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 January and July. 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 may be 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

Miriam Shlesinger passed away on the 10th of November 2012. An experienced translator and conference interpreter, she turned to research rather late, but rapidly became one of the most popular personalities in the world of Translation Studies, as can be seen inter alia through the statements, testimonies and tributes posted at http://www.est-translationstudies.org/news/2012_shlesinger.html. These texts are very eloquent and there is little I could add. As a colleague, a teacher, a human being, Miriam was quite a lady and her memory will remain with us for a long time.

In this issue, there are several entries reporting on the analysis of authentic corpora from the mass media and/or the Web. Such naturalistic studies, which have the advantage of certain ecological validity, are not new. What is new is having the data from several interpreters interpreting the same speech at the same time into the same language, and often into more than one language, giving the possibility of discriminating between interpreter-specific phenomena and speech- or environment-related phenomena. The main disadvantages of such a research environment are the small size of the samples and the fact that by definition, there is no control or manipulation of the variables. But there is nothing to prevent researchers from taking the same authentic source speeches or speeches derived from them and use them for controlled experiments.
The ‘Japan Association for Interpretation Studies’ was the first scholarly society in the field of Translation Studies in Japan – and I am not aware of the existence of another to this day. It has a remarkable history of social cohesion and productivity (in particular with its journal, *Interpretation Studies* 通訳研究, the first TS journal in Japan, and apparently the only one to this day) without much institutional help. It has also been open-minded, with interest being shown in various types of interpreting activity and in translation. This has continued to develop over time. A few years ago, it was renamed ‘Japan Association for Interpreting and Translation Studies’, and its journal has been renamed *Interpreting and Translation Studies* (通訳翻訳研究). In the West, we seem to be getting there slowly, with increasing interaction between conference interpreting, public service interpreting, signed language interpreting and translation, at least on the research side. But input from the East, and more specifically from the Far East, is still meagre. For colleagues interested in interpreter roles and their invisibility or lack thereof, there is the fascinating John Benjamins book in English by Kumiko TORIKAI *Voices of the Invisible Presence* (2009), but more material is published in Japanese, for instance SHINZAKI’s 2011 doctoral dissertation (see the Doctoral dissertations section in this Bulletin). In *Interpreting and Translation Studies* n°11 (2011), among many other interesting papers, there is a “guide to previous research on interpreter roles” which reviews 74 texts, including 7 in Japanese.

Similarly, there are many Chinese papers with attractive titles and abstracts in the *Chinese Translators Journal*. In my editorial in *Bulletin* n°40 (June 2010), thinking of many other interesting papers in various languages to which access was very difficult to most of us for linguistic reasons, I suggested that translator training programs could help by having students translate such papers into languages which could be read by a majority of members of the TS community. Obviously, such action could only cover a fraction of the relevant papers. Another possibility, which most of us probably contemplate with some distaste, is machine translation. I experimented a bit with the online, free tool ‘Google Translate’ from and into several languages and have to admit with some reluctance that on the whole, depending on the language pair, I found that its output was readable and could probably be useful to those of us who wish to know what a paper in a language esoteric to us is all about. Provided we have the text in electronic form, of course. But more and more journals go online. Ironically, where humans fail, we might have a less-than-ideal-but-still-acceptable solution from non-human translation.

An increasing amount of TS material is thus being made widely available. But of what use is it if colleagues who might gain from reading it do not take the trouble to do so? The gap, indifference and sometimes outright hostility of many practising translators and interpreters towards theory and research is general is well known to all. But one might expect a somewhat more open attitude from instructors in academic training programs. Especially when discussing fundamental issues such as directionality with the aim of making decisions on changes in the curriculum. Instructors may be skeptical about the usefulness of theory about directionality. But what about empirical research, data about market needs and preferences around that issue, about actual performance by students and by professionals working into their B language, about the professionals’ attitudes? Empirical studies have investigated the issue and come up with data. And yet, when I suggested to a course leader who convened a faculty meeting on directionality that such studies might be worth looking at, there was no response. Research is research and professional practice is professional practice and never the twain shall meet?

Daniel Gile
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES

* The interpreting performance on two parallel sets of source texts in English to be interpreted into Polish of ten interpreting students before and after a one-week practice programme in real conference conditions was measured and compared. There was a slight improvement in interpreting skills, but none in their delivery.

