THE CIRIN BULLETIN
Conference Interpreting Research
Information Network
An independent network for the dissemination of information on conference interpreting research (CIR)

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BULLETIN n°41
December 2010
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This Bulletin aims at contributing to the dissemination of information on conference interpreting research (CIR) and at providing useful information to members of the CIR community worldwide. It is intended to achieve maximum coverage of research into this sub-field of interpreting, and only occasionally refers to research and publications in other sub-fields. The Bulletin is published twice a year, in December and June. For further information and electronic or paper copies of early issues (the last issue is available on the Web site at any time), please contact D. Gile.

Note: the mini-abstracts are followed by the initials of the contributors who sent in the information, but the text may also be written or adapted from the original text by D.Gile, who takes responsibility for the comments and for any errors introduced by him.

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EDITORIAL

20th anniversary
This 41st issue of the CIRIN Bulletin marks the 20th anniversary of the network, which was set up in 1990.

In the 1980s, painfully aware of the lack of communication between researchers working on interpreting in various parts of the world, I thought something needed to be done about it. The enthusiasm shown by participants at the now famous November 1986 Trieste Conference on Interpreter Training (see Gran, Laura & John Dodds, eds., 1989, The theoretical and practical aspects of teaching conference interpretation, Udine, Campanotto Editore) when many of them discovered each other and realized that they shared ideas about research into interpreting which were not necessarily in line with the prevalent paradigm at that time was exciting – and so was the birth of the Trieste school’s (SSLMIT) The Interpreters’ Newsletter, the first journal devoted to interpreting.

At the time, I had collected a (relatively) large number of bibliographical items for the AIIC bibliography in the framework of GRITS, the AIIC group Jennifer Mackintosh had set up to address research issues, and thought it could be a good idea to create a network which would inform fellow researchers of each other’s publications and activities by way of a Bulletin. Most colleagues to whom I talked about it were pessimistic about the viability of the project, for which there was no funding. The work and the cost of printing, photocopying and mailing the Bulletin to various parts of the world seemed
prohibitive. The answer was cost-sharing in the form of a centralized network, with a central Node in Paris which would send the Bulletin to regional or national Nodes, and these would make photocopies and disseminate the Bulletin in their country or region. The Institut Supérieur d’Interprétation et de Traduction (ISIT) in Paris, where I was teaching conference interpreting at the time, kindly agreed to make photocopies and to pay mailing costs for a reasonable number of recipients. When the first issue of the IRTIN Bulletin, as it was called, came out in February 1991 (it is reproduced as an appendix at the end of this Bulletin, before the list of Nodes), there were 5 Nodes, respectively in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Italy and Japan, and official ‘ordinary’ members in 8 countries. When Bulletin n°3 came out, in December 1991, there were 9 Nodes and members in 24 countries. By the time Bulletin n°15 came out, in December 1997, there were 26 Nodes and too many members to list. The system did work and attracted interest – and contributions. When, a few years later, Internet became widely available, cost and postage were no longer a problem, and in most countries, Nodes took on a more symbolic than functional role.

Most of the content of the Bulletin is collected by myself, but many important items, in particular information on MA theses, are contributed by colleagues. Their input is most valuable, especially as regards texts to which most researchers would have no access for linguistic, geographical and other reasons (see for instance Riccardo Moratto’s contribution on research in China, and in particular in Taiwan, in this Bulletin). The data they provide show that there is probably a wealth of interesting studies on the shelves of university libraries the existence of which the larger community of interpreting researchers does not suspect because their authors never summed up their research in a paper in a journal (though some initiatives of this kind do exist, for example in Spain with Sendebar or Luis Alonso Bacigalupe’s 2003 personal initiative – see Bulletin n°27).

Editorial policy
The Bulletin has been coming out regularly every six months over the past 20 years. Some analysts of Interpreting Studies have commented that the CIRIN network has played a significant role in the development of the field. It is of course tempting to accept the idea that one’s personal initiative has had some importance in the development of a discipline, but while it may have done something to fill a real gap during the first decade of its existence, with the spectacular development of the whole field of TS over the past 10 years, with all the TS journals, including online journals, conferences and the dissemination of information on the Web, the Bulletin can no longer claim to be more than one available information service among many information channels – a change which, of course, is most welcome.

Under the circumstances, perhaps a more flexible, personal editorial policy is justified. One of the self-limitations set in the beginning was that the network would cover conference interpreting only (including broadcast interpreting as a category within conference interpreting). There were two reasons for this. One was the idea was that if the system worked for conference interpreting, it should also work for other types of interpreting, and colleagues who wanted to follow a similar path should be encouraged to launch similar initiatives for community interpreting, court interpreting, sign-language interpreting etc. without any competition from this network. The other was that while I thought the CIRIN network (IRTIN initially) could offer reasonably comprehensive coverage of conference interpreting, there was no way it could to the same for other types of interpreting, and I preferred to stick to the ambition of being as comprehensive as possible in one branch of interpreting rather than offer very limited information in several. However, as explained earlier, conditions have changed, with more access to information through other channels. In addition, to my knowledge, no colleague has attempted to launch similar initiatives for community interpreting, court interpreting or sign-language interpreting, while the commonalities between them have been attracting more attention in IS. I therefore feel now that it would not be unfair to anybody to extend the scope of the Bulletin to list some interesting publications in other sectors of Translation Studies, and will from now on include a few such publications, without making any claims as to coverage.

For the same reasons, I will also take the liberty of writing more personal comments, reviews,
chronicles etc. than in the past.

