









MECHANISM OF ANTICIPATION IN SIMALTANEOUS INTERPRETATION

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No matter how well the translator knows the native and foreign languages; linguistic knowledge alone is not enough for successful work as an interpreter, especially as a simultaneous interpreter. A professional simultaneous interpreter is a walking encyclopaedic references book. In his work, the translator encounters the terms of political negotiations, geography, literature, and world history. At scientific conferences where simultaneous translation services are in great demand, problems of medicine, programming and other natural sciences are discussed, which means that a simultaneous interpreter must be well versed in these topics.

The method of anticipation in simultaneous translation is most often successfully used in the case when the interpreter knows the topic well. It is equally important to have an understanding of the procedures and rules for conducting meetings. Ceteris paribus, a simultaneous interpreter who possesses the relevant knowledge will cope with the translation much easier and better than his less knowledgeable colleague.

Major corpus-based account of anticipation was produced by Lederer in 1981 in which she argues that anticipation is ubiquitous in SI regardless of the language pairs involved, postulating that anticipation is a non-language specific phenomenon. Lederer also offers a distinction between different kinds of anticipation, namely cognitive and linguistic anticipation and another form of anticipation which she calls "freewheeling interpretation" (or "en roue libre"). In the latter, the interpreter has decided on the meaning of the speaker's utterance and listens to the original merely to verify the accuracy of her own « production » in order to make the necessary corrections. According to Lederer, therefore, even instances in which the interpreter utters a constituent a few seconds after the speaker, should sometimes be considered as instances of anticipation. The author of this paper agrees that there may in fact be instances, in which the interpreter commits to a certain sentence structure at an early stage of her interpretation and uses the original merely to verify the suitability of her interpretation.

In the broadest sense, anticipation is seen as a general ability to predict a plausible continuation of the source language speech (e.g. Gile, 1995; Chernov, 1994 and 2004), which is a crucial mechanism of simultaneous interpreting functioning on the basis of omnipresent redundancy in human discourse as well as on the basis of the interpreter's preparation for a specific event by means of studying conference documentation, gaining more knowledge about the subject area etc. It is disputable whether anticipation described in this way can be treated as strategic behaviour, as this depends on how we define an interpreting strategy (i.e. as always problem-oriented or not necessarily so).











The implementation of simultaneous translation in conditions of time pressure means higher than in other types of translation, the rate at which a message in FL is converted into a message in TL.

Deficit time is considered as a factor extreme due to the fact that there are limits to the human ability to process information per unit of time. Any processing of sensory information is associated with the passage of impulses through neurons, which requires a certain amount of time. In a unit of time, the human brain capable of processing from 25 to 100 bits of information per second. So, with an average speech rate of 120 words per minute and an average typewritten page in English of 400 words, a simultaneous interpreter will process approximately 5,000 to 20,000 bits of information per page of text; page read-tempo is 3.3 minutes, or about 200 seconds. This is gives the maximum amount of information that any person is able to process in this time.

With regard to simultaneous translation, the essence ideas of anticipation is the fact that in the process of auditory perception of speech the translator puts forward hypotheses about one or another meaning mental or verbal development or completion the author's intentions.

Anticipation of successive speech units is possible only if the speech stream consists of interdependent units, which in turn means that "the source of the message is repeated". As J. Miller points out, "... If successive units in a message are interconnected, if the probability of the appearance of any unit depends on the previous units, these relationships reduce the amount of information that one unit can carry... Contextual dependencies mean, that the source of the message is repeated... We note this fact by saying that most languages are redundant...".

The redundancy of language manifests itself at different levels. An example of redundancy at the level of phonemes: in Russian, a vowel should appear after one or two consonants. The anticipation of a Russian word like the Armenian surname Mkrtchyan is so small that it can be taken equal to zero. Redundancy also manifests itself at the level of grammatical meanings. In the text of the phrase "Since the repeating elements of any interconnected chain of events do not carry new information...", there is a phenomenon of repeated agreement of words in gender, number and case, i.e. repetition of indication of gender, number and case in a few words. In turn, the union since implies the obligatory appearance of a sentence containing a consequence.

In practice, a simultaneous interpreter deals with the redundancy of a coherent message, while the coherence is based on the unity of the topic and the communicative intention of the speaker. The higher the redundancy, the closer the connection between the communicative intention of the speaker and the unity of the topic, therefore, the greater the likelihood of using lexical units that the interpreter can predetermine according to the meaning of the speech. In a poetic work, the level of redundancy is much lower, and the amount of information per symbol is higher. Hence, there is little likelihood of an acceptable simultaneous translation of a poetic work, except in those cases where the simultaneous translator knows some of the most famous passages by heart and can quote them from memory without much difficulty. For example, at several conferences, one of the speakers liked to quote the last verse from B. Pasternak's Hamlet:

Но продуман распорядок действий, И не отвратим конец пути.











Я один, все тонет в фарисействе,

Жизнь прожить – не поле перейти.

And yet, the order of the acts has been schemed and plotted,

And nothing can avert the final curtain's fall.

I stand alone. All else is swamped by Pharisaism.

To live life to the end is not a childish task.

In this case, it was easy to predict the end of this quatrain, ending with the catchphrase "To live life to the end is not a childish task". The simultaneous interpreter who had the task of translating the passage mentioned above knew it by heart, which is far from always the case. But even in this case, the probability of forecasting is very high. With a high degree of anticipation, one can predict how the verse will end, which begins with the words "And yet, the order of the acts has been schemed and plotted".

The presence of context increases redundancy, which enables the simultaneous interpreter to anticipate with greater accuracy. "Getting into context, the Russian word form loses on average 1.6 dv. grammatical information contained in the forms of an extratextual word". He and other researchers established the causes of redundancy:

- 1) repetition in the flow of speech of certain elements;
- 2) the interdependence of the linguistic components of the message, the fact that the sequence of message components (sounds, words, phrases, sentences and meanings) is formed on the basis of certain rules, which makes them interdependent, and boils down to the fact that the source of the message is repeated. Such conclusions are also the main provisions of the theory of communication.

We studied the mechanism of anticipation, which in fact we use not only in simultaneous translation, but in all our activities. Thanks to this mechanism, the interpreter can perceive the original and translate at the same time. It is important to note that this is a multi-level and hierarchically organized mechanism. This is due to the fact that speech is an unusual sequence of homogeneous components.

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