

Challenges for upcoming interpreters at United Nations

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Abstract

Interpretation may be pretty demanding, as it requires the interpreter to deal with many unique issues, such as dealing with different speakers, culture-specific allusions, and environmental considerations and even more challenges in a conference setting such as that of interpreting speeches at the UN Conferences. Case studies are presented on beginner interpreters' challenges while translating scientific conference materials from English to Arabic. As a result, these problems will be easier to detect and solve. The research found that graduate students struggle to comprehend such topics. A lot of it has to do with the way things are said in the scientific world, the kinds of words and phrases people use, the definitions, and the peculiarities of scientific writing. The research found that lack of working memory, specialised training, and topic expertise contribute to graduate student interpreters' anxiety and affect their ability to do their job successfully.

Keywords: Interpretation, Conference interpretation, UN Conferences, Upcoming Interpreters.

Introduction

Interpreting duplicates the source language's meaning and style in the target language. Pin chuck defines interpretation as determining how a single address or phrase would be translated directly from the original language. Interpretation has a spoken result. A speaker's speaking speed might affect how their words are understood.

UN Interpretation Service is part of MPD (DGACM) (DGACM). It provides translation and interpretation for UN and other meetings. Intergovernmental bodies need interpretation to conduct and manage their talks. The UN meets with member states to discuss ways to maintain global peace and encourage economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian interdependence. Interpreters are essential for communicating effectively. They connect delegates from diverse countries, each with a particular language, history, ideology, and culture. Translators must foster debate despite restrictions.

There are several obstacles. First, interpreters must provide timely, accurate information. Most early UN translators were uprooted polyglots. Multilingualism was formerly the top consideration in choosing interpreters. People compelled to leave their countries for ideological or political reasons, those who left briefly for education, and children of multilingual parents spoke many languages.

The League of Nations and the San Francisco Conference (1945) presented interpreters with several chances. As the original speaker continued to talk, the interpreter would occasionally pause to let him or her explain what had just been said as meeting participants observed and listened. Meetings with small or large groups and the media were common. [3] In the 1940s and 1950s, most UN meetings employed simultaneous interpretation. Edward Filene and A. Gordon-Finlay established SI with IBM in the 1920s and 1930s. [5] This began simultaneous interpretation.

UN interpreters must detect, understand, and have a sentence in another language in a split second. Politics, legislation, economics, social issues, human rights, money, and administration are examples.

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As a result, translators spend much of their time maintaining and refining their language skills and keeping up with current events.

Every language may be translated. Public service interpreters (PSI) may be needed if a member of the public can't communicate in the language of public services. Language requirements vary each country based on the local dialects. Businesses may have to meet specific requirements before doing business with partners.

A PSI interpreter will nearly always translate into and out of their native tongue, whereas a conference interpreter may only deal with one language other than their own. A conference interpreter can only work in their second language. They will likely interpret in both languages. In most cases, interpreters at conferences utilize their native language. Consequently, most are bilingual or multilingual.

Survey on The UN Conferences and Interpretation

Fieldwork has required linguistic and cultural mediation. It's the result of a face-to-face conversation between persons with different cultural and language backgrounds. The academic community's interest in interpreters grew in 2000 as the necessity for them in international contexts grew. Several research initiatives study issues affecting interpreters' employment in different locales (Inghilleri 2009; Footitt and Kelly 2012; Ruiz Rosendo and Barea Muoz 2017).

Researchers such as Inghilleri (2009), Ruiz Rosendo (2010), and Palmer (2007) have studied interpreters' hazards, challenges, and ethical issues. Interrogations in intelligence or military facilities are examples (Inghilleri 2009; Ruiz Rosendo 2020). Inghilleri (2003, 2009, 2020) (2018). Other disputants' tales may cast interpreters as enemies (Baker, M. 2010). Another research examines the national security implications of hiring translators, including the contentious subject of Western nations withholding visas to interpreters fleeing post-conflict hazards in Iraq and Afghanistan (Fitchett 2012; Juvinal 2013). Another research examines translators in emergency circumstances (Delgado Luchner and Kherbiche 2018; Todorova 2017). Sadly, fewer research focus on training conflict interpreters. Tipton (2011) studied emergent learning interactions between civilian translators and military forces in violent conflict. Bergunde and Pollabauer did similar studies (2019). These data show that interpreters in such circumstances require more training. According to Todorova's (2016) research on interpreters' participation in conflict mediation in Kosovo and Macedonia, most required further training. A single source expression in a source language generates a first and final output in the target language during interpretation.

Using the State and Trait Anxiety Inventory, Kurz (1997) analysed the anxiety levels of conference interpreters (STAI). The results provide credence to the assumption that conference interpreters have more situational control over their anxious sensations and are better able to positively detect their anxiety than those in other professions. In addition, it reveals that they are "consistent" performers, able to sustain the same level of performance under pressure.

Jiménez and Pinazo (2001) assessed the performance of students in interpreting using the STAI. They also remark that stress management has long been seen as a need for interpreting profession.