* Sendebar abstract: Within the new Bologna framework which establishes preparatory training as the benchmark for undergraduate teaching, the paper presents a simplified model for preparatory consecutive training, seen as an essentially natural process. The aim is to provide students with an oversight of the basics of consecutive interpreting, providing those who wish to pursue specialization in the field with a solid basis. The model, developed over almost 20 years of teaching and professional experience, brings together the concept of verbalization taken from the theory of sense with Gile’s efforts model, seen as didactic tools. Applying the minimax strategy rationalises and reduces effort expended via the mobilization of knowledge in the run-up to the source text processing phase, combined with the principle of simplicity in the target text production phase.

* Descriptive, professional rather than research-oriented.

* History

* One more welcome example of how broadcast interpreting material can be used to compare interpretations of several professionals in naturalistic and therefore ecologically valid settings. An announcement in English by pop singer Edison Chen was broadcast by five Mandarin language television channels, each with live interpreting into Mandarin. The source speech and target speeches were transcribed, and the analysis was done on the transcripts, with a focus on omissions.


* A corpus-based analysis of topical coherence in interpreted American presidential debates broadcast on Italian television. The author categorizes questions and answers, their Italian equivalent, and the incidence of each type of question. She then looks at question/answer topical coherence in the interpreted versions and its success or the lack thereof as a function of the type of question and the changes that occurred during the interpretation process.
* In her essay, the author argues that in conference interpreting, interpreters are not ‘neutral conduits’. She cites a few examples of mistranslations or alleged mistranslations and also mentions that interpreters have admitted they have intervened on speakers’ messages. No detailed analysis of these cases is provided.

* Abstract: This paper offers a two-stage account of the interpreting process on the basis of two hypotheses. The first one sees SL comprehension as being accompanied by a parallel processing of TL that merges with SL deverbalization through the function of incremental processing. The second hypothesis posits that unlike general language production, which is meaning-driven, TL production is driven by both construction and meaning. Treating neither “language switching” nor deverbalization as an independent stage of interpretation, this two-stage account explains more neatly the interpreting process than the traditional three-stage theory.

* On the use of computer tools, and in particular corpora, for the preparation of conferences by conference interpreters.

* A questionnaire-based survey of AIIC interpreters’ views on interpreting into B.

* Professional

* In a live coverage of the 2005 Academy Awards ceremony where there was simultaneous interpreting into Korean heard by stenotypists only and followed by simultaneous captions in Korean which they produced and which appeared on screen, time lags and viewer preferences were studied. Unsurprisingly, the time lag of captions after simultaneous interpreting was much longer than the time lag of both simultaneous interpreting and of live captions without prior simultaneous interpreting. Another interesting finding was that when interpreters began to produce a Korean sentence after a long lag, “the quality of the following sentences was often sacrificed” (p.154), a phenomenon which the author explains using the Effort Models and saturation of short-term memory. As to viewer preferences, measured on the basis of an experiment with students of English who were shown either a ceremony with simultaneous interpreting only or one with captions based on SI which was not heard by the viewers and asked to fill out a questionnaire. Nearly all of them preferred the second option in spite of the lag. The author notes that the generalizability of these findings to the general population of Korean viewers is tricky, because of possible bias in students studying English in favor of listening to the English statements.

* The author reports on her doctoral dissertation (see the relevant section in this Bulletin) but extends the discussion to tactics other than anticipation.

*Semi-structured interviews were used to elicit information about the interpreters’ perception of their role and self-image, their relationship with other professionals, the way they managed emotions, pressure and possible conflict, as well as the high profile nature of the trial.


* The author reflects on the diversity of needs and parameters of consecutive interpreting at a literature festival when writers meet the public through interpreters. Though the technique of consecutive interpreting is basically the same as in conferences, the situation is rather different and the balance between information transmission and social and psychological factors changes.


