

Subject name/code:	BDI-DK-0260A Adaptation, translation and transfer
Subject coordinator:	Head of the Doctoral School
Lecturer(s) of the subject:	Anikó Sohár, Ph.D., associate professor; Kinga Földvály, Ph.D., associate professor; Michael McAteer, Ph.D., associate professor
Credits:	5
Lesson type:	seminar
Brief subject description:	The course offers students a comprehensive foundation in the theoretical frameworks, key concepts, and debates that shape the fields of Translation Studies, Adaptation Studies, and Transfer Studies. This theoretical knowledge is essential for understanding the complex processes of cultural and literary transfer and for engaging with the academic discourse at a doctoral level. The course will develop the ability to recognise and analyse transfer relations and their importance in literatures and cultures as well as analytical thinking, interpretative and critical reading of secondary sources, academic writing, time and knowledge management.
Theoretical knowledge to be acquired:	This advanced course explores the critical processes of cultural, national, and media transfer, focusing on the ways literary works, ideas, and forms of expression move across boundaries between languages, genres, countries, and cultures. The course examines the evolution of these previously marginal fields – Translation Studies, Adaptation Studies, and Transfer Studies – which have increasingly gained prominence within the broader discourse of literary and cultural studies since the second half of the 20th century. By investigating the processes, results, and impacts of literary translation, adaptation, and the shifting notions of authorship, the course aims to illuminate the complex dynamics of intertextual, interdisciplinary, and cross-cultural exchange. By the end of the course, students will possess a robust theoretical framework for understanding and critically engaging with the processes of translation, adaptation, and cultural transfer. They will be familiar with key theories and concepts in these fields and will be able to apply these frameworks to their research projects. This includes: a) advanced theories of translation, adaptation, and cultural transfer; b) conceptual critiques of authorship and the dynamics of adaptation, emphasizing the collaborative nature of literary production; c) ethical reflection on the political, cultural, and intellectual implications of translation and adaptation practices; and d) reception theories that enable a deeper understanding of how adapted and translated works are received by audiences across cultures. This theoretical knowledge provides the foundation for original doctoral research in translation, adaptation, and transfer studies, as well as the ability to engage in the current debates shaping these dynamic fields.
Practical knowledge to be acquired:	The course develops the ability to recognise and analyse transfer relations and their importance in literatures and cultures, raises the awareness of the interconnectedness of literary systems, improves analytical thinking, interpretative and critical reading of secondary sources, academic writing, time and knowledge management, in general, research skills.

	<p>Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:</p> <p>Apply advanced research methodologies in translation, adaptation, and transfer studies to literary and cultural texts.</p> <p>Produce high-quality, critical analyses of translated and adapted works across languages and media.</p> <p>Design and execute independent research projects that contribute original knowledge to the field.</p> <p>Communicate complex ideas clearly and persuasively through both written and oral academic formats.</p> <p>Reflect ethically on the processes of translation, adaptation, and cultural transfer, ensuring responsible and informed academic practice.</p> <p>Collaborate and participate in research teams, fostering interdisciplinary dialogues and contributing to scholarly networks.</p> <p>These competencies equip students with both the intellectual and practical tools necessary for conducting high-level research in the rapidly evolving and interdisciplinary fields of Translation Studies, Adaptation Studies, and Transfer Studies.</p>	
<p>List of the most important required literature (2–4 pieces) with bibliographical details (author, title, edition or specific pages, ISBN)</p>	<p>Cattrysse, Patrick (2020). Translation and Adaptation Studies: More Interdisciplinary Reflections on Theories of Definition and Categorization. <i>TTR</i>, 33 (1): 21–53. https://doi.org/10.7202/1071147ar</p> <p>Leitch, Thomas (2025). <i>Engagements with Adaptation</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Meylaerts, Reine and Kobus Marais (eds) (2023). <i>The Routledge Handbook of Translation Theory and Concepts</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Raw, Lawrence (2012). <i>Translation, Adaptation and Transformation</i>. Continuum.</p>	
<p>List of the most important recommended literature (2–4 pieces) with bibliographical details (author, title, edition or specific pages, ISBN)</p>	<p>Even-Zohar, Itamar (1990). Translation and Transfer. <i>Polysystem Studies, Poetics Today</i> 11(1): 73–78.</p> <p>Leitch, Thomas (ed.) (2020). <i>The Handbook of Adaptation Studies</i>. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Leitch, Thomas (2023). Adaptation and Censorship in Thomas Leitch (ed.) <i>The Scandal of Adaptation</i>, 195–212. Palgrave Macmillan. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-14153-9_11</p> <p>Milton, John (2009). Between the cat and the devil: Adaptation Studies and Translation Studies. <i>Journal of Adaptation in Film & Performance</i> 2(1): 47–64. https://doi.org/10.1386/jafp.2.1.47.1.</p>	
<p>Theory to practice ratio:</p>	<p>Number of theoretical contact hours: 100 per cent practice</p>	<p>Number of practical contact hours: 26</p>
<p>Applied teaching methods:</p>	<p>flipped classroom, presentation and discussion of relevant ongoing research, discussion of literature, collaborative evaluation, peer review</p>	