EST – the European Society for Translation Studies
Congratulations and best wishes to the new President (Anthony Pym) and Board of the European Society for Translation Studies (visit its website at www.est-translationstudies.org). Judging by the first 3 months of their term, they are full of energy and initiatives, which bodes well for the future. EST is an international learned society (with members inside and outside Europe) in the field of Translation Studies which has always considered interpreting, including conference interpreting, an integral part of Translation and where much interesting interaction has been taking place between researchers working on written translation and researchers working on interpreting. Ever since the first Executive Board, there have always been members from interpreting, including the first Secretary General and one President, and important exchanges have taken place under the EST umbrella. Actually, it would only be fair to stress that such interaction started at CERA (now CETRA), the TS chair and Summer School set up by José Lambert of KUL Leuven, that EST, whose initial membership included many scholars from CERA/CETRA, adopted the same attitude towards interdisciplinarity, and that the Master’s degree in Translation and Intercultural Studies at the University Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, led by Anthony Pym (http://www.urv.cat/masters_oficials/en_translation.html) follows the same tradition.

Signed Language Interpreting
Recent initiatives by colleagues from Signed Language Interpreting (SLI) and circumstances have raised my awareness of the insights which could be gained from more interaction between research into SLI and research into conference interpreting. To mention just a few examples, SLI, which is done mostly in the simultaneous mode, spans the whole range of interpreting contexts all the way from community interpreting to conference interpreting through broadcast interpreting, court interpreting, health care interpreting and other forms of community interpreting, which opens up the way to interesting comparisons, in particular with respect to the role of interpreters. In the SLI environment, users seem to be more sensitive to quality issues than in the spoken language conference interpreting environment, and studying their reactions could help gain new insights. Another relevant aspect of SLI is linguistic, with issues having to do both with cross-modality interpreting and with interesting lexical and ‘grammatical’ issues. Finally, much work is done in SLI in the field of training, as regards both language training and interpreting skills training, in ways from which we in spoken-language conference interpreting could have much to learn. Visit for instance the websites of the International Journal of Interpreter Education at http://www.cit-asl.org/journal.html and of the Conference of Interpreter Trainers at http://www.cit-asl.org.

In this issue
Out of 41 items on conference interpreting listed in this issue, 15 (37%) are empirical. Only 28% of the papers published in journals are empirical, and none of the articles published in collective volume is. All the 7 theses and 2 doctoral dissertations are empirical. This corroborates once again the important role theses and dissertations have in producing knowledge through data.

Also note the continued development of research into conference interpreting in China, including bibliometrical studies, and Claudio Bendazzoli’s successful completion of a substantial corpora-based doctoral dissertation in Italy.

Finally, in the non-conference interpreting section, find the references and a few comments on an up-to-date summary of ESIT’s influential “interpretive theory” paradigm summed up by Marianne Lederer, one of its two co-founders.

With my best wishes for 2011,

Daniel Gile
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES


* The interpreting market in Romania.


* Abstract: The paper reports on a small-scale observation on ear-voice span (EVS) during simultaneous interpreting (SI) from Chinese to English, where EVS is taken as the lag time between comprehension of the source text (SL) and reformulation of the target language (TL). Waiting and determining when to start TL rendition is a major task in SI, and EVS management is crucial to SI performance. The study analyses five SI interpretations from Chinese into English and explores the following: (1) EVS during Chinese to English SI, (2) the effect of speech rate on the EVS, and (3) errors and omissions in the TL rendition. The observed EVS in this study ranged from a low of 1.2 seconds to a high of 15.7 seconds; the average lag ranged from 4.7 seconds to 7.1 seconds. In addition, when the speaker increased his pace, there was an increase in the average lag among the participants. The study also showed a higher rate of errors and omissions following longer lags. The observed results may be helpful in interpreter training. Interpreter-trainees should be aware of the possible consequences of long EVS’s, and take appropriate strategies to regulate the EVS.

* Key Words: simultaneous interpretation (SI), SI from Chinese to English, Ear-voice-span (EVS); speech rate, errors, omissions.

Chmiel, Agnieszka. 2010. How Effective is Teaching Note-taking to Trainee Interpreters? The Interpreter and Translator Trainer 4:2. 233-250

* This paper examines the effectiveness of teaching note-taking to trainee interpreters. It first identifies layout, symbols and visualizations as aspects assumed to contribute to more successful consecutive interpreting and then presents contents of a note-taking course. The experimental study described in the paper features interpreting trainees who had previously completed this course as participants. The students were asked to interpret a text into their B language consecutively, submit their notes to the conductor of the experiment and complete a questionnaire. The analysis focuses on certain elements of the source text (concepts to be noted down as symbols, figures, easy to visualize excerpts, etc.) as reflected in the notes and in the questionnaire. The results show that the majority of students focus on correctly writing down numbers, apply visualizations as mnemonics and adhere to well-structured layout principles. However, such elements as symbols are not readily transferable to the students’ individual note-taking systems.

Keywords: Note-taking, Consecutive interpreting, Visualization, Note-taking symbols, Layout


* Aspiring interpreting professionals need to possess skills which allow them to think quickly in order to deal with unexpected situations that will inevitably arise in the course of interpreting assignments. The complex and inherently unpredictable nature of interpreting can be a major source of anxiety for student interpreters, particularly when they are called upon to perform in a language in which their proficiency and confidence levels are limited. Specific techniques for managing this anxiety, however, are often lacking in interpreter training programmes. This study examines the effects of a programme based on
theatrical techniques commonly used in the training of professional actors but tailored specifically for novice interpreters. Two groups of interpreting students each received seven weeks of training in a sequential manner, allowing an external rating of the participants' performance to be carried out before and after the training took place. Results of the external ratings and the participants' own evaluation of their learning revealed significant benefits, with gains particularly evident in the areas of confidence, delivery and rapid problem solving abilities.