* Not a research article, but a description of a language enhancement course in French taught by the author at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, Korea. Ouvrard taught translation and interpreting at ESIT for many years in the Chinese-French combination, was head of its translation section for several years, and feels he is fully in line with ESIT’s interpreting theory – something which he reaffirms at the very beginning of his paper. Against this background, one of his comments is particularly interesting: on page 259, after explaining that in his experience, it takes much longer for a European to achieve good proficiency in an Asian language such as Chinese and vice-versa than for a European to achieve good proficiency in another European language such as English, he talks about the case of students who have perfectly understood the principles of interpreting and manage to implement them correctly in class and yet fail at graduation examinations because of insufficient mastery of the relevant working language(s). In other words, he considers that it is not impossible to learn the principles of interpreting before one has fully mastered the languages, a view which could have far-reaching implications in terms of syllabus design.


* Survey-based, on the profile of conference interpreters and the market.


* A discussion of methodological hurdles in the application of corpus analysis methods to interpreted texts and a review of some findings.


* A focus-group based study on norms among Swedish conference interpreters working for international European institutions.


* Based on authentic data collected from recordings of 5 in-house interpreters’ speeches at 5 Chinese Premier Press conferences totaling close to 9 hours. The transcripts of the original speeches and target speeches were compared, shift were identified and analyzed. The shifts are classified into categories, and the author infers from their relative frequency that they correspond to norms. There is a missing step here: while it is plausible that they actually reflect norms, it could be argued that some of them may be due to cognitive or other psychological factors as opposed to norms. Triangulation with retrospective interviews with the interpreters, and possibly with the opinion of a panel of interpreters, might have helped give more weight to the idea that those shifts do indeed reflect norms.


* Abstract: Inspired by recent findings in bilingualism research, this article re-defines the objects and topics of simultaneous interpretation studies in reference to a modulated account of the communicative processes involved, and proposes a framework model that centers on the interpreter’s semantic memory and relies on the intermediacy of semantic representation. Within such a framework, the author subjects three popularly adopted approaches to interpretation studies to a critical re-examination and recommends some alternative strategies and methods for researchers in this field.


* The author takes data from six political meetings between senior political officials and foreign visitors and focuses on personal pronoun shifts and their reasons.


* A review


* Abstract: The development of an interdisciplinary approach to interpreting studies has gone through four different stages, namely, the stage of germination, of stagnation, of growth, and of adjustment. On one hand, the interdisciplinary perspective has accelerated the growth of interpreting studies by improving the quality of, and adding topics and methodologies to, its research. On the other hand, contemporary interdisciplinary approaches to interpreting studies tend to be marred by the following major defects: 1) lacking in diversity of research types and multiplicity of interpretive dimensions; 2) marginalizing the study of interpreting as such, and 3) showing inadequate interest in pedagogical and practical application. To have these defects remedied so as to improve the quality of interdisciplinary interpreting studies, it is necessary that more attention be paid to the guiding principles, research foci, research values, and research mechanisms that give shape to these approaches.
M.A. AND GRADUATION THESES


Abstract
The aim of this thesis is to outline the development and current situation of the interpreting profession in China. It places particular emphasis on interpreter training at Chinese universities, interpreter accreditations, professional organizations and the formation of interpreting theory and training as an autonomous discipline. The beginnings of the conference interpreting profession in China date back to 1979, when the UN Training Programme for Interpreters and Translators was launched. In 1994 this programme was transformed into the Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation at the Beijing Foreign Studies University, which became the first interpreter training institution in China. In 2006 the first three universities launched a BA in Translation and Interpreting (BTI). In 2007 fifteen universities started offering a new Master’s programme in Translation and Interpreting (MTI). Currently, the number of universities offering BTI has more than doubled and the number of universities offering MTI has reached 150. Several universities offer also PhD programmes in interpreting studies.

Interpreting studies are gradually developing into an autonomous discipline in China and monographs of representative Chinese researchers, e.g. Liu Heping, Bao Gang or Wang Binhua, attest to it. Most Chinese monographs on interpreting theory and training take European interpreting theory, particularly French interpreting models, as its foundation. (IC)


* An interesting experimental study on numbers in simultaneous interpreting, with extensive reflection on their cognitive processing with reference to relevant literature in cognitive psychology, and an analysis of the fate of various types of numbers in the speech as material.