Method of assessment:	attendance and participation in seminar discussion, analytical essay interpreting some phenomenon of literary or cultural transfer (translation, adaptation, etc.) within the appropriate theoretical context, presentation of a case study
Assessment criteria:	<p><u>Essay and presentation</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. in-depth analysis 2. logical structure 3. relevant content 4. appropriate register and terminology 5. critical use of relevant literature 6. ethical use of sources 7. correct references 8. appropriate visuals suited to the selected case study 9. submission before deadline <p><u>Participation</u></p> <p>Attendance at seminars for this course is compulsory. Students may be absent from up to 3 seminars with adequate notification given to the Instructor for the reason for absences.</p> <p><u>Expected preparation and classwork</u></p> <p>Students are expect to participate fully in all the practical activities of this course. These activities includes the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Active participation in class discussion and the sharing of ideas 2. Independent consultation of required reading and of reading/research in preparation for the essay 3. Completion of presentation 4. Completion of in-class exercises 5. Independent completion and uploading of the essay required by the deadline given within the term. <p>Students achieve a grade of excellent (5) based on the following considerations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance 2. High quality of oral contributions to group discussion 3. Pespicacity of questions directed to instructor 4. An essay, illustrating the student's ability to sustain and develop a coherent analysis of a/several primary work(s) within an appropriate theoretical framework, using suitable analytical methods. The writing is clear and scholarly. It conforms impressively to the protocols of quotation, paraphrase, citation and referencing. <p>Students achieve a grade of pass (3) based on the following considerations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance, but with excused absences from up to 3 seminars 2. Medium quality of oral contributions to group discussion 3. Basic questions directed to instructor

	<p>4. An essay, illustrating the student's ability to sustain and develop a coherent analysis of a/several primary work(s) within a theoretical framework, using some analytical methods. The writing may contain significant elements of confusion without being incoherent as a whole. There may also be certain aspects of the exercise that are not scholarly. The essay conforms adequately to the protocols of quotation, paraphrase, citation and referencing.</p> <p>Students achieve a grade of fail (1) based on the following considerations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Insufficient attendance, with absences of more than 3 seminars, or absences of up to 3 seminars without notification been given to the instructor 2. Lack of oral contributions to group discussion 3. No questions or irrelevant questions directed to instructor 4. An essay, illustrating the student's inability to sustain and develop a coherent analysis of a primary work(s) with no or inappropriate theoretical framework, using unsuitable methods. The writing is unclear and unscholarly. It fails to adhere to the protocols of quotation, paraphrase, citation and referencing. Or the failure of the student to submit any essay.
<p>How the subject contributes to the achievement of the learning outcomes at level 8 of the MKKR, as identified as learning outcomes in the doctoral school's training programme?</p> <p>Elaborate on the way in which competence elements specified in the Training and Outcome Requirements are/may be achieved <i>(Note: do not simply copy the competence elements from the Training and Outcome Requirements)</i></p>	<p>Key Learning Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding the Forms of Transfer: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gain an in-depth understanding of the different forms of transfer across cultures, genres, nations, and media, and how these transfers impact literary and cultural production. 2. Develop a critical awareness of how literary works are translated, adapted, and transferred across linguistic and cultural boundaries, and understand the implications of these processes for both the source and target contexts. 2. Theoretical and Practical Foundations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Study the theoretical frameworks of translation, adaptation, and transfer studies that emerged as interdisciplinary fields and became integral to contemporary literary and cultural studies. 2. Explore the interplay between translation, adaptation, and authorship, critically engaging with traditional and evolving concepts within these fields. 3. Critical Engagement with Key Terms: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate how the terms "translation," "adaptation," and "authorship" have been redefined and revised in light of current research. 2. Critically examine the ongoing discussions surrounding these concepts, considering their limitations, potentials, and relevance to contemporary interdisciplinary work.

	<p>4. Impact and Significance of Translation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understand how translation has shaped both national literatures and world literature, emphasizing the essential role translation plays in the global circulation of texts.2. Explore how literary translation influences cultural exchange, the formation of identities, and the negotiation of power between cultures and languages. <p>5. Adaptation in Literary and Visual Culture:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Analyze how adaptation manifests in contemporary literary and visual cultures, including film, theatre, television, and digital media.2. Place these adaptation processes within a theoretical context, offering a deeper understanding of how adaptation as a phenomenon transforms original texts and produces new meanings in different media and genres. <p>6. Interdisciplinary Application and Enrichment of Traditional Literary Studies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Learn how the study of transfer, translation, and adaptation can enrich traditional approaches to literary and cultural studies, offering fresh insights into both historical and contemporary works.2. Integrate interdisciplinary methods into your analysis, enhancing your ability to interpret cultural and literary phenomena in a globalized world. <p>7. Ethical and Theoretical Reflection:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reflect critically on the ethical dimensions of translation, adaptation, and cultural transfer, considering issues such as cultural appropriation, fidelity, and the politics of representation.2. Investigate the role of authorship and authority in the processes of transfer and adaptation, with particular attention to questions of originality and intellectual property in a global context.
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