

C2.1 – Research Essay

(25% coursework)

You have been assigned (or may choose) a translation-related theme. Using this as your focus, write a research essay that explores a key issue in translation practice, theory, or linguistics, and critically evaluate its implications for professional translation. This essay will form the theoretical and reflective foundation for your oral presentation.

Purpose

The research is designed to help you:

- Deepen your understanding of a specific issue in translation (e.g., contrastive grammar, lexical choice, pragmatics, specialised translation, translation technologies).
- Explore current approaches, debates, and methodologies in translation studies.
- Connect theory and practice by analysing how this issue affects professional translation tasks.
- Practice academic writing conventions at MA level, including adherence to APA 7.

Essay Content & Structure

Your essay should include the following sections:

a) Introduction (approx. 10–15%)

Introduce the translation theme or issue you are focusing on.

Present the essay's purpose and structure.

Introduce the translation theme or issue you are focusing on.

b) Literature Review & Theoretical Background (approx. 30–35%)

Summarise and critically discuss theoretical perspectives and key studies in translation studies.

Reference at least 5–7 academic sources.

Highlight debates or tensions.

c) Analysis of the chosen issue (approx. 25–30%)

Provide a clear overview of the problem/phenomenon.

Discuss common difficulties for translators working into/from English.

Include examples from corpora, parallel texts, or professional practice where relevant.

d) Translation Proposal or Application (approx. 20–25%)

Propose strategies to address the issue in professional translation.

Link your proposal to one or more approaches discussed in the literature review.

Where appropriate, include sample translations (with commentary) to illustrate strategies.

e) Conclusion (approx. 5–10%)

Summarise main insights.

Highlight the link between theory, analysis, and practice.

Formatting & Academic Conventions

Word count: minimum 1,500–2,500 words maximum (excluding references).

Font/spacing: Calibri, 12 pt; spacing 1.5.

Referencing: APA 7th edition.

Academic tone: Formal, precise, evidence-based. Avoid overly personal anecdotes.

Examples: Use clear examples (e.g., translated texts, parallel corpora, MT output, subtitles).

Sources

Strongly Recommended

Munday, J. (2016). *Introducing Translation Studies* (4th ed.). Routledge.

Baker, M. (2018). *In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation* (3rd ed.). Routledge.

Venuti, L. (2017). *The Translator's Invisibility* (2nd ed.). Routledge.

Hatim, B., & Mason, I. (1997). *The Translator as Communicator*. Routledge.

Nord, C. (2005). *Text Analysis in Translation: Theory, Methodology, and Didactic Application*. Rodopi.

Additional Useful References

- Chesterman, A. (2016). *Memes of Translation*. John Benjamins.
- Pym, A. (2014). *Exploring Translation Theories* (2nd ed.). Routledge.
- O'Hagan, M. (2019). *The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Technology*. Routledge.
- Biel, Ł. (2014). *Legal Translation and the EU*. Peter Lang.

For Academic Writing Support

- Bailey, S. (2022). *Academic Writing for University Students*. Routledge.
- Swales, J., & Feak, C. (2012). *Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Tasks and Skills* (3rd ed.). University of Michigan Press.

Submission

- Deadline: End of Week 6 (before microteaching begins).
- Submit via Moodle in PDF format.
- Late submissions will be penalised (5% deduction per day unless justified).

All work submitted for formal assessment must be original and result from the student's own individual, independent, scholarly effort. In all cases, material and/or ideas from other sources (in articles, essays, dissertations, books and on the internet) must be explicitly acknowledged. The use of generative AI tools is permitted only to support learning (e.g., brainstorming, language checking).

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	19–20 Excellent	17–18 Very Good	15–16 Good	10–14 Satisfactory	0–9 Incomplete
Understanding of Grammar Item	Analysed with depth, precision, and originality.	Well explained and contextualised, with minor gaps.	Accurate but limited depth of analysis.	Superficial or partially inaccurate.	Missing, inaccurate, or irrelevant.
Engagement with Literature	Wide and critical use of 7+ scholarly sources; strong integration into argument.	Strong engagement with 5–6 sources; some critical discussion.	Basic engagement with 4–5 sources; mostly descriptive.	Limited or weak use of sources (<4).	Little/no engagement with literature.
Pedagogical Proposal	Innovative, feasible, and well justified through theory.	Relevant, feasible, and supported by theory.	Adequate but lacks depth or critical justification.	Underdeveloped, weakly connected to theory.	Missing or unfeasible.
Structure & Organisation	Exceptionally clear, logical, coherent, and persuasive.	Clear and logical, minor weaknesses.	Serviceable but uneven in places.	Unclear or repetitive.	Lacks organisation.
Academic Writing & APA 7	Error-free, polished style, flawless APA 7.	Minor APA or style errors.	Several APA or style errors, inconsistent use.	Frequent APA/style errors.	APA not applied.