Abstract
The thesis focuses on the image of interpreters and interpretation in Czech printed media from 1990 to 2012. It aims to explore how interpreters present themselves in media, how journalists present interpreters and whether that image is accepted or not by the public. The thesis consists of two parts. The theoretical part focuses on methods of media and discourse analysis, definition of interpretation, formation of interpreters and professional associations in the Czech Republic. The empirical part analyses more than 800 articles about interpretation and analyses the discourse of Czech media during the period of twenty years. Analysis showed that the discourse changes constantly and the point of view of interpreters on their profession is different from the discourse created by journalists. (IC)

DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS


* One more doctoral dissertation in Ángela Collados Aís’s group at the University of Granada, Spain, which has been demonstrating repeatedly much internal cohesion and drive. The dissertation starts with a systematic and thorough literature review of more than 150 pages. The author then describes
preliminary methodological stages, including method validation and pilot studies. These included focus group discussions, a method rarely used so far in research into conference interpreting. The main study is composed of an expectation study and a perception study with three types of target population samples: faculty members in Spanish universities, students of translation and interpreting and Facebook users. In the first part of the study, participants were to weight the relative importance of quality components presented to them in questionnaires and add if need be other quality components they considered relevant. In the second part, they listened to 4 interpretations, assessed them and filled out questionnaires with questions about matters relevant to interpreting quality. The order of presentation of the interpretations was varied so that some participants listened to the best interpretation of a given interpreter first and others listened to the best interpretation after having listened to an interpretation of lesser quality. The interpretations came from authentic material downloaded from the European Parliament website. Inter alia, the author found again, in line with the findings of other authors such as Collados Aís, Garzone and Pradas Macías, that the perception of quality differs from quality expectations as regards the relative importance of form and substance, but that among Granada university students, there was more awareness of the importance of form. Possibly because these students have heard their instructors talk about it? As to first impressions, their influence on the general assessment of quality seems to be more difficult to characterize, perhaps with some complex interactions. Much thought, methodological preparation, measurement activity and analysis have gone into this dissertation, which is very informative.

* An analysis of existing theories and of specificities of interpreting between Arabic and French.

* Based on a European Parliament corpus downloaded from the web, with speeches in German by 43 speakers and their authentic Greek translation on the general theme of ‘Environment’. There were 139 speeches, the total duration of which was 329 minutes, with an average length of about 2 minutes and a half per intervention (actually, from 41 seconds to above 7 minutes). Speed ranged from 103 to 185 wpm. All cases where the interpretation was actually produced before the respective ST utterance were counted (p.121). This means that many cases of anticipation where for one reason or another the actual spoken output was delayed were missed, so that actual findings are conservative. On average, there was one anticipation every 105 seconds. No general correlation was found between speed of delivery and the frequency of anticipations (p.126-127). But there were more cases of anticipation in low-speed deliveries by the speakers and almost no cases of anticipation in high-speed deliveries (p.129). The most frequent grammatical category of anticipated constituents were the verbs, followed by the nouns (there were 90% more verb anticipations than noun anticipations), followed by a very few cases of negation anticipation. 56% of the anticipations were exact, 37% were general, and 7% were incorrect.

* This work, which earned its author a doctoral degree in international communication, looks at intentional deviations from the source speech. Three professional interpreters were asked to conduct consecutive interpretation, their output was compared to the original, and semi-structured interviews were conducted to ask them about the reasons for intentional deviations. The answers suggest that they seek to improve both clarity and inter-personal feelings and attitudes towards each other.
BOOKS

Chuzhakin, Andrei; Delizée, Anne; Godart, Anne & Lenglet, Cédric (eds.) 2012. Interprétation consécutive & prise de notes. “Le B.A. BA de l’interprète”. Mons & Moscow


Mons/Moscow

Website of Andrei Chuzhakin : http://apchuzhakin.narod.ru (mainly in Russian)

* This is the fourth, revised edition of a handbook which, according to the editors, is already very popular. It is essentially a didactic book, and a very practical one. Its main author is Andrei Pavlovitch Chuzhakin. It was translated and adapted into French at the University of Mons in Belgium. Its first part is the French revised edition of a handbook of consecutive interpreting originally published in Russian, based on over 30 years of professional experience in consecutive and simultaneous interpreting, on the traditions of the Soviet school and on modern approaches by interpreters and trainers from the ex-USSR, Russia, the EU and the USA. The second part is an introduction to note-taking for consecutive interpreting in the form of a FAQ with examples and references. The third part consists of suggestions for note-taking and non-verbal communication and contains several speeches in French and Russian for trainees to practise. [Source: the editors]

