On Obstacles and Strategies of International Medical Conference Interpreting - Take the 2nd China SMA Conference as an Example

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Abstract. There is a growing need of quality medical conference interpreters worldwide, yet conference interpreting in medical setting is bristled with difficulties for even experienced interpreters. To address these issues, this study cites the video of the 2nd China SMA (Spinal Muscular Atrophy) Conference as a corpus and makes an in-depth analysis of it under the guidance of the Interpretive Theory. Through a series of data mining on issues related to speech such as pre-post conferences situation, interpretation procedures and skills employed, the study summarizes the triple difficulties during interpretation and conveys solutions by adopting a qualitative approach. It further highlights some new strategies to train more professional interpreters based on the discussions above. The result of this study contributes to the improvement in the quality of medical interpreting, the increasing research to medical conference interpretation and eventually help meet the surging need of medical interpreters in the health care industry.

Keywords: Medical Conference Interpreting; Interpretive Theory; SMA Conference; Case Study; Coping Strategies

1. Introduction

Medical conference is burgeoning globally in the 21st century. Focusing on such vital issues as HIV-AIDS, Alzeimer's disease, autism and the global COVID-19 pandemic, medical meeting displays its own glamour in galvanizing the collaboration and consultation of international medical community. As a consequence, medical conference interpreter - the profession to facilitate multilingual communication and break down language barriers - emerges and thrives along with the time. However, despite the dire need, high-caliber medical interpreters with both excellent language proficiency as well as medical background are scare. It is so hard for many, even the professional interpreters with rich experience, to fit into this position due to the obscurity of medical terms, profundity of medical knowledge as well as a high demand of exactness and absolute objectivity in medical translation.

In the meantime, research on medical interpretation, as a branch of English for Specific Purposes (ESP), is all the rage in recent decades. When searched for statistics on the CNKI database, we have found that papers published yearly on interpretation subject had skyrocketed from 53 to 419 during the past two decades and that number spiked in 2013 and 2015, with 640 and 639 respectively. Focus on medical interpreting also saw an exponential increase, echoing with the growth in demand internationally.

This paper is practice-based and its corpus roots in a valuable medical conference interpreting video in real life scenario. Judging from the status quo, it is the current market that calls for the emergence of professional medical interpreters in the occasion of conferences, thus in turn, interpreters should gain experience from a number of first- and second-hand resources in real term and contribute to the market. Second, the problems found and strategies provided on medical

conference interpretation in this study are of instructive implications for the whole profession advancement. Considering the circumstance, the great demand for competent interpreter in medical settings is far from being matched up by the current interpretation market, and even those interpreters who are filling in the position do no perform well and cannot live up to our expectations. All the efforts made in this research are for the purpose of accentuating the improvement and training of qualified medical interpreters, to better communication among health care workers and to the greater aim of facilitating "going out" and "bringing in" policy in the field of medicine in China.

Throughout the process, two questions have been raised: 1) What are the obstacles that hinder interpreters to respond timely and precisely during medical conference? 2) How does the Interpretive Theory work in providing translation strategies in international medical conference? Thus, two hypotheses have been made accordingly: 1) The obstacles exist in both the preparation and on-site interpreting stage of medical conference, including complexities of medical terms, barriers in understanding medical concepts, frequent use of graphic expressions and so on. 2) Under the approach of the Interpretive Theory, defects of medical interpreting have been pinpointed and that countermeasures can be presented on both the practical and theoretical level, so it can be proved adaptive for guiding consecutive interpreting of medical conference.

This paper begins with a brief view on the current trend of medical conference interpreting development and the background of the interpreting project. Then, it sums up previous study on the Interpretive Theory and medical conference interpreting as well as its major principles. The highlights of the thesis fall on the crucial concepts of the Interpretive Theory and the applications of the Interpretive Theory to the process of interpretation. Then, it focuses on analysis of the difficulties of medical conference interpreting, including noise and accent, long sentence, complexity of medical terms and the barrier in rendering medical concepts and so on. In this end, some according solutions are put forward, on the basis of the author's understanding of the Interpretive Theory, as well as from the perspective of prestigious scholars in the interpretation circle in the latest 50 years.