In spite of this, according to the Cooper Study (Cooper, Davies, and Tung, 1982), which studied mental and emotional stress among conference interpreters, 45% of respondents said that work-related stress made up more than 40% of their overall stress.

Peter Moser's (1995) study found that, when asked what they found particularly difficult about the interpreting profession, 26% of those who used interpreting services cited high concentration and constant stress, and 18% compared the interpreting profession to that of a pilot or air traffic controller. In addition, there are instances in which even seasoned conference interpreters are put in a more stressful position owing to the need to expend more effort. Riccardi, Marinuzzi, and Zecchin (1998) projected that distant interpretation (without a direct view of the speakers) would be more stressful on interpreters than standard conference interpretation. Their results were reported in the journal *Interpretation*. To verify its assumptions, the United Nations performed two successful remote interpretation experiments.

According to interpreters who participated in a 1999 United Nations experiment on remote interpreting, acceptable performance levels needed considerable psychological and physiological effort to sustain (Report of the Secretary-General 2001a). Participating interpreters in the second trial conducted in 2001 indicated that remote interpreting required more physical exertion and produced greater psychological strain than regular on-site work (Report of the Secretary-General 2001b). In

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addition, Mertens-Hofmann et al. (2001) found that 73% of those who had utilised videoconferencing saw it as detrimental to performance. Furthermore, it has been shown that live television interpretation is more difficult than other kinds of interpretation.

Methods of Interpretation

Humans have interpreted since recorded history began. The interpreting profession is just around 150 years old. History of interpreting research is quite early. [3] Prior to the 1990s, most academic study focused on professional conference interpreting, therefore historical interpreting received little attention.

Despite the belief that interpretive efforts date back thousands of years, few historical documentation exist. [5] School materials seldom mention translators and their labour. This may be why written text is more common than spoken language nowadays. Translators were occasionally considered as clerical assistants by historians and scribes, according to some. Due to old translations.

We may learn about the history of interpreting by examining a wide range of recorded works, most of which are related to interpreting. CI interpreters start interpreting after the speaker has completed speaking, wasting time (perhaps even twice as much). The interpreter usually sits or stands next to the speaker. [9]

The interpreter may divide up consecutive translations into little or large parts. In longer-term CI contexts, interpreters take more notes. Notes must be readable to save time. [10] If you want the interpreter to understand the meaning before translating it, interpret complete ideas sequentially. Brief or simultaneous CI cannot give actual, accurate, or clearly understandable interpretation.

Preliminary agreement on segment lengths is possible, but speakers generally struggle to adapt to aberrant speech patterns due to the intricacy of the information and the aim of the interpretation. During concurrent interpretation, the interpreter may conduct document sight translation. To become an interpreter, one must convert source-language content into target language such it looks native-written. Legal and medical situations typically employ sight translation, but it's not the only option. Simultaneous interpretation is useful when both the original and translated version of a speech must be heard by the same audience at the same time and a record must be preserved. Courtrooms are one example.

An intermediate translator may first interpret a Greek source text into English before translating it into another language. This misconception is called "double interpretation." Strange languages or dialects may need double or triple interpretation. This interpretation can only be done sequentially. If a single individual provides simultaneous interpretation (SI), the interpreter must perform high-quality work within the source speech's time limit. They save time without disrupting the speaker's flow. Software may also do SI by listening to inputted speech and providing an interpretation.

The Nuremberg trials in 1945 were the first to utilize simultaneous interpretation when technological advances allowed the interpreter to hear both the speaker and his or her own voice at the same time. Because the technology was so successful, a large number of people were able to attend. IBM worked with Filene and Alan Gordon Finlay to create simultaneous interpretation technology. Yvonne Kapp attended a Soviet Union meeting with simultaneous translation in 1935.

After the technology proved economically viable, IBM sold it to the UN Interpretation Service, where it is currently widely used. The interpreter can see and hear the source-language speaker through headphones owing to sound-proof booths and microphones. Target-language listeners may wear headphones to hear the simultaneous translation.

Only Ruiz Rosendo and Barea Muoz (2017) have studied the function staff interpreter's play in international organizations' on-field activities. No one has specifically studied UN interpreters and the training standards they must satisfy. UN interpreters are unique because they have both experience and training in conference interpretation. As UN employees, their job and obligations may be clearer than those of ordinary translators in war zones. In the field, they face unanticipated problems. International settings, legal, psychological, and ethical repercussions, and unique security issues are considered. The UN lacks a training programme for field translators.

CHALLENGES TO UPCOMING INTERPRETERS

The study is hampered by complex terminology. Each discipline has its own language in this era of

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specialization. Arabic lacks distinct terminology due to scientific lag. We lack scientific dictionaries and resources. Lack of appropriate dictionaries is a major concern for speakers and language practitioners. Users examine any available but inadequate dictionaries, resulting in faulty lexicography. Almost every field has its own acronyms, abbreviations, and symbols. Grammar and pronunciation problems might lead to misunderstanding or omission.

