



Academic host programme

Language Practice

Programme

Language Management and Language Practice

Study year of students

First year

Credits: 16

Module offered during

First semester

Lecturer

Dr Kobus Marais



TPP114

Introduction to Translation

Brief description

In this module, students translate basic informative texts for community members. The groups of elderly come together in an organised fashion and in this way qualify for subsidy from the state. Age-in-Action oversees this process and needs to train community members in forming organisations, holding meetings, running their finances, planning, looking after one another, solving life problems, etc. In this module, students receive texts at their level of difficulty to translate so that these groups can have the documents in their home languages. This enhances the learning and development process.

Community partners

Groups of elderly people in the community served by Age-in-Action

Community organisational partner

Age-in-Action

Service learning component

Students do three field-work sessions in which they meet the communities they work with and plan and evaluate the relevant projects with them. Students do basic translation work in genres of communicative texts, e.g. newspaper reports, magazine articles, brochures, instructions and websites.

Outcomes for students

Students work under the supervision and guidance of an experienced language practitioner in a virtual language practice. They are given the opportunity to implement translation theory in practice, by translating texts for community members in their home languages. They negotiate briefs with the client and also do quality control by interacting with the target reader group. The process enhances students' self-image as professional translators and allows them the opportunity to work in groups and influence one another. In effect, students learn unconsciously by doing translation work and also learn reflectively by relating the translation work to aspects of theory. The service learning module also allows students exercise in a number of critical cross-field outcomes, such as negotiation, group work, time management and sensitivity for cultural difference.

Impact on community

Community members receive translated texts (at no cost) in their home languages, which would otherwise not have been possible. It allows them to actually follow the training and at their leisure read material to which they previously had no access. This creates a sense of ownership with community members.