2. Methodology

2.1 Research Methods

The topic of the dissertation is medical conference interpreting so its essence lies in how to guarantee interpreters' capacity in light of this specific realm. In this paper, the author adopted a combination of multi-methods. At first, the author transcribed the conference which is the source of data for this research, and then analyzed the case under the Interpretive Theory, trying to dig out both the diachronic and synchronic value of this case on interpretation research. In this research, the corpus of this speech, a raw medical conference interpreting material in real life, was word-for-word transformed into a script by the author and had the interpreter herself proofread to make sure its accuracy and standardization. The results gathered and the interpreter's advice in this study had all been chewed over and over by the author to ensure the qualitative analysis was controllable and fully justified.

Viewing from the actual phenomenon, the author deliberated on the consecutive interpretation process at the 2nd SMA conference as the case study and then incorporated it with the ideas of the Interpretive Theory, hence putting forward some tentative suggestions further on how to accelerate medical interpretation in China.

2.2 the Interpretive Theory

The inception of le théorie de sens (the Interpretive Theory in French) as of the 1970s marked the beginning of theoretical research on interpretation. A group of scholars in Paris worked at the forefront of theoretical studies, most of whom were practitioners devoted in interpretation and worked as part-time teachers in schools.

One of the most representative scholars and pioneer professionals was Professor Danica Seleskovitch, a French translation teacher and the first Head of the ESIT (École Supérieure

d'Interprètes et de Traducteurs–Université Sorbonne Nouvelle–Paris 3). With her rich experience in interpreting (including the years being interpreter for French president Charles de Gaulle) and interpreter training, Professor Seleskovitch shattered the predawn silence in the interpretation study with the publication of her monograph Interpreting for International Conference: Problems of Language and Communication in 1968, in which she summarized her experience and observation gained from her working experiences as an interpreter for nearly 20 years and then creatively proposed the Interpretive Theory.

From then on, ESIT has become a sparkle in the study of the Interpretive Theory, arousing the interest of a mass of translation theorists to expand its scope and gradually make it improved. These researchers became known as the Interpretive School of Translation Theory afterwards. With the publication of the book Interpréter pour Traduire co-authored by Professor Seleskovitch and Professor Lederer in 1984, the Interpretive theory is basically established and sets a huge milestone in the interpretation study. Since then, it has achieved a great deal not only on the field of interpretation but also on text translation, scientific translation and translation teaching.

2.3 Several Core Ideas of the Interpretive Theory

2.3.1 Correspondence and Equivalence

The Paris School regards translation and interpretation as communicative behaviors of language rather than communicative results. “It works not as a straightforward transcoding procedure from source language to target language, but a dynamic process from listening and understanding the sense to reformulation of meaning” [1].

To be fully aware of the pith of the Interpretive Theory, however, we have to first know the Functional Equivalence Theory put forward by Eugene A. Nida, an outstanding US linguist, translator and translation theorist. According to Nida, due to the different lexical, semantic and logical patterns as well as the various cultural backgrounds, it is almost impossible to find corresponding words in two languages and some words in Chinese have actually no correspondence in English at all. For instance, the words such as “天干”, “地支”, “阴阳”, “八卦” and so on which originate from traditional Chinese medicine are unique in Chinese culture and there is no English word available to translate them exactly. In Nida’s view, “translation or interpretation directed primarily towards equivalence of response rather than equivalence of form”. He also further perfected his theory in the 1990s, stating that there were both a minimal and maximal effectiveness on the basis of cognitive and experiential factors.

Lederer, after getting inspiration from Nida, drew a clear distinction between “correspondence” and “equivalence”. The former, she states, refers to the word-to-word match between languages which is only applicable in some cases such as figures, titles and specialized terms [1]. While different languages contain different synecdoche, in other words, one expression can be found linked to multiple references in another language, the idea of correspondence is impracticable in translation and interpretation. Instead, the latter, lays stress on the equality of overall sense from source language to target language in a text or discourse, should be the aim of translator and interpreter. That is also the benchmark for measurement of translation and interpretation quality.

2.3.2 Language Symbols and Sense

Seleskovitch upheld that interpretation was a cognitive process based on understanding of sense. Sense is “conscious” and “non-verbal”. It consists of linguistic meaning brought about by hearing and cognitive complements bonded with real intention of the speaker [2]. Under this circumstance, different arrangements of words, for the interpreter, are merely tokens of the speaker’s thoughts. What the interpreter is supposed to do is to recognize these symbols and deem them as means to eventually extract the “non-verbal sense” behind.

