

## Tips for Using Translation as a Tool

### Contrastive Analysis

- A. Walk through a (short) English text together.
  - 1. What is the purpose of the text?
  - 2. What are the lexical items?
  - 3. What are the structures?
  - 4. How are ideas/sentences connected?
- B. Have participants make up a similar text in LOE.
  - 1. Ask the same questions as above.
- C. Translate the two texts into the other language paying attention to what can stay the same and what has to change and why.
  - 1. Start this in small groups, language concordant if possible.
  - 2. Finish as a homework assignment.
  - 3. At next class, allow time to discuss challenges and what discovered about the two languages.

### Type of Translation

During practice exercises, ask participants to make note of the times their renditions move to one side or other of the literal/idiomatic/free continuum. Try to draw out why that rendition worked or didn't work. Ask about other possible renditions.

While observing, instructors/facilitators can also make note of renditions which are *more* free or *more* literal and utilize them in evaluations.

### Back Translation

Have participants record themselves in exercises. Give some time for people to listen to themselves and compare with prompts. Ask themselves:

- 1. Did I leave anything out?
- 2. Did I add anything?
- 3. Did I change the meaning by grammatical or word choice?
- 4. How could I have done it better?