Beyond linguistic competence: Socio-cultural competence in translation

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This talk aims to reflect on socio-cultural competence beyond linguistic competence in translation by examining the differences of culture-specific words and expressions in Chinese<>English translation. The cultural differences embedded in source language (SL) and target language (TL) are inseparable from its source culture (SC) and target culture (TC), thus making it necessary to examine the cross-cultural perspectives of translation. A group of culture-loaded words are put under microscope to examine different connotations and projections they have in translation. It is found that some words are equivalents or close to equivalents with the same meaning at linguistic level, but quite different at socio-cultural level, and that their meanings have fluctuated over time. Initially, translation of “individualism” by Gao and Ting-Toomey (1998) and many others is critically examined, and the different cultural connotations “individualism” implied in its culture-specific context are illustrated. Further, it is proposed that positive, neutral and negative dictions be applied to translation. Based on the argument that differences exist between SL and TL, and particularly SC and TC, it is maintained that socio-cultural competence in translation has more implications than linguistic competence.

Thursday 30 September, 2010
1 to 2pm – Building 23: BA.23.G.40
Bankstown campus, UWS

Please RSVP to itrg@uws.edu.au

Coming up:

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<td>Felicity Mueller, Community and Conference Interpreter</td>
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