In order to distinguish language symbols with senses, Seleskovitch once raised a provocative question that asked people to think. She asked, a speech with 500 words and the plots of a feature film, which one do you think is easier to remember? And the answer is, the film. Despite that the

movie is longer and plot twists and turns, it is not much harder to memorize than a 500-word speech. For an individual, in general, it takes around 1 hour to bear in mind what the speaker is saying in his 500-word speech but demands only a few efforts for the hearer to instill all the plots and characters into mind. And though he could not narrate all the details after watching it for only once, he can assuredly answer all the inquiries related to it. That is to say, he has already memorized the whole film [2]. As a matter of fact, when the hearer says he can remember all the contents in the film means that he actually reads this film. After consciously getting rid of the structures and linguistic symbols of the utterances, he has remained the ideas and feelings into his mind and really seized the cognitive and affective meaning. Thus, it can be seen, the target of translation and interpretation should not be isolated words or sentences, but the "senses" loaded on languages. Therefore, the Interpretive Theory is also called sense-based theory or the Theory of Sense.

Drawing on previous study on what sense means, the Paris School also reflected critically on the concept of unit of sense, the crucial premise for finding the subject of translation and interpretation accurately. According to the Interpretive Theory, there is a "spam" mechanism existing in human' s brain, that is, human beings could follow only a small quantity of phonological inputs in a short period of time. Apart from that, generation of the unit of sense is also inseparable from the interpreter's cognitive knowledge and the speaker's main points. In practice, only by basing upon the unit of sense and subdividing the information received can the process of comprehension be facilitated and the gist of the speech be grasped.

2.3.3 Cognitive Inputs

"The comprehensive grasping of sense also depends on that there is common cognitive input shared among the speaker, hearer and interpreter. Therefore, without common cognitive complement the sense will not emerge" [3]. Consequently, the birth of sense is virtually inseparable from the accumulation of cognitive knowledge on the interpreter himself. Les complements cognitifs (cognitive complements in French) is mainly composed of "contextual knowledge" and "world knowledge". Contextual knowledge is what the interpreter hears and receives directly from decoding the interpreting material on the scene and stores in his or her short-term memory, for example, the understanding and contextual knowledge gained from participating in each interpreting practice in a certain field. It is de facto short lived, but could remain in the interpreter's mind for a relatively long period by grasping its senses [3]. World knowledge, or what we call encyclopedic knowledge, can also be divided into linguistic and non-linguistic knowledge of which the interpreter' familiarity with the theme of speech and his own experience play an essential role. It includes one's experience, feelings or thoughts towards the world and so on.

To some extent, the cognitive inputs of each individual converge into a bigger realm of all mankind knowledge. They all belong to a certain social group. Yet another way of looking at it is to say that cognitive inputs are personal in which no man's knowledge could cover entirely that on someone else's brain. There exists, however, some shared knowledge between them that makes sure senses are transmitted smoothly and accurately.

2.3.4 Langue, La parole and Discourse

Seleskovitch and Lederer believe that "there are as many levels language encompasses as there are in the the interpretation process" [3]. From the linguistic perspective, language can therefore be divided into three levels, to be specific, langue, la parole and discourse. What they want to highlight is that the distinction of these three levels has laid the root upon which further exploration on target of translation and analysis on the course of meaning producing rely, to fully investigate the procedures in interpretation.

The establishment of these concepts, though apparently has learned from Saussure about the distinction of Langue and La parole, is endowed with new meanings from the translational point of view. First, in the Interpretive Theory, langue refers to the sum of verbal components made by the rules of its lexicology and syntactic variants. In other words, langue is a group of abstract symbols, which remains objective if without the connection with the real world, for instance, the word malaria

denotes “疟疾”, victim means “受害人” and “上当的人”, fever refers to “发烧” and “狂热”. When vocabularies are at the langue level rather than in practical use term, they embody their original meaning, as those explanations we could find in the bilingual dictionary. Second, la parole is the language in use. It is primarily characterized by the limited and confined sense of words in certain “contexte verbal” (verbal context in French). Actually, it is neither the character of a language nor the lexical combination in the new context, but the carrier of meaning that is combined with some non-linguistic factors, particularly the cognitive knowledge of interpreter and audiences. In short, the sense of word in the level of discourse results from a combination of its semantic meaning and contexte cognitif (cognitive context in French).

Based on the distinction of language levels, the Paris School contended that translation can also fall into three categories, namely, word semantics, sentence and discourse. Rendering in the semantic level is mechanical and restricted to what we call word-to-word translation. In the sentence level, the meanings of words are defined by those surrounding them and their correspondences are refined quite a lot according to the verbal context. However, rendering in this level is still separated from context and real-life communication setting. At the level of discourse, translation moves up to a higher level, at which utterance could be enhanced by the combination of contextual and cognitive knowledge to generate sense.