**Keywords:** Interpreting, Theatrical training, Improvisation, Anxiety, Self-confidence


*Reflections on conference interpreting as cultural gap bridging.*


**Abstract:** A corpus-based analysis of simultaneous interpreting researches in China (1994-2009) renders clear an irregular pattern of progression and some signs of disciplinary immaturity. Comparing this area of Chinese translation studies with its counterpart in the West, the paper directs attention to where we lag behind, calls for attaching greater importance to its development, and offers some specific suggestions for dealing with the existing problems.

**Key words:** simultaneous interpreting; interpreting studies; citation analysis


* A general discussion of roles of interpreters in various sectors of interpreting, which starts with a focus on discrepancies between the idealized role of conference interpreters as it is generally depicted and reality in the field.


* A didactic text, from a master and veteran teacher of conference interpreting

**汝明麗。** 2009。**臺灣口譯產業專業化：Tseng 模型之檢討與修正，期刊發表。編譯論叢。頁數：**

22。 語文別：中文。


* **Abstract:** According to Joseph Tseng’s 1992 model of the professionalization process in reference to *conference interpreting in Taiwan*, there are four phases, beginning with market disorder and ending with professional autonomy, which is often realized through licensure. In fact, since 2004, the Graduate Institute of Translation and Interpretation Studies (GITIS), Fu Jen Catholic University and the Graduate Institute of Translation and Interpretation (GITI), National Taiwan Normal University, have begun to organize an annual joint professional diploma examination in conference interpreting. Over the years, both Institutes have gradually moved to delink their students’ performance in the joint professional examination and their graduation with a master’s degree. In other words, the joint diploma professional examination is now positioned as an independent accreditation test organized by two of Taiwan’s most prestigious institutes in the field of interpreter and translator training. At the end of 2007 and at the beginning of 2008, the Ministry of Education (MOE) held the first English-Chinese Translation/Interpretation Examination. The examination in consecutive interpretation, both short and long, has aroused much debate about and interest in the interpreting profession. This paper believes the said joint professional examination and the MOE examination can be considered accreditation tests which, according to Tseng’s model, are one of the important milestones in the professionalization of the interpreting sector. This paper therefore attempts to review the progress that Taiwan’s *conference interpreting*
sector has made toward professionalization during the past decades. Efforts are also made to compare and contrast the two examinations in terms of the significance and diplomas/certificates and implications for the professionalization of interpreting in Taiwan. Finally, based on the aforesaid review, the author proposes a few changes to Tseng’s sociological model. (RM)

*Key Words:* conference interpreting, professionalization, professional examination, accreditation.


林宜瑾，胡家榮，廖柏森。2004-2005。口譯課程使用國際模擬會議之成效探討，期刊發表。翻譯學研究集刊。頁數：26。語文別：中文。


*Abstract:* In recent years, there has been a dramatic proliferation of discussion concerned with interpretation-related issues. Within the extensive literature on this emerging area, while numerous studies were carried out to investigate the topics such as principles of interpretation teaching, designs of interpretation curriculum, and evaluation of interpretation teaching methods, comparatively little research has focused on empirically validating and elaborating practical teaching procedures that instructors can follow to implement an effective interpretation class. Therefore, the purpose of this article is to ascertain the effect of using international mock conference as a term project at college to provide students with interpretation training as compared to that of a traditional teacher-centered approach in teaching interpretation skills. The teaching system described here offers an alternative interpretation teaching option, which is firmly anchored in well-accepted principles of language teaching and learning. It is hoped that this brief paper could encourage interpretation teachers to explore more possibilities to promote teaching effectiveness as well as to enhance their students’ learning motivation to acquire interpretation competence.

*Key Words:* interpretation instruction, international mock conference, teaching activity. (RM)


*Abstract:* Based on a survey of experimental research papers on interpreting published in 16 core journals in China over the past half century, this paper examines the development of the empirical research on interpreting in China. The analysis of the literature demonstrates that the main characteristics of the experimental research on interpreting in China are: interplay with interpreting training practice, increasing scientificness in experiment operation, and close integration with other disciplines; the major problems lie in too small quantity, faulty experimental design, and unclear description of data analysis.

*Key words:* experimental research on interpreting; bibliometric analysis; characteristic; problem


*Abstract:* Gile’s Effort model of simultaneous interpretation provides us a basic method of studying the complicated processes of simultaneous interpretation. This paper presents an effort to establish a
mathematical model in describing the nature of simultaneous interpretation, and a trial study of the relationships and affections between effort elements of L + P +M +CI.

**Key Words:** simultaneous interpretation; cognitive schema; model


*Abstract:* This study aims to investigate the relationship between the features of note-taking in consecutive interpreting (quantity, form and language(s)) and the quality of interpretation. It analyzes the notes taken by 12 college English majors while doing two interpreting tasks (English-Chinese, Chinese-English) and leads to the following findings: (1) on average, the words and symbols in the notes are about one third of the words of the source text, with no significant correlation found between the quantity of notes and the quality of interpretation; (2) whereas the student interpreters mainly use short forms in their notes, they rarely use symbols, with no significant correlation found between the quantity of short forms and symbols and the quality of interpretation; (3) as regards the choice of language for note-taking, the student interpreters generally prefer the source language in both interpreting tasks, with no significant correlation found between the use of language (either the source language or the target language) and the quality of interpretation.

