

## Empirical Translation Studies: Concepts, Theories and Methods (A005491)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits** 6.0                      **Study time** 180 h

**Course offerings in academic year 2023-2024**

A (semester 1)                      English                      Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024**

De Sutter, Gert	LW22	lecturer-in-charge
Daems, Joke	LW22	co-lecturer
Vranjes, Jelena	LW22	co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024**

	<b>crdts</b>	<b>offering</b>
<a href="#">Master of Arts in Advanced Studies in Linguistics (main subject Linguistics in a Comparative Perspective)</a>	6	A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

empirical translation studies, translation norms, risk aversion, bilingual cognition, constrained language, corpus and experimental methods, (multivariate) statistics.

**Position of the course**

This course offers a thorough and critical introduction to (empirical) translation studies since the mid-1990's. It focuses on the major (conceptual) insights, theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches.

**Contents**

This course provides an up to date overview of the major conceptual, theoretical and methodological advances in empirical translation studies. Empirical translation studies is the field of study that focuses on quantitative observational studies (corpus or experimental studies) of lexical, morphosyntactic and discursive linguistic choices in written, spoken and audiovisual translation. Its objective is to deepen the understanding of the sociocognitive mechanisms that underlie translational behavior. Empirical translation studies is interdisciplinary in nature; it has strong links to neighbouring fields, such as variational linguistics, sociolinguistics, contrastive linguistics, psycholinguistics and second language acquisition.

The content of the course comprises four main parts:

1. Important concepts in translation studies, with a.o. translation universals and norms.
2. Important theoretical models: risk aversion, cognitive translation studies, relevance theory.
3. Important methodologies: corpora and experiments.
4. Interdisciplinary insights: a.o. priming and cognate facilitation effect (psycholinguistics), entrenchment and salience (cognitive linguistics) and prestige (sociolinguistics).

**Initial competences**

Master degree in Language and Literature, Languages and Culture, in Translation, Interpreting

Multilingual Communication or similar master degree with sufficient background knowledge in linguistics.

### **Final competences**

- 1 Critically assess research results with respect to methodology.
- 2 Interpret results of statistical tests
- 3 Link empirical patterns to known concepts in translation studies.
- 4 Choose the most appropriate methodological approach given a specific research question.
- 5 Choose the most appropriate statistical procedure given a specific research design.
- 6 Apply theoretical insights from neighbouring disciplines to data patterns in translation studies.

### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

### **Teaching methods**

Seminar

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Students read one or more texts prior to class. These texts are thoroughly discussed in class, also in relationship to the students' own research paper.

### **Learning materials and price**

Reader containing articles and book chapters; manuals corpus analysis, keystroke logging and eyetracking (via learning platform).

### **References**

De Sutter, G., Lefer, M.-A., & Delaere, I. (Eds.). (2017). *Empirical translation studies: new methodological and theoretical traditions*. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter.  
Pym, A. (2017). *Exploring translation theories*. Routledge.

### **Course content-related study coaching**

Personal: after appointment

### **Evaluation methods**

end-of-term assessment

### **Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period**

Assignment

### **Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period**

Assignment

### **Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation**

### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation**

not applicable

### **Extra information on the examination methods**

The student submits a paper about a topic in translation studies that uses the conceptual, theoretical and/or methodological aspects offered in this course.

### **Calculation of the examination mark**

Paper: 90%; collaboration in class: 10%

### **Facilities for Working Students**

Absence is allowed provided that a replacement task is submitted