2.4 Application of the Interpretive Theory to Interpreting

The Interpretive Theory focuses on the major issue of translation process. Contrary to the earlier procedural model which supported that translation involved a two-step process from comprehension to expression, the Paris School upheld that there was a third stage inbetween - deverbalization, the stage without which the sense cannot be given birth to and the real translation cannot be realized.

Professor Seleskovitch illustrated her idea with a triangle model in which sense could flow downward from the top to the base naturally (Fig 1). And the base represents transcoding of utterances deprived of cognitive compliments in a given context. The translation of these aims for “delivering knowledge but not for understanding”. It was also pointed out, by the Interpretive Theory, that translation is a communicative behavior in which people are involved. Seleskovitch summed them up into a triangle formula and redefined translation as a process from understanding the original discourse (comprehension) to getting rid of its linguistic form (deverbalization) to re-expressing the idea in one’s own words in another language (reformulation) [4].

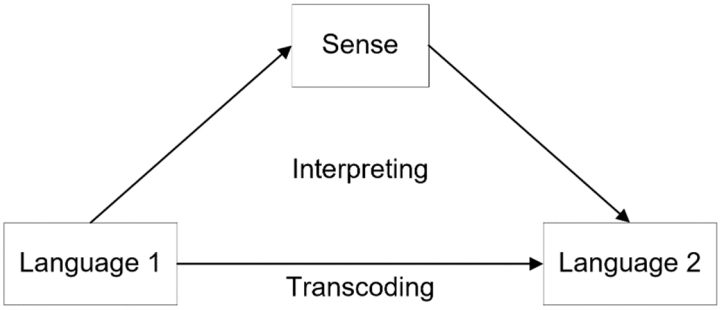


Fig. 1 Triangle Model of Interpreting

2.4.1 Comprehension

Interpretation demands first and foremost understanding. According to Seleskovitch, grasping merely the linguistic meaning of the source language is insufficient for deverbalization and reformulation. Understanding the linguistic meaning serves only as a basis, but not the aim [4]. The object in the phase of comprehension is sense, which is added with more of the interpreter’s cognitive language and encyclopedic knowledge. Only with the combination of both linguistic and non-linguistic knowledge can the intention of the speaker be entirely grasped and emotions successfully felt. This works extremely true for discourses that convey both explicit and implicit meaning.

SL: Orthopedics care, physical therapists work in strong conjunction with the orthopedics surgeons. There is nutrition grow and born. We want strong bones and we want healthy muscles to be able to do our jobs.

TL: 作为物理治疗师或者康复师，要和外科医生一起工作，要尽可能早期地做出来诊断。而且孩子也得需要营养，需要生长，我们也期望孩子有非常强壮的体格。

To realize real comprehension, there must be input from both linguistic and non-linguistic knowledge, as understanding a discourse calls for the interpreter's proficiency in languages as well as her indispensable world knowledge simultaneously. In this case, if the interpreter is not equipped with some extra cognitive knowledge about rehabilitation and physical condition of SMA patients, she might fail to understand the sentence "There is nutrition grow and born." As a matter of fact, it refers to those SMA kids for SMA is one of the biggest scourges of genetic disease for children under two years old. Most sufferers sustain muscle weakness and need ample amounts of essential nutrients. Therefore, in a bid to catch the intention of the speaker, sufficient cognitive input of the interpreter plays an indispensable role.

2.4.2 De-verbalization

"De" means away from, and "verbalization" means expressing something in words (from Merriam-Webster). De-verbalization is the most classic, unique and outstanding feature of the IT theory which bridges the phase of comprehension and reformulation to make sure interpretation is accurate and comprehensive. It is a challenge that the linguistic form of original text is deverbalized and the intention caught and emotion felt through keeping in mind its sense. Speeches on such occasions as conferences are ephemeral, and except for some memory experts like the one described by Herbert,J, nobody could remember the contents of speeches that last for several minutes long after listening to them only once, nor could people re-express them in the same language or another language simply relying on their short-time memory [5]. Whereas some comprehensive and effective re-expressions of professional consecutive interpreters are made possible if the interpreter concentrates on the sense of utterance rather than flowery and diverse expressions.

Taking a real phenomenon as a point of cut-in, Professor Seleskovitch once