**Key words:** features of note-taking in interpreting; quality of interpretation


*Abstract:* Pauses in the process of consecutive interpreting (CI) are believed to be highly related to the interpreter’s on-line cognitive processing and his or her application of translation strategies. The present study aims to address the following research questions: (1) What are the features of pauses in CI? (2) What factors motivate the interpreter to pause while he or she is interpreting? (3) What is the real situation as far as the occurrences and time span of different types of pauses are concerned? (4) What types of pauses are more likely to occur in the process of CI? We chose 5 professional conference trainee interpreters as participants to produce task-based interpreting data. Then, by using stimulated recall protocol, we elicited them immediately to retrospect on every pause occurring while they were performing the tasks. Their retrospections were recorded and transcribed. On the basis of the above, we used the software cooledit pro. (2.0) to analyze the time spans of all the pauses exceeding 0.3 seconds in the task-based data and used the retrospection data to identify different types of pauses and analyze the underlying motivations for pausing. The study shows: (1) in general, most of the pauses are triggered by information organizing, target language retrieving, production modifying and strategies employing; (2) in particular, information organizing causes the most frequent pause occurrences and target language retrieving causes the longest pause lengths; (3) interpreting pauses last much longer than those in second language speech. The results of this study may benefit CI training and relevant studies.

**Key words:** consecutive interpreting; pauses in interpreting; types of pauses; lengths of pause; motivations for pausing; stimulated recall protocol


*Abstract:* Though a key concept in the “théorie interprétative de l’interprétation,” deverbalization has not yet been elaborated precisely by translation scholars. In an effort to shed much-needed light on this often misunderstood term, the present paper subjects deverbalization to a close examination, tracing its conceptual development back to the original sources and reviewing available literature on the issues it has generated. Drawing from what the theories of cognitive psychology and cognitive semantics have to offer in this respect, the author proposes two models for conceptualizing the way semantic organization takes shape in the comprehension processes of simultaneous and consecutive interpretation. An account of how meaning is represented during the deverbalizing process is also given.
Key words: cognitive process; interpretation; simultaneous interpretation; consecutive interpretation; deverbalization; discourse comprehension; cognitive semantics


*Abstract: The ESIT model for conference interpreter training, which has been modified and promoted by AIIC, is largely indebted to Danica Seleskovitch and her colleagues at ESIT. The model holds that conference interpreter training must be exclusively focusing on interpreting skills rather than language enhancement, and that students are not allowed to execute simultaneous interpreting (SI) into their B language. However, due to students’ lack of linguistic competence and the EU expansion, it gets more and more difficult to abide by the above two principles. Today, language enhancement programs and SI training into B language have become the essential components of conference interpreter training programs. The paper traces the changes that the ESIT model has undergone and explores the driving forces behind them.

Key words: ESIT model; language enhancement; SI into B language


*Abstract: Interpreting is characterized by both practical information communication and complicated cognitive processing. The explorations into the memory mechanism in interpreting have gone through various stages: practice-based theoretical analysis, empirical research, and model design (esp. models of working memory in simultaneous interpreting). Future research of memory in interpreting should involve the collection of more various empirical data and modification or innovation of memory models in interpreting.

Key words: simultaneous interpreting; working memory; theoretical explorations


*Abstract: Emerging in the 1950s and undergoing a period of fast development in the past two decades, the studies of interpreting remains confronted however with two critical issues in its pursuit of disciplinary status: how it should be positioned vis-à-vis its neighbouring disciplines; and what shape its conceptual framework ought to take to ensure its continued growth. This article proposes that interpreting studies be conceived as a (sub)discipline within Translation Studies, and that its disciplinary framework be made up primarily of four components: theoretical assumptions about its own epistemology and methodology, and practical understandings of the objects and approaches for its research.

Key words: interpreting studies; disciplinary construction; theoretical foundation; applied studies

Articles from the Handbook of Translation Studies, Volume 1, Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins:


**M.A. AND GRADUATION THESSES**


* The aim of this work was to describe the politics of interpreting in European institutions and to define basic problems in interpreting with focus on Czech as a C language, or if possible to recommend potential improvements.

The theoretical part is divided in two extensive chapters.

The first one deals with organization of interpreting in European institutions, options to learn new languages, strategies of interpreter-engagement and their working conditions.

The second chapter defines possible problems in interpreting from Czech. Those are personality of interpreter, Czech speaker, source text characteristics, hearer expectations, working environment, relay and retour, preparation materials and time.

In the empirical part we had done a questionnaire research among the European institutions interpreters. It was then followed by interviews with three interpreters, in which we tried to clarify more complicated problems and to extend the questionnaire research.

The research focuses on strategies of adding new working languages and on ways used for studying the Czech language. We also verified the possible problematic areas in interpreting that had been defined in the theoretical part. In the interviews we touched upon deeper causes of some problems, also we discussed some possible solutions to these problems.

The research showed that Czech in European institutions is still perceived as a new language and in principle an “exotic” language. The biggest problems are different cultural thinking of Czech speakers, information overload of texts, the fact, that speakers often read, as well as high speed of speaking. Working conditions in European institutions are generally good, but problems caused by the above mentioned exoticness occur.


* Another interesting empirical contribution to the considerable effort devoted by Ángela Collados’s group in Granada to research into interpreting quality assessment. This experimental study was devoted to the detection of the influence of users’ first impressions of an interpreter’s target speech to their assessment of ulterior interpretations by the same interpreter. Six speeches with their interpretations were used, including two by the same male interpreter and two by the same female interpreter, the order of presentation of the speeches was varied and various quality parameters were measured through questionnaires. The design was a bit complex and perhaps not tight enough to generate clear-cut results, but a number of interesting findings emerge, including the users’ own admission that first impressions do count in their ulterior assessment of interpretations by the same interpreter, marked variability, and one more confirmation of the importance, in actual interpretation assessments, of parameters of form as opposed to substance, in contradiction with the priority given to substance over forms in expectation surveys.

