



Translation and Time: Exploring the Temporal Dimension of Cross-cultural Transfer

Presentation Details
Title of Paper: Translating Trauma: Temporality in a Memorial Museum
Abstract: Heritage used to be associated with beautiful and great creations of the past, but places that carry scars in the history and cause pain and shame are now recognized as sites of “difficult heritage”. These sites not only become a site of memory and reminiscence for local people, but also attract many international visitors. Most studies on difficult heritage have been on examples of more well-known international incidents, such as trauma related to the World Wars or other conflicts frequently covered in the international media. In such cases, even international visitors who do not have personal experience directly related to the incidents can associate themselves with the sites to certain extent. However, this paper intends to explore the collective pain shared by a group of people which is less known to the international society. In such cases, how are the traumatic past retold to the international visitors? This paper takes the 228 Memorial Museum in Taiwan as a case study, and analyses temporal framing in its Chinese and English guidebooks. The paper will demonstrate that not only the selection of temporal references, but other framing strategies such as spatial and personal references, naming, and even shifts in multimodal text-image relations all help contribute to producing temporality in texts. Our study will conclude that the Chinese museum guidebook brings visitors to the imaginary past, when the Incident happened; whereas the English guidebook keeps the visitors at the present, where the exhibition takes place.

Author's biography:

Min-Hsiu Liao is a lecturer at Department of Languages and Intercultural Studies, Heriot-Watt University. Her research interests are in the application of pragmatics, discourse analysis, and narrative analysis in translation studies. She has explored how writer-reader interaction is translated in the genre of popular science and in museum exhibitions. Recently she focuses on how ideology and identity are embedded in museum texts, and how they are translated for international tourists who may not be familiar with the exhibited objects and the source culture. She has widely published in renowned translation journals such as *The Translator and Journal of Specialized Translation*, and in journals in other disciplines such as *Tourism Management* and *East Asian Journal of Popular Culture*.