

UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University
Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)
Daily English Practice

Week 6

#78 Google Translate

Skills/ Objectives: To train students' reading, writing, speaking and listening skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

1. There is Google, and with that, Google Images, Google Maps and Google Scholar....
Have you used Google Translate?
2. Do you find Google Translate useful?
3. Did you know that Google Translate does more than translate one language to another?

Vocabulary

1. Hypothesis (noun): assumption
2. Overlook (verb): to fail to notice or consider
3. Context (noun): the speech that comes immediately before and after a particular phrase and helps to explain its meaning:
4. Algorithm (noun): mathematical instructions
5. Resemblance (noun): similarity

Answer(s) to the relevant questions above will be provided in the next exercise.

Answers to relevant questions in the preceding set of exercises:

Question 1: This is an expression used for politely telling people that they can do something before you do it. This is what is said in English when Hong Kong Chinese says "you first."

PART 2: Article for Reading

There is a philosophy behind the technology:

Google Translate is a manifestation of Wittgenstein's theory of language (*Click the link to read the article*)

<https://qz.com/1549212/google-translate-is-a-manifestation-of-wittgensteins-theory-of-language/>

PART 3: Speaking Skills

At first glance the word "algorithm" might appear difficult to pronounce:

“Algorithm”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gVxbQhe4VoI>

Try and give it an extra vowel, sandwich it between “h” and “m,” spell the word like “al-go-ri-them,” and it may be easier to say it.

PART 4: Listening Skills

1. Inside Google Translate

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdSC1Z1Kzs> (2:24 minutes)

This video explains how the technology works.

2. Google Translate App Works Like Magic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ro-HfETpzhc> (2:58 minutes)

Google Translate may not be perfect, but it just gets better and smarter.

Further Discussion

Give this a try:

Take an essay having been marked by a teacher. Lift the sentences that unfortunately got you a C-

Paste them on Google Translate. Click  and shuffle a bit. Then put them back into your essay. Send it to see.u@cccu.edu.hk. Ask for a grade on your writing.

Send your writing to: see.u@cccu.edu.hk.

Our SEE U teachers are always ready to give feedback.