**黃經偉。** 2009。自由會議口譯員的印象管理初探研究—與中介機構及客戶之互動，碩士論文。
Between January and June 2009, the Czech Republic assumed the rotating presidency of the European Union. All the meetings within the EU framework, of the ministers of the member states and of the work groups were led by Czechs. This semester represented an exceptional challenge in diplomatic and


*Abstract:* This exploratory study investigates the freelance conference interpreters’ interaction with the interpreting agencies and direct clients by delving into the interpreters’ different impression management processes, and tactics. The study also discusses possible influences on the working relationships between interpreters and agents as well as clients. Respective views from the provider, coordinator, and purchaser of the interpreting service regarding the working relationship are also explored. Based on the dramaturgy of Goffman (1969) and relevant impression management theories as well as concepts of services marketing, this study proposes an analytical framework to delineate conference interpreters’ impression management behaviors categorized into acquisitive, protective, and adjustment tactics in interpreting services in terms of first encounter, pre-service stage, in-service stage, post-service stage, and off-work interactions with agents and clients. Semi-structured interviews are conducted with fourteen conference interpreters, three agents, and two direct clients. The results of the study indicate that conference interpreters adopt different tactics in each stage of interaction with agents and clients. In spite of capabilities as paramount qualities of an interpreter, impression management bears on the working relationship between interpreters and agents as well as clients in the sense that it facilitates smooth interaction and may even influence client satisfaction.

*Key Words:* conference interpreting, impression management, dramaturgy, services marketing. (RM)


*Abstract:* Liu (2001) investigated the task of simultaneous interpreting (SI) through the relationship between working memory and observed domain-specific skills in simultaneous interpreting. In the study, professional interpreters’ performance in simultaneous interpreting from English into Mandarin was compared to that of beginner and novice interpreters. The results suggested that professional interpreters clearly outperformed the other two groups of participants, whereas no statistically significant difference was observed between the two groups of student interpreters. Nonetheless, this observation does not seem to be in line with evidence provided by the research on skill acquisition. As a consequence, this study aims to analyze the corpus in Liu (2001) and see if performance differences exist between the two groups of student interpreters. The aspects explored in this study include utterance speed, speech proportion, as well as pauses and omissions in the interpreted discourse. In addition, through a cross-examination of the interpreted discourse and the aforementioned aspects, this study also intends to identify processing patterns displayed and strategies adopted by the participants as they performed the task of simultaneous interpreting. The research material consists of the recordings of 57 simultaneous interpretations from English into Mandarin by 19 student interpreters, 10 of whom are beginner interpreters and 9 of whom are novice interpreters. The total word count of the translated text is 109038 words. The findings suggest that second-year student interpreters did outperform their beginner counterparts in the study, as reflected in more fluent delivery, higher processing speed, relatively more complete renditions, and better ability to cope with difficulties with different strategies. By and large, the performance of the two groups in the current study seems to be characteristic of learners in the different stages of skill acquisition.

*Key Words:* simultaneous interpreting, skill acquisition, expert, novice, expertise. (MR)


*Between January and June 2009, the Czech Republic assumed the rotating presidency of the European Union. All the meetings within the EU framework, of the ministers of the member states and of the work groups were led by Czechs. This semester represented an exceptional challenge in diplomatic and
organizational terms.

The present report concentrated on the objective of responding to the question: What were the greatest challenges faced by the interpreters who performed interpretation services from and to Czech? Because Czech was the language which served as the bridge between European delegates to the Czech presidency, the interpreters were an important link for the success of all the meetings.

In Brussels, interpreting services were provided by Czech language interpreters belonging to DG SCIC and in the Czech Republic interpreting services were rendered at lower level meetings by a Czech provider of interpreting services, Artlingua.

For this report we have used surveys to ascertain the interpreters' opinions with regard to their interpretation service experience during the Czech presidency, as well as to ascertain the delegates' opinions about the interpreting services rendered. Likewise, we compared the opinions of the Czech delegates with those of the foreign delegates.

We replied that the services rendered by the interpreters during the presidency were of high quality in light of the fact that the delegates and working committee leaders expressed their satisfaction with them. According to the delegates, the most common problem was the interpreters' understanding of specific technical terms. At the same time, the biggest problem according to the interpreters was that the delegates did not adequately cooperate with the interpreters. The report's conclusion is to express some suggestions including the following: All the interpreters providing services for European bodies should be fluent in English, at the very least they should possess a high level of comprehension because the majority of materials in this type of meeting are in this language. Besides, in light of the fact the delegates often substitute their mother tongue for English in a majority of cases, doing it to the detriment of comprehensibility, interpreters must be able to cope with this reality. On the other hand delegates should in their own interest recognize and prize more frequently the work of interpreters and the role that they play in the delegate's success. This attitude can only be modified if society as a whole is aware of the important role of the interpreter in the modern era. Likewise we suggest the necessity of interpreting specialization in specified areas. And we are in favor of being better qualified and sensibility of all participants in international conferences. We consider this report to be a basis for deeper future investigations that will have to be undertaken to verify the quality of our interpreters. We hope that the results of this report will be useful to young students of interpretation who are preparing for this profession which is filled with challenges.


