

Methodical Recommendations for Practical (Seminar) Classes

Course: *Practice of Literary Translation*

Lecturer: Asan Kanagat Aitbaiuly

Specialty: 6B02311 – Translation Studies in the Sphere of International and Legal Relations

Academic Year: 2025–2026 (Fall Semester)

Total hours: 45 (15 weeks × 3 hours)

General Methodical Recommendations

Practical (seminar) classes are designed to consolidate theoretical knowledge and develop students' practical translation skills through close analysis and translation of *Abay's Words of Wisdom* (*Қапа сөздер*). Each seminar combines translation practice, discussion of linguistic and cultural difficulties, and reflection on translation strategies.

The seminars should:

- Encourage students to apply translation theory to practical tasks.
- Develop analytical and reflective skills through commentary on translation choices.
- Foster awareness of Kazakh national culture and cross-cultural mediation.
- Use comparative analysis between students' translations and existing English versions.

During each seminar, students perform translation tasks, analyze linguistic and stylistic challenges, discuss equivalents, and justify their strategies orally. Teachers guide students' independent work, ensuring continuity between classroom and IWS/IWS tasks.

Structure of Practical Sessions

Each seminar consists of:

1. **Introductory stage (10–15 min)** – discussion of theoretical background or brief review of previous topics.
2. **Main stage (60–70 min)** – translation of selected passages, identification of lexical, stylistic, and cultural difficulties; discussion of possible translation solutions.
3. **Analytical stage (30–40 min)** – comparative analysis with existing translations; justification of students' choices; evaluation of stylistic adequacy and cultural equivalence.
4. **Reflection (5–10 min)** – summarizing lessons learned, identifying key translation insights, and giving feedback for IWS/IWS completion.

Week-by-Week Methodical Plan

Week 1. *Words 16–18 – Introducing Abay's moral reflections*

Focus: Philosophical prose, ethics, and moral vocabulary.

Method: Collaborative translation, glossary creation, discussion of tone.

Outcome: Students understand moral-philosophical language and its challenges in translation.

Week 2. Words 19–20 – Translating ethical judgment

Focus: Evaluative language and idiomatic expressions.

Method: Pair translation exercises; group commentary on lexical choices.

Week 3. Words 21–23 – Philosophical generalizations in translation

Focus: Abstract nouns, metaphorical reasoning.

Method: Comparative translation of Word 22, followed by analytical commentary.

Week 4. Words 24–25 – Translating cultural concepts

Focus: National realities, cultural equivalence.

Method: Work in groups to find translation equivalents for Kazakh terms.

IWS 1 submission.

Week 5. Words 26–28 – Rhetorical devices in Abay's prose

Focus: Repetition, rhythm, parallelism.

Method: Identify rhetorical structures; reproduce them in English translation.

IWS 2 submission.

Week 6. Words 29–30 – Translating didactic tone

Focus: Style variation (literal/adaptive).

Method: Workshop comparing literal vs. adaptive translations; reflective discussion.

Week 7. Midterm 1 – Portfolio & Oral Defense

Focus: Mastery of translation techniques for Words 16–30.

Week 8. Words 31–33 – Knowledge and education in translation

Focus: Metaphor translation and lexical precision.

Method: Analysis of published translations; reflective discussion.

Week 9. Words 34–35 – Socio-political critique

Focus: Political and social terminology.

Method: Annotated glossary creation; terminology comparison with English equivalents.

IWS 3 submission.

Week 10. Words 36–38 – Ambiguity and layered meaning

Focus: Multiple interpretations and context.

Method: Contrastive translation of ambiguous sentences.

Week 11. Words 39–40 – Religious and moral reflection

Focus: Implicit Islamic references.

Method: Footnoting exercise; class debate on how to preserve meaning without cultural loss.

Week 12. Words 41–43 – Prose as didactic narrative

Focus: Cohesion, logic, and moral appeal.

Method: Oral mini-presentations comparing translations.

Week 13. Word 44 – Philosophical depth in concise form

Focus: Dense meaning and precision.

Method: Individual translation + commentary discussion.

IWS 4 submission (reflective essay).

Week 14. Word 45 – Concluding Abay's philosophy

Focus: Synthesis of learned strategies, general reflection.

Method: Review and general discussion of translation challenges.

Week 15. Midterm 2 – Portfolio & Presentation

Focus: Translation portfolio of Words 31–45; oral presentation and defense.

Teaching Methods

- Comparative translation analysis
 - Discussion and debate
 - Glossary building
 - Peer review and feedback
 - Annotated translation portfolios
 - Oral defenses and reflective writing
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Expected Practical Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Perform accurate and stylistically adequate translations of philosophical prose.
2. Identify and interpret culturally specific concepts.
3. Apply appropriate translation transformations (adaptation, compensation, modulation).
4. Critically evaluate existing translations.
5. Present and justify their translation strategies orally and in writing.