

# WORKING WITH NON-ENGLISH SOURCES IN WRITING: APA

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The ability to read and understand more than one language is an undeniable asset in academic research. Reading a source in its original language is usually preferable to reading a translation.

This handout outlines some best practices for citing non-English sources in your English writing assignments using APA style.

## WHY USE NON- ENGLISH SOURCES?

Knowing why you are using non-English sources is as important as knowing how to use them. One reason might be if you are researching a non-Western artist or practice: it may be difficult to find many relevant English sources.

One reason might be if you are researching a non-Western artist or practice: it may be difficult to find many relevant English sources. If you were researching Youngsun Suh, a contemporary Korean artist, for example, you would find many more Korean sources than English ones. In this case, it would be an advantage to use Korean sources.

In contrast, if you were writing about the work of English sculptor Henry Moore, there would be many more English sources available than Korean ones. In this case, you would need to think about why you need to use Korean sources when so many English ones are available.



# HOW TO INCORPORATE NON-ENGLISH SOURCES

In APA, the guidelines are clear: if you are translating a work yourself, it is considered a paraphrase, not a quotation, so you should *not* use quotation marks. Introduce the paraphrase as you would any other text.

## EXAMPLE

Authors Feng Xiao and JianJun Ren (2004) explain Chinese pattern in this way: Chinese pattern is a vital manifestation in Chinese contemporary art; it employs Chinese traditional visual components and converts them to an art form that suits the contemporary art context (113).

At the end of the paraphrase, list the author's name, year of publication, and page number, unless you mention the authors in your sentence (see above).

Many instructors may want you to add a footnote after your citation including the original quote and your own translation in square brackets. In APA, all languages written in non-Roman characters (Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Russian, etc.) must be rewritten using the Roman alphabet. There is excellent advice about how to do this in this UBC library guide: [http://wiki.ubc.ca/Chinese\\_Preamble](http://wiki.ubc.ca/Chinese_Preamble)

## EXAMPLE

Zhong guo fang shi shi zhong guo dang dai yi shu zhong de yi ge zhong yao biao xian xing shi. Ta shi jie yong zhong guo chuan tong wen hua zi yuan de shi jue yuan su, bing ba ta zhuan huan cheng fu he dang dai yi shu yu jing de yi shu xing shi. [Chinese pattern is a vital manifestation in Chinese contemporary art. It employs Chinese traditional visual components and converts them to an art form that suits the contemporary art context. ]

## REFERENCES

In APA style, cite the source as you would any other text, with the title in the original language, a translation of the title in square brackets following the title, and the publication information. If you are citing a source in a language with a different alphabet system, you must first rewrite it using the Roman alphabet.

## EXAMPLES

Feng, X., & JianJun, R. (2004). Zhong guo fang shi: Zhong guo dang dai yi shu zhong de yi ge zhong yao de wen hua xian xiang. [Chinese pattern: A vital manifestation in Chinese contemporary art.] *HuaZhong shi fan da xue xue bao: Ren wen she hui ke xue ban [Journal of Huazhong Normal University (Humanities and Social Sciences)]*, 43-1, 133.

Piaget, J. (1966). *La psychologie de l'enfant* [The psychology of the child.] Paris, France: Presses Universitaires de France.

Sun-Mi, Cho. (1995). *Hwa-ga-wa ja-hwa-sang. [A painter and a portrait.]* Seoul, Korea. Ye-Kyuong Publishing House.