*Abstract:* As Taiwan advanced to the ranks of developed countries, the rapid internationalization of its economy spurred the demand for conference interpreting. To meet this fast growing demand, a number of colleges established interpretation-related departments and graduate institutes. The number of professional interpreters started to rise, and the competition intensified. Through the analysis of the Chinese-English conference interpreting industry, this research intends to shed a better light on the competition among interpreters, the entry barriers of the industry, and the consumers' first priorities in selecting a conference interpreter, hoping to help all the stake-holders to have a better understanding of the industry and make informed decisions accordingly. The research reviews the literature about conference interpreting and market, and designs surveys accordingly. The surveys were then collected and analyzed through statistical tools to acquire useful information. The survey results show that the Chinese-English conference interpreting industry in Taiwan can be characterized as a monopolistic competition industry, where there is significant information asymmetry between the suppliers and consumers. It is also found that the consumers of conference interpreting have a high level of consumer loyalty, and do not see price as their first concern. The evidence also shows that very few
interpreters ever successfully increased their revenues by cutting price or marketing themselves. The surveys suggest that an interpreter database set up by the government may solve the problem of information asymmetry and help strengthen the market.  

* Key Words: conference interpreting, information asymmetry, customer loyalty. (RM)

張立德。2008。口譯品質量化評估指標初探，碩士論文。輔仁大學翻譯研究所。論文頁數：154。語文別：英文。


* Abstract: Conventional approaches to interpreter performance assessment are often plagued by large inconsistencies. This results from assessors’ subjectivity and insufficient understanding of the components of interpretation quality. This study aimed to find some objective measures that may be used to evaluate the quality of interpretation by examining how these measures correlate with the results of more subjective evaluation performed by raters. The corpus consisted of 35 consecutive interpretations, including 17 English to Mandarin Chinese and 18 Mandarin Chinese to English, rendered by 9 trainee interpreters. Three text features on the interpretation transcripts were examined quantitatively: interpreter’s output word count, use of pauses, and correspondence with the source speech on expert-selected keywords. The analyzed interpretations were rated on fidelity and delivery and obtained a score for each of the two criteria. The quantitative data were examined for their correlation with the quality scores to show the relationship between the objective measures of interpretation and raters’ quality assessment. The major findings were as follows: 1. There was no clear correlation between interpretation’s output word count and its quality, despite a positive correlation trend observed in all analyzed pairs. 2. The interpreters’ use of silent pauses was shown to have no clear correlation with their fidelity or delivery score and therefore could not predict interpreters’ fidelity or quality of delivery with confidence. 3. A negative trend was found between the interpreter’s use of filled pauses and the interpretation’s delivery score, showing that filled pauses may be a delivery parameter. No correlation was obtained between filled pause measures and fidelity scores. 4. The quantity of disfluencies (false starts, repeats, restructuring) emerged as a reliable indicator of both the fidelity and the quality of delivery of the interpretations. 5. Source-target keyword correspondence rate was strongly correlated with the fidelity score in the interpretations, showing that this measure can help evaluate interpretation fidelity with precision.

* Key Words: interpretation quality, objective assessment, interpretation word count, pause, source-target keyword correspondence, correlation analysis. (RM)

DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS


* Bendazzoli also wrote two monographs based on his work, with much interesting and useful reflection and hints, including practical methodological items (see the “Books” section) (DG)

Abstract

In this doctoral thesis a methodology was developed to fully apply the corpus-based approach to simultaneous interpreting research. DIRSI is a parallel (Italian-English/English-Italian) and aligned machine-readable corpus, containing transcripts of audio-recorded medical conferences with professional simultaneous interpreters working both from and into their foreign language. Against this backdrop, directionality represents the research parameter used to analyze interpreters’ performance by means of corpus linguistics tools. The main chapters in the thesis are listed below:

Introduction

1 Only indirectly related to CIR.
1. Translating spoken communication: modes and contexts
2. Studying and analysing communicative situations
3. International conferences as interpreter-mediated communicative situations
4. Speaking, communicating and interpreting at an international conference
5. Applying the corpus-based approach to the study of interpreting
6. DIRSI: multimedia archive and corpus

Conclusions

The most critical methodological issues in Corpus-based Interpreting Studies were addressed and discussed in detail, considering all the main stages involved in building an interpreting corpus: corpus design, data collection, transcription, annotation, alignment, access and distribution. Many theoretical and practical suggestions are provided in each stage. Moreover, drawing from Linguistic Anthropology, Ethnolinguistics, Sociolinguistics, Conversation and Discourse Analysis and Interpreting Studies, a taxonomy of conference sections, speech events and participants found in international conferences was developed, so as to classify all the data within a communicative framework.

Three small-scale studies were carried out using the DIRSI Corpus and Multimedia Archive. The first study was focused on target text compression/expansion. The total number of words produced by source speakers and interpreters was taken into account in each of the four DIRSI sub-corpora, showing that there is always a decrease in the total number of words produced by interpreters, with two noteworthy exceptions. The first is to be referred to the only native English interpreter represented in the corpus (out of 5 interpreters, 4 being native Italian speakers) and his target speeches from Italian into English. This result may be explained by directionality-related effects, though the same does not hold true for the other interpreters and their target speeches into Italian. The second exception was found in very short target speeches, i.e. those produced from source speech events containing less than 500 words; all the interpreters tended to expand these shorter speeches in their target language production.

The second study concerned lexical variety. Type-token ratio was measured in each DIRSI sub-corpus. Interestingly, Italian target texts showed greater variety than their English source texts, whilst the opposite is true for Italian source texts vs. English target texts. Again there might be a directionality-related effect, but differences in corpus size could also influence this result. If type-token ratio scores are considered in a comparable perspective, ‘original Italian’ and ‘interpreted Italian’ show nearly identical variety. On the other hand, ‘interpreted English’ displayed greater lexical variety than ‘original English’ (consider that not all SL speakers are native speakers of English).