After interpreting texts, the investigation found the following issues. Inexperienced and untrained interpreter: Any scientific interpreter needs expertise and technical knowledge to accomplish his job thoroughly, precisely, and effectively. Inadequate preparation may lead to awkward situations, unanticipated occurrences, and communication breakdown. The interpreter may check documents before starting his job. In most circumstances. This contact is normally done via dialogue, but body language, gestures, and physical examination are also employed since "sharing is caring."

The speaker and interpreter have different cultures, which may affect the interpreter's job. Scientific discourse has a specific lexicon and structure that might cause problems. English and Arabic differ semantically, syntactically, and lexically. Practically all scientific areas, especially medicine, have a linguistic barrier between English and Arabic.

English surpasses Arabic in breakthroughs and new drugs. • There aren't enough scientific dictionaries and resources. Even if the interpreter consults resources, they may not comprehend the terminology. In English, the subject comes first, then the verb, whereas in Arabic, the verb comes first. The interpreter must wait for the verb to begin his interpretation, which is time-consuming.

A lack of scientific expertise and exposure causes doubt in certain technological and specialized words. Some scientific disciplines, notably medicine, are fast increasing, resulting in new technical terminology routinely.

- Lack of time or resources to consult resources and dictionaries
- Scientific terminology pronunciation and articulation
- The scientific text's nature, accuracy, and sensitivity, which includes facts, figures, technical language, and jargon, demands additional attention compared to a literary text. Lack of self-confidence and nervousness about delivering a public presentation affects the outcome.
- The exhibit was noisy, distracting, hot, and low-tech.

ETHICS FOR UPCOMING UN INTERPRETERS

The notion of 'professional dignity' was initially conceived in the context of conference interpreting to preserve the profession by contributing to professional organisations, building a professional profile, and respecting regulations. Shortly after AIIC was created in the 1950s, these concepts were included into members' honour and ethical standards. The AIIC code of ethics encompasses concepts of honesty, professionalism, and confidentiality in Articles 2 through 6. Members are sworn to confidentiality. They must not profit from sensitive information, take no assignment for which they are not qualified, not accept any work or scenario that may detract from the profession's dignity, and not accept more than one employment at a time. Association members must give moral support and collegiality to their colleagues (including team spirit and solidarity) and refrain from remarks or actions that harm the association and its members. Other responsibilities include protecting the profession's and association's reputations, working conditions, and quality standards (see AIIC Code of Professional Ethics).

Ethics include not just the process of translating, i.e., the output, but also the interpreter's behaviour before, during, and after an occurrence (cf., e.g., Schweda Nicholson 1994). The European Commission's Directorate-General for Interpretation (SCIC) has given ethical principles to its interpreters, including professional honesty, commitment to the institution (including social media norms), respect, and confidentiality. The guidelines include cover harassment, team spirit, and booth etiquette. This internal document offers advice for dealing with EU institutions; additional, no less precise norms are needed for particular contexts.

COPING MECHANISMS

As in any sector, some interpreters are better than others. The competition is becoming tougher. Consider what it takes to be an effective and demanding Interpreter. During the interpreting exercise,

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one must quickly interpret the speaker's remarks. Instead of summarizing, completely clarify what was said. All these factors might produce stress, especially if the individual is a beginner who can't memorize a speech quickly.

To eliminate business interpretation and communication problems, use a notation system. Instead of writing full sentences, jot down numbers, viewpoints, names, figures, modal verbs, and lists. First, verify the audience understands the speech.

Taking notes helps people remember what they hear, but they should also rely on their memory and listening skills. Remember what a speaker says while taking notes. Take time to understand the meaning of words, and only write down difficult-to-remember information, such numbers or statistics. When interpreting for business, seminars, and conferences, it's vital to convert the speech into the target language as quickly as possible. One won't have time to open a dictionary and look up a word, much alone use the proper word. When studying a foreign language, it's important to build a source and target vocabulary with the right meaning.

Skilled interpreters should know the languages' cultures well. Each civilization has subcultures and accents. Mastering local cultural norms, terminology, idioms, and phrases helps native speakers communicate their messages without cross-cultural speech differences. An translating agency promotes cultural sensitivity while employing personnel to guarantee the target audience obtains the original message.

Watch films on the topics to be translated and observe the speakers' body language and verbal abilities. After seeing the films, think about what they liked and how they might understand them. Record interpretation sessions in short bursts and listen carefully to confirm accuracy and make any required revisions. Using symbols and abbreviations instead of whole words improves speech learning speed and quality. Use 'X' in lieu of 'time' and connect it to other symbols, such as 2X and XtX. Use starting vowels and double letters to eliminate the final letters of words.

CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this study was to analyse the barriers that incoming UN conference interpreters have on the job in order to get a better understanding of how interpreters deal with specific problems in their profession. This kind of research has received little attention to date, and the outcomes of this study will aid in the development of future interpreters for UN conferences. The study would provide an overview of the coping methods used by UN conference interpreters in the most difficult situations. On the other hand, instructions for continuing professional development for UN conference interpreters and suggestions for additional research in the field of UN conference interpretation in general are offered.

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