

CENTRAL ASIAN JOURNAL OF LITERATURE, PHILOSOPHY AND CULTURE

eISSN: 2660-6828 | Volume: 04 Issue: 01 Jan 2023 https://cajlpc.centralasianstudies.org

Simultaneous Interpretation Norms for Simplifying Texts in the Target Language

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Received 10th Nov 2022, Accepted 10th Dec 2022, Online 19th Jan 2023

ABSTRACT

The ultimate goal of this publication work is to analyse the category of,, norms of simultaneous interpretation", the usage of it in simplifying in target language texts.

KEYWORDS: simultaneous interpretation, interpretation norms, escort and court interpreting, analogues in interpreting.

Today the role of foreign languages is getting more and more crucial in every sphere of human life and of course English language is being \mathbb{N} 1 foreign language around the world. Every international conferences, meetings, delegations are held on English, due to this fact the role of interpretation is also ultimately. The researchers' interest to simultaneous interpretation started growing approximately in 60's of XX century. Studies in simultaneous interpretation were conducted in parallel with psycholinguistic studies, because the simultaneous interpretation attracted attention of linguists as well as psycholinguist. There are several terms in the field of simultaneous interpretation, such as: interpretation strategies, norms, techniques and etc.

- 1. The norm in professional interpreting we have to be careful to include the qualifier that the interpreter speaks in the first person as if s/he was the orator. That is, if the speaker starts off, "I'm happy to be here," the interpreter too will phrase it as "I'm happy to be here" in the target language and not, "Mr. X says he's happy to be here." In this case the same norm applies as in written translation, but `natural' interpreters tend to do the opposite, and indeed it is one of the first things interpretation students have to be told to be consistent about.
- 2. The norm in professional simultaneous interpreting, at least in the West, that a speech delivered by a single person be spoken in translation by a succession of several interpreters if it lasts more than 20 to 30 minutes.

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Volume: 04 Issue: 01 | Jan 2023, ISSN: 2660-6828

As a result, those listening to the original hear only one voice and the homogeneous vocal idiolect of just one person; whereas the interpretation audience have to put up with disturbing switches between different voices. Often matters go further: for instance, the speaker is a man and the first interpreter is also a man, but in the middle there is a switch to a woman interpreter's voice. And on top of that, probably neither interpreter's voice resembles the speaker's nor matches the speaker's personality: an elderly foreign-sounding male speaker may be interpreted into a young, native-sounding female voice. There are a number of 'conventional fictions' like this in conference interpreting which we accept rather as we accept the unrealities of the theatre or the cinema. Something that has made me particularly aware of the 'voice/personality dislocation' recently is a counterexample provided by the popular French literary TV program Apostrophesý. From time to time they invite an author who cannot speak French and they bring him or her into the French discussion by means of simultaneous interpretation. But they keep the same interpreter on the air throughout the program, and they choose the interpreter with care so that his or her voice matches the appearance and character of the guest. Their interpreters are always top class, and the result is very close to looking at a film which has been dubbed. I would not want to generalize from this one program, but we may speculate that perhaps TV interpreting is going to develop some different norms from the established ones of conference interpreting.

3. The norm taught in Western European interpreter schools that professional conference interpreters should only work into their A language (i.e. their first language). For insisting that our students at the University of Ottawa must learn to interpret as a matter of routine into their second (B) language as well, and be examined on their performance in both directions, B to A and A to B.¹

Nevertheless I understand the reasoning of the proponents of this norm: to paraphrase Seleskovitch, it may be just as easy for some interpreters to translate into their second language, but it is not so pleasant for the audience to listen to it. However it is a norm that is simply not practical in some places and under some circumstances -- so it then ceases to be the norm. First it will not work in most escort and court interpreting, where there is usually only one interpreter to serve everybody. Secondly it will not work in places where there is a shortage of native-speaker interpreters into foreign languages, for example in the Soviet Union, where consequently the Western norm is not applied -- except in the training of their United Nations interpreters because the UN works to the Western norms.

4. Norms concerning the acceptability of the target language production. Since interpreting has to be done at great speed and cannot be revised before delivery, it is inevitable that mistakes and infelicities creep in which would not be considered tolerable in written translation. In the early 1970's, a late colleague of mine, John

Kohr, proposed speeding up translation of the proceedings of the Canadian Parliament (Hansard) by replacing the regular translators with a team of secretaries who would transcribe tape recordings of the simultaneous interpreters. This was tried out -- but fortunately before the regular translators were dismissed, because it was very soon obvious that it would not work. It was deemed to be more trouble to edit the transcribed interpretations to publishable standards than to translate directly from edited transcripts of the original speeches. (No doubt it was not only a matter of mistakes and calques, but also of the differences between spoken and written language.)

¹ Shiryayev A.F. Simultaneous translation: "Process of simultaneous interpretation and methodology of teaching it "Moscow 1979, 183-p

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Such norms are interesting, but there is at least one other which is more fundamental and universal. This is the true interpreter norm, or - since it applies not only to bilingual communication -- the norm of the `honest spokesperson. This norm requires that people who speak on behalf of others, interpreters among them, reexpress the original speakers' ideas and the manner of expressing them as accurately as possible and without significant omissions, and not mix them up with their own ideas and expression. Occasionally this norm is made explicit, as in the oaths which court interpreters have to swear under some jurisdictions. ² It is dunned into student interpreters. It is so unquestioned, however, that mostly it `goes without saying'. I have not seen it stipulated, for instance, in conference interpreters' contracts. As commonly happens with norms that are very familiar to us, it takes an exception to make us aware of the rule: thus one has to think about it when student interpreters ask what to do if they believe the speaker has made a mistake or is expounding ideas that are repugnant or embarrassing. Somebody may object that this norm is so obvious and basic, it is of little interest in the study of professional interpreting. Of course it is true that if we did not have it we would not be able to trust our interpreters and the whole system would collapse; so it is a matter of necessity - like the norm in ordinary verbal communication that speakers tell the truth. But platitude or not, it is so important that it deserves to be mentioned at least once in the present discussion.

Abovementioned ideas are make us say that the role of interpreting norms is valuable since it helps us to get more successful interpretation.

In the simplification target language text interpreters are expected to use abovementioned norms in order to give clear obvious detailed message.

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² Ilyuhin V.M. Strategies in simultaneous interpretation. /Dissertation for gaining the degree Candidate of science. – M., MSLU, 2001.65-p