Finally, the third study analysed interpreter-generated discourse markers: the frequency of discourse marker ‘so’ was calculated in the English target speeches produced by each individual interpreter. Then, correspondence was assessed in the relevant source speeches. The final result was that zero correspondence accounted for 30% of the occurrences of ‘so’, meaning that the discourse marker under consideration had been generated autonomously by interpreters and not in response to any unit of meaning in the source speech.

Woroch, Justyna. 2010. La reformulation comme fondement de l’interprétation de conférence.
Doctoral dissertation, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan. Available online in French at the following address:
http://repozytorium.amu.edu.pl/jspui/bitstream/10593/427/1/rozprawa doktorska mgr Justyna Woroch

* Abstract in English provided by the author (the dissertation is written in French)
The author investigates the phenomenon of reformulation on the grounds of empirical, observational and analytical research conducted in the context of simultaneous interpreting (in the French – Polish language pair). Having presented the characteristics of simultaneous interpreting and the main contexts in which the notion of reformulation appears, the author links the two phenomena. For the purposes of the analysis recordings of French original discourses and their simultaneous interpretations were
transcribed. The reformulation processes of textualisation are divided into three groups: speaker's intralingual reformulations appearing during his or her original performance and interpreter's interlingual and intralingual reformulations in the simultaneous interpreting process. Thus it was concluded that the nature of interpreter's reformulations is two-sided: first, there are reformulations created due to the influence of the original reformulations (interlingual ones), secondly, those created independently by the interpreter (intralingual “second level” reformulations). The research permitted to emphasise the importance of the linguistic operation of reformulation in the complicated communicative situation of simultaneous interpreting.

BOOKS

* A systematic exploration of conference interpreting (plus some other interpreting contexts) as a communicative event (the author refers in the title to texts and contexts of conference interpreting and to an ethnographic study). Much relevant literature is reviewed, classifications are offered, as well as some data on Europe by Satellite meeting parameters. Perhaps a good general starting point for more detailed investigations into specific points.

* Methodological reflections and information on the use of corpora, in particular electronic corpora, in research on simultaneous interpreting. Based on a good review of the literature and on several years of hands-on work in preparation of Bendazzoli’s dissertation (see the reference in the appropriate section).


…and BEYOND CONFERENCE INTERPRETING

* The thesis focuses on the expectations of interpreters and public institutions with regard to the role of interpreters in a specific type of communicative events, i.e. in interpreter-mediated encounters between foreigners and Czech institutions. This type of interpreting is commonly referred to as community interpreting. Taking into account that there is a lack of consensus in the literature concerning the interpreter’s role, the thesis aims to explore how Czech interpreters and institutions perceive this role in the absence of binding professional standards. The main goal is to determine whether the respondents see interpreters more as passive ‘translation devices’ or ‘conduits’, or whether they consider them to be
active communication participants in their own right. The first part of the thesis provides an overview of
research focusing on the interpreter’s role, and gives examples of how this role has been codified, both in
the international context and in the Czech Republic. The second, empirical part, presents the results of a
questionnaire-based survey conducted among Czech interpreters and public institutions. The main part
of the questionnaire has been designed with the aim of determining which expressions of the different
interpreter’s roles are seen as desirable by the respondents, and which are considered to be
unacceptable. The results, based on a quantitative analysis of the main data set, show that both
interpreters and institutions consider the interpreter to be an active participant in the communication;
however, most respondents do not find it acceptable for the interpreter to take on roles that go beyond
interpreting as such.

Pišvejc, David. 2010. VÝVOJ TLUMOČENÍ VE ŠVÉDSKU. (THE DEVELOPMENT OF

* Sweden has been one of the pioneers in community interpreting. Due to the upsurge of immigration, the
1960s saw the start of systematic interpreter training in Sweden in order to provide a full interpretation
service to immigrants dealing with authorities or the health care service. Gradually, community
interpreter training was introduced in several types of community colleges administered by The Institute
for Interpretation and Translation Studies (TÖI), set up for that purpose by the government in 1986. With
the country joining the EU in 1995, it was necessary to train enough conference interpreters to ensure a
continuous supply from TÖI graduates. The market for conference interpreters is limited both in Sweden
and the European institutions, compared with community interpreters. There is a legal obligation to
provide interpretation to immigrants and newcomers when dealing with the authorities.
Interpreters in Sweden can qualify as “authorized interpreters” once they pass a series of demanding
exams that take place regularly. However, neither authorization nor formal interpreter training are
compulsory for the profession, which directly affects the quality of the service. Authorized interpreters
must abide both by a code of conduct and the regulations whereas unauthorized interpreters have no
such obligation and the sanctions are limited. Sweden lacks a single register of interpreters and there is
similarly no regulation of interpreting agencies there. The main contracting authorities for interpreting
services are the county interpreter centres and the Immigration Office.
Thanks to several renowned interpreting agencies, Sweden has developed a sophisticated telephone
interpretation system and it boasts a large number of sign language interpretation schools and one
speech-to-text interpretation school. Since the 1950s the Ministry of Defence has trained Russian
speaking interpreters for military purposes independently of TÖI. The language offer was extended to
include Arabic and Dari a few years ago.
Swedish research in interpreting theory has been examining different aspects of community interpreting,
such as the interaction and the social role of interpreters, interpretation in the health care service or the
didactics of translation and interpreting.

Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
* The most recent in the series of encyclopaedias and handbooks of TS. The editors are now working on
Volume 2.