Table of contents

Chuzhakin, Andrei & Godart, Anne. Première partie. Interprétation consécutive et prise de notes : Le B.A.-BA. (p. 5-61)

* This first part of the book is practical and prescriptive, with advice to students and to interpreters on what to do and what not to do in various situations

Lenglet, Cédric. Deuxième partie. La Prise de notes en IC. Foire aux questions et exemples pratiques. (p. 62-95)

*In this part of the book, the principles of note-taking as taught at the University of Mons are presented with reference to well-known textbooks in FAQ form.

Delizée, Anne. Troisième partie. Suggestions, exercices et gestion du non verbal. (p. 96-141)

* This third part gives further suggestions, with examples in French and Russian.

Bibliographie. (p. 142-145)

* The list of references includes a section on Russian texts and a section on online resources.

... AND BEYOND CONFERENCE INTERPRETING


Doctoral dissertation (primary supervisor: Jemina Napier), Macquarie University, Australia.

Contact: bontempo@iinet.au

* This thesis is comprised of a series of thematically linked work that explores and investigates factors that may be predictors of interpreter performance.

The research study identifies the skills, knowledge and abilities deemed necessary for competent performance as a signed language interpreter; measures perceived competence in interpreters; gathers data on the skills gaps of interpreters and a range of personality constructs; and applies this potentially predictive data. The application of the findings of the research study include piloting interpreter education program admission screening procedures; establishing a diagnostic skills
analysis and performance management process for educational interpreters; and documenting the risk associated with interpreting in traumatic settings, and introducing strategies to enhance the personal coping skills of interpreters working in such environments.

The data gathered from this unified corpus of research, and the efforts outlined to apply the findings in purposeful ways in a series of practical projects, will contribute to the field of interpreter education by increasing the body of knowledge about interpreter aptitude, ability and achievement. Knowing what qualities may be predictive of successful performance in the profession may lead to the development of more effective screening tools for assessing occupational suitability for interpreting; the potential for better predicting achievement in programs of study; improved capacity for addressing skills gaps in interpreters; and better training opportunities and safeguards for working practitioners. It will also provide direction and guidance to interpreter educators, employers, and practitioners themselves, in regard to curricula; staff supervision and support; interpreter performance management; and individual awareness of the aptitudes and abilities recommended for effective interpreting practice. The results of the study have implications for both spoken and signed language interpreting fields in regard to research, pedagogy and practice.


*Extracts from the English abstract provided on the website: Western Translation studies have been trapped in postmodern logicism, unable to even define major genres such as literary translation. A way out of this quandary is to turn to Confucianism for a new conceptual framework. Confucian notions…point to a non-logical way of thinking indispensable to the development of Translation Studies…


* An essay in which the author argues that the essence of Canonical Science lies in the norms of rigorous thinking rather than in particular techniques or paradigms, that sophisticated methods and tools may generate counter-productive results in terms of scientific quality when misapplied and that in the world of TS, seemingly unorthodox or simple methods which do not necessarily comply with the strict operational norms of experimental research can not only be more efficient, but also more ‘scientific’, provided researchers are aware of their limitations and are rigorous in their inferences.


* 29 English-ASL interpreters from the US were rated by 5 raters on a three-point scale as highly skilled, somewhat skilled or less skilled, seven cognitive ability measurements and three emotion-cognition interaction measurements were carried out to correlate skills and these cognitive abilities.


* Besides its intrinsic value as an exploration of an under-researched topic, this paper is of interest as a general introduction to the principles of focus-group methodology.

* An interesting methodological paper on TAPs. Note that the author bases most of the paper on a questionnaire sent to 25 authors who have used TAPs in their research. Their opinions are valuable, but one cannot wonder whether they can be totally objective in their responses when they have deliberately chosen TAP as a way to do research at one point or another. The sample is clearly biased. There are also misconceptions/misrepresentations of what experimental research and qualitative research are.
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