

Justin Watkins - Translator

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PROFILE

An experienced and versatile translator specialised in translation of documents into native-speaker English of publishable quality, from Burmese, Chinese, Khmer, Russian, French and German. I have over 25 years' experience translating freelance for a variety of clients, with a specialisation in human rights, law, history and culture. I have a degree in Chinese and Russian. For 20 years I was a university academic conducting teaching and research the languages and linguistics of Myanmar and Southeast Asia. I have developed a keen eye for detail and accuracy from writing, editing, proofreading and reviewing publications in linguistics.

IT Skills: Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint); familiarity with SDL Trados Studios

LANGUAGES

Mother tongue and target language for translation: English

Main languages translated: French, Russian, German, Burmese, Chinese

I can also undertake translation from: Khmer, Thai, Japanese

Other languages known: Czech, Hungarian, Swedish, Wa, Khumi Chin, Sumtu Chin

TRANSLATION EXPERIENCE

2021-present: Freelance Translator, International Criminal Court. Burmese to English translation of sensitive documents relating to Myanmar genocide trial

1995-present: Freelance Translator, Amnesty International. Translation of documents from Chinese and Burmese to English in the fields of death penalty, human rights, military policy, law. Rationalization of data-gathering for Amnesty's death penalty reporting by translating and extracting relevant data from diverse Chinese news sources. Use of patchy and complex resources to ensure consistent translation of Burmese documents, both for internal research purposes and external publication. Handling of sensitive and confidential material. Delivery of translations to strict deadlines, sometimes at very short notice.

1994-1999: Freelance Translator, Revista de Cultura, Macao: Translation of academic articles on history or culture, and literary prose and poetry from Chinese to English for flagship cultural journal of the Department of Culture in Macao. on history, literature and arts for Macao-based journal based journal of arts, history (see <http://www.icm.gov.mo/rc/2>, search for 'Watkins').

Freelance: Immigration background documents, Myanmar current affairs

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 1999–2022 **Professor of Burmese** (from 2015); **Senior Lecturer in Burmese** (2006-2015), **Lecturer in Burmese** (1999- 2006). SOAS, University of London.
Teaching and research in languages, linguistics and cultures of Myanmar and Southeast Asia and in general linguistics and phonetics. Teaching Burmese, Khmer, Thai languages. Management roles: Head of the Department of Southeast Asia 2009-2012; Chair of Centre for Southeast Asian Studies 2004-7. Broad-ranging experience in academic administration, conference organisation.
- 1999 **Temporary Lecturer in Linguistics.** Department of Linguistics, SOAS, University of London. Teaching general linguistics.
- 1998 **Visiting Assistant Professor in Phonetics.** Department of Linguistics, Cornell University, NY, USA. Teaching and research in general and acoustic phonetics.
- 1993–94 **Assistant English Language Teacher.** Higashisumiyoshi High School, Osaka, Japan

EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

- 1995-99 **PhD in Phonetics**, SOAS, University of London.
Research in linguistics, phonetics and languages of Myanmar
- 1994-95 **MA in Phonetics** (with distinction), SOAS, University of London.
- 1988-93 **BA in Chinese and Russian**, University of Leeds.
Study of Chinese and Russian languages and literatures; linguistics and Czech
(minor). 1st class, with distinction in spoken Chinese and spoken Russian.

PUBLISHED TRANSLATIONS

- Yang Shiting. 'Archeological Evidence for the Relationship of Macanese History and Culture to the Chinese Mainland.' *Review of Culture* 36-7 (2nd series), pp 19-62.
- Huang Hongzhao. 'Portuguese Settlement in Macao and Cultural Exchange Between China and the Outside World.' *Review of Culture* 29 (2nd series), pp 67-84.
- Wang Cizhao. 'Xian Xinghai (1905-1945).' *Review of Culture* 26 (2nd series), pp 129-140.
- Liao Zixin. 'Modern Women's Writing In Macao.' *Review of Culture* 25 (2nd series), pp 159-190.
- Liang Piyun. 'Poems About Macao.' *Review of Culture* 34-35 (2nd series), pp 259-260.

MAIN PUBLICATIONS

2019. Vittrant, Alice and Watkins, Justin, (eds.), *The Mainland Southeast Asia Linguistic Area*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton, Trends in Linguistics. Studies and Monographs, 314. (743 pages) ISBN 9783110401769 (<https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/9783110401981/html>).
2013. *Dictionary of Wa with translations in English, Burmese and Chinese* (2 vols). Leiden: Brill. (Handbook of Oriental Studies, Section 3); vol 1: xvi, 590pp and vol. 2: viii, 598pp. ISBN 9789004255777 (<https://brill.com/view/title/24359>).
2013. 'A Themed Selection of Wa Proverbs and Sayings'. *Journal of Burma Studies*, (17) 1, pp 29-60.
2007. 'Burma/Myanmar'. In: Simpson, Andrew, (ed.), *Language & National Identity in Asia*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp 263-287.
2005. *Studies in Burmese Linguistics*. Canberra: Pacific linguistics, Research school of Pacific and Asian studies, The Australian National University. (xxviii + 330 pages) ISBN 0-85883-559-2.
2002. *The Phonetics of Wa: Experimental Phonetics, Phonology, Orthography and Sociolinguistics*. Pacific Linguistics, The Australian National University, 2002. 226pp. ISBN 9780858834866.

ACADEMIC SERVICE, KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND MEDIA

Series Editor of London Oriental and African Language Library series of linguistic texts, John Benjamins; Editorial Review Board, *Journal of Southeast Asian Linguistics*; Council Member, Britain-Burma Society; Advisor/reviewer for *Journal of Phonetics*, *Journal of the Southeast Asian Linguistic Society*, *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*, *Mon-Khmer Studies*, *Cahiers de Linguistique Asie Orientale*, *Oxford English Dictionary*; 1997–2007 Setter and marker for Burmese 'O' Level examination, Cambridge International Examinations; Regular briefings on Burmese culture, language, history, religion, to public servants preparing to work in Burma; 2004 Expert reports relating to Burmese immigration cases; authentication of documents; verification of linguistic evidence; 2014 Discussant on BBC Radio 4 documentary '*On Language Location*'.

References and further information available on request.