developments in translation and interpreting research methods.

Identify unfamiliar concrete and abstract translation and interpreting research problems by means of sophisticated theoretical reflection, and assess previous research.

Apply linguistic skills and knowledge to investigate, analyse and synthesize complex information, problems, concepts and theories within the fields of T&I.

Communicate theoretical concepts relevant to translating and interpreting theory for the benefit of peers, clients and the general public.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Select, apply and integrate principles, techniques and theoretical approaches within translation and interpreting studies in applications of theory to quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods research practice.
- 4. Apply linguistic skills and knowledge to investigate, analyse and synthesize complex information, problems, concepts and theories within the fields of T&I.
- 5. Communicate theoretical concepts relevant to translating and interpreting theory for the benefit of peers, clients and the general public.

## **Delivery and Resources**

This subject requires full attendance at lectures and tutorials. Students are required to attend one lecture each week. The lectures will also be made available through Echo recordings and the iLearn site for TRAN908 for later reference.

To login to the website, go to <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/>. You will have access to the TRAN 908 website from Monday 29 February 2016. You'll find it has a range of resources for the unit (links, discussion forums, postings etc).

For general information about iLearn and how it works, start by checking:

<http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/studentinfo.htm>

For specific student guides on accessing discussions, etc., go to:

[http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student\\_info/guides.htm](http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/guides.htm)



At the end of the first lecture students will be assigned to one of three tutorial groups. Each group will have a maximum of 10 to 15 students. The tutor will then be available every week to guide students through the different research methodologies, and for developing their own research proposal. Please note: Although the tutorial times are allocated for 2 hours it is not expected that students meet with their tutors for 2 hours each week. Students should expect to meet with their tutor for 1-2 hours, and the remaining hour students will be able to stay in the tutorial room to discuss their work with other students if required.

## Unit Schedule

- 1 Introduction. What is research?
- 2 Deciding on a research topic.
- 3 Asking the right questions. Research proposal.
- 4 Finding resources.
- 5 What has been done? Areas in translation research.
- 6 Contextualising your problem.
- 7 Literature review.
- 8 Finding the best way to answer your research questions.
- 9 Conducting surveys.
- 10 Studying the process: Case studies and think-aloud protocols.
- 11 Studying the process: Observational studies.
- 12 Studying the product: Comparative analysis and corpus studies.
- 13 Conclusion: The way forward.

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

**New Assessment Policy in effect from Session 2 2016** [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy\\_2016.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html). For more information visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new\\_assessment\\_policy\\_in\\_place\\_from\\_session\\_2/](http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new_assessment_policy_in_place_from_session_2/)

Assessment Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint\\_management/procedure.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student\\_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

## Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Graduate Capabilities

### PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcomes

- 4. Apply linguistic skills and knowledge to investigate, analyse and synthesize complex information, problems, concepts and theories within the fields of T&I.
- 5. Communicate theoretical concepts relevant to translating and interpreting theory for the benefit of peers, clients and the general public.

#### Assessment tasks

- Literature review
- Research Methodology
- Oral presentation of research
- Research proposal

### PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

#### Learning outcomes

- 1. Select, apply and integrate principles, techniques and theoretical approaches within translation and interpreting studies in applications of theory to quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods research practice.
- 2. Demonstrate a comprehensive, informed and systematic understanding of key historical and contemporary developments in translation and interpreting research methods.
- 3. Identify unfamiliar concrete and abstract translation and interpreting research problems by means of sophisticated theoretical reflection, and assess previous research.
- 4. Apply linguistic skills and knowledge to investigate, analyse and synthesize complex information, problems, concepts and theories within the fields of T&I.

- 5. Communicate theoretical concepts relevant to translating and interpreting theory for the benefit of peers, clients and the general public.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Literature review
- Research Methodology
- Oral presentation of research
- Research proposal

## **PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

## **Learning outcomes**

- 1. Select, apply and integrate principles, techniques and theoretical approaches within translation and interpreting studies in applications of theory to quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods research practice.
- 2. Demonstrate a comprehensive, informed and systematic understanding of key historical and contemporary developments in translation and interpreting research methods.
- 3. Identify unfamiliar concrete and abstract translation and interpreting research problems by means of sophisticated theoretical reflection, and assess previous research.
- 4. Apply linguistic skills and knowledge to investigate, analyse and synthesize complex information, problems, concepts and theories within the fields of T&I.
- 5. Communicate theoretical concepts relevant to translating and interpreting theory for the benefit of peers, clients and the general public.

## **Assessment tasks**

- Literature review
- Research Methodology
- Oral presentation of research
- Research proposal

## PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcomes

- 1. Select, apply and integrate principles, techniques and theoretical approaches within translation and interpreting studies in applications of theory to quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods research practice.
- 2. Demonstrate a comprehensive, informed and systematic understanding of key historical and contemporary developments in translation and interpreting research methods.
- 3. Identify unfamiliar concrete and abstract translation and interpreting research problems by means of sophisticated theoretical reflection, and assess previous research.
- 4. Apply linguistic skills and knowledge to investigate, analyse and synthesize complex information, problems, concepts and theories within the fields of T&I.
- 5. Communicate theoretical concepts relevant to translating and interpreting theory for the benefit of peers, clients and the general public.

### Assessment tasks

- Literature review
- Research Methodology
- Oral presentation of research
- Research proposal

## PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

### Learning outcome

- 5. Communicate theoretical concepts relevant to translating and interpreting theory for the benefit of peers, clients and the general public.

## Assessment tasks

- Research Methodology
- Oral presentation of research
- Research proposal

## PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

## Learning outcome

- 5. Communicate theoretical concepts relevant to translating and interpreting theory for the benefit of peers, clients and the general public.

## Assessment tasks

- Research Methodology
- Oral presentation of research
- Research proposal

## Unit description.

This unit is designed to provide students with an overview of some of the most important research methodologies used in research on translation and interpreting. Students will be introduced to a range of areas and models in translation and interpreting research as well as different approaches to research. The formulation of research topics, questions, aims and hypotheses will be discussed with reference to examples, and students will get the opportunity to formulate research topics, motivate their choice of research topic, formulate research questions explore appropriate methodologies for answering the research questions. They will also be introduced to library research in working on literature reviews and ultimately create a research plan in the form of a research proposal which they will have to present orally in their group. By planning individual research projects based on the theoretical knowledge and practical skills acquired in earlier units, and more systematic readings on research methodologies, the students will be guided to explore T&I related areas from multiple perspectives and to use their acquired expertise and knowledge to conduct systematic inquiry.