Agnieszka Poznańska, PhD

Between Language and Culture: BA seminar on translation, interpretation and adaptation

This seminar explores translation as the intersection of language and culture. We will examine how texts convey cultural meanings and consider how translation can act as a bridge or filter between different reader communities. The seminar will address challenges relating to idioms, metaphors, humour, wordplay, and culture-bound references. Students will be encouraged to critically reflect on the role of translators as cultural mediators and analyse how cultural assumptions shape both original texts and their translations.

The seminar aims to support students in developing BA theses that address translation as a cultural practice. Possible research topics include:

- case studies of literary or audiovisual translation focusing on cultural transfer;

- comparative analyses of how different translators deal with cultural references;

- the translation of humour, idioms, and metaphors;

- branding and marketing as a translation challenge.

While students are welcome to propose their own topics, the scope of each project must be discussed and approved by the seminar supervisor. The seminar is conducted in Polish and English, but other working languages may be possible by arrangement.

Students are expected to actively participate in discussions, provide peer feedback, and submit thesis fragments in line with the seminar schedule. Assessment will be based on steady progress towards completing the BA thesis.