

ANTICIPATION IN SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETING

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Over the past few decades, interpreting services have become a main section of international communication. Although there is a high request for interpreting, being able to interpret at a professional level is far from being easy. There is much discussion on the qualities an interpreter should obtain to perform to the best of their capacity – arguably, one of the most important is that of anticipation in simultaneous interpreting. Perhaps surprisingly, simultaneous interpreters do not always interpret a phrase directly after the speaker, for respecting this natural order can turn out to be impossible thanks to the grammatical structures of sentences in different languages. Due to this difficulty, interpreters sometimes have no other choice but to anticipate what the speaker is going to say, and convey that before the speaker does. While first reactions to anticipation may be skeptical – can an interpreter really predict what a speaker will say – it is actually a quite refined and quite necessary skill in order for interpreters to faithfully convey speech while maintaining the natural flow of communication.

Definition of Anticipation in Simultaneous Interpretation.

Anticipating in simultaneous interpreting simply means that interpreters say a word or a group of words before the speaker actually says them. This interpreting strategy is regularly resorted to and, when you begin thinking about it, there is nothing extraordinary about that. After all, we are able to anticipate events on an everyday basis – weather events are one (albeit controversial) example, as well as the logical steps you should follow when driving a car to avoid getting into an accident. Professional interpreters, generally familiar with the industry and content they will be interpreting beforehand, merely do it in conversation to ensure that there are no awkward pauses that make the interpreted speech seem unnatural.

Importance of Anticipation in Simultaneous Interpretation.

First of all the central goal of professional simultaneous interpreters is to summarize as accurately as possible what the speaker is saying in order to save time and prevent listeners from getting lost in the conversation. This is why anticipating can really make things easier for them.

The “Universalist Conception” of anticipation in Simultaneous interpretation First concept is known as the “universalist conception”, which is based on the research of Danica Seleskovitch and Marianne Lederer in the early 1970s and 80s. According to the “universalists”, the need for anticipation in simultaneous interpreting does not depend on the exact language pairs (as one might think it would be more common between two syntactically different languages rather than two similar ones), and in fact the verb is not the word that requires anticipation the most. To the universalists, complete knowledge of the source language is necessary and enough to be able to anticipate. They also distinguished two types of anticipation: a linguistic anticipation

and the “freewheeling interpretation”. The first is related to the passive knowledge the interpreter has of the source language. “Freewheeling interpretation” refers to a strategy used by the interpreter to verify (and correct, if necessary) their interpretation.

The “Bilateralist Conception” of anticipation in Simultaneous interpretation

On the other hand, the “bilateralist conception” partisans claim that the need for anticipation in simultaneous interpreting is a language-specific phenomenon, and that the verb does have a special status. Thus, this conception is confirmed by the experiment described above. However, this does not mean the “universalist conception” is totally wrong. In particular, its theory of the “freewheeling interpretation” is still used today.

As a result of the research carried out in this article, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- When performing simultaneous translation, the simultaneous interpreter uses a certain strategy or strategies to achieve the most complete adequacy in the process of translation and equivalence as an end result between the oral discourses. At the same time, strategies are divided into two main types: strategies related to the time factor and strategies of a static type.

- The choice of strategy depends on specific linguistic and extralinguistic factors.

- Each simultaneous interpreter may find himself in a situation where a certain segment of the text or any term turned out to be incomprehensible for various reasons. In such a case, it is possible to use a trial and error strategy, a waiting strategy, or a sign translation strategy. The choice of strategy and its change depend on the specific factors prevailing in a given situation.

- The possibility of applying anticipation strategy is due to the redundancy of speech. The higher the redundancy of a speech act, the more likely it is that the probabilistic forecasting strategy will be applied successfully.

- In anticipation, the probability of a combination of a number of words is quite high, which allows a simultaneous interpreter to give an almost one hundred percent prediction regarding the completion of the utterance structure.

By the way, simultaneous interpreting is interpreting under extreme conditions, and even when using SP strategies, the interpreter is not immune from mistakes.

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