* Comments by DG: This paper is interesting as the most up-to-date description of the Interpretive
Theory paradigm by Marianne Lederer, one of its two co-founders. It starts with a brief historical
background of the paradigm which, Lederer says,
“started with the seminal intuitions of Danica Seleskovitch reflecting on what went on in her mind as
she interpreted and how she would explain the process to her interpreting students” (p.173).
(This is exactly what I called “personal theorizing” in a paper published in 1990, the same approach which I followed myself for a short while a decade or so later, when I started developing my own theories).

Lederer then recalls that [Seleskovitch]

“fought experimental psychology, which at the time concentrated on how the human mind understood de-contextualized syllables, words and sentences”.

She goes on to say that

“At the time, the pioneering contribution of ITT was to draw TS away from mere linguistic and contrastive studies of translation-as-product. Instead, [it] put translators center-stage, focusing on translation as a cognitive process”.

Indeed. And,

“[ITT] remains deliberately simple in its formulation, in the hope of giving useful guidelines to practicing interpreters and translators.”

With respect to deverbalization, Lederer says

“As soon as there is understanding, deverbalization takes place, i.e., most of the words disappear.... Psychologists call this ‘mental representation’; ITT could have called it ‘conceptualization’. The term ‘deverbalization’ was used because it was first observed with consecutive interpreters who obviously cannot retain nor jot down all the words of a speech’.

This ‘soft’ version of “deverbalization” is quite remote from the heavier version often referred to in the literature that claims that all traces of the source text words and structures disappear from the translator’s/interpreter’s memory, and it is easier to accept, though it is not yet quite specific enough in what it refers to in terms of cognitive processing of the source text. This partial disappearance of words from the mind may well be part of the comprehension process itself, as it frees working memory from information that is no longer necessary (namely the ‘words’ that were processed to generate a mental representation).


* In this short paper, Lederer laments the shift of focus in research on interpreting other than conference interpreting, towards sociological considerations and away from interpreting cognition which, she says, is one of the keys of the success of interpreting.
APPENDIX

History (or archaeology?): the first Bulletin

BULLETIN N.1  FEBRUARY 1991
Prepared by Daniel Gile
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tel 33 1 42 22 33 16  fax 33 1 45 44 17 67

This Bulletin aims at contributing to the dissemination of interpretation research and theory (IRT) information not readily available in journals. The Bulletin will be published twice a year, in winter and summer. Please send information contributions to D.Gile, CEEI (ISIT).

This first Bulletin illustrates the basic objective of IRTIN: the dissemination of short pieces of IRT information not easily (or not yet) found in the major I/T journals, for the benefit of IRT researchers scattered around the world and often unaware of each other’s work. The Bulletin will be sent to I/T schools and individual IRT researchers. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The Interpreter’s Newsletter (IN) N.3 was published in Dec.90. The IN is the only research journal devoted to conference interpretation. Each issue contains articles and a bibliographical update (more than 150 items in N.3). The IN will be taken as a bibliographic reference for the IRTIN Bulletin: items appearing in the IN update will not be listed in the Bulletin, except for comments and additional information about them. The IN is published once a year by the Scuola Superiore di Lingue Moderne per Interpreti e Traduttori, Università degli Studi di Trieste, Via B.D’Alviano 15/1, 34144 Trieste, Italy. General Editors: Laura GRAN and John DODDS.

An AIIC Research Committee bibliography is due to be ready next spring. More than 600 items. AIIC, 110, avenue de Sécheron, CH-1202 Genève.

The proceedings of the 1986 Trieste Conference on interpreter training were published in 1989: Laura GRAN and John DODD (Eds), The theoretical and Practical Aspects of Teaching Conference Interpretation, Udine, Campanotto Editore, 278 p.

A book on Empirical research in interpreting was published in December 1990: Christopher TAYLOR & GRAN Laura (Eds.) Aspects of Applied and Empirical Research on Conference Interpretation, Campanotto, Udine

Several M.A. theses and doctoral dissertations on conference interpretation were defended in 1989 and 1990: Etiwia ARJONA-TSENG on curriculum design, Mike DILLINGER on comprehension processes during simultaneous interpretation, Clare DONOVAN on Fidelity, Ruth MORRIS on court interpreting, Miriam SHLESINGER on the effect of interpretation on the oral/literate nature of discourse. See full references in IN N.3.


Daniel GILE  Basic Concepts and Models for Conference Interpretation Training First version,


MONTEREY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, Division of Translation and Interpretation, Proceedings of the Twentieth Anniversary Symposium on the Training of Teachers of Translation and Interpretation, available from MIIS, Division of Translation and Interpretation, 425 Buren Street, Monterey, CA 93940, USA


**INTERPRETING RESEARCH INFORMATION**

**Finland** Jorma TOMMOLA, Univ. of Turku, Dept. of Translation Studies, has initiated empirical psycholinguistic research on SI and other language processes. (Tykistökatu 4, SF-20520 Turku, Finland)

**France** D. Gile, Centre d'Etudes Japonaises, INALCO, Paris, has initiated research on specific features of Japanese into Western language interpretation.

**Japan** Masaomi KONDO, Daito Bunka Univers., Dept. of Economics, 1-9-1 Takashimadaira, Itabashi-ku, Tokyo, has set up a group of Japanese interpreters interested in research.

**EVENTS**

**Australia** National I/T workshop to be held at the Key Centre for Asian Languages and Studies, University of Queensland, Brisbane (organizer), in the beginning of July 1991.

**Belgium** An interpretation training seminar for interpretation instructors, organized by the AIIC Training Committee, will be held in Brussels from the 15th to the 17th of February 1991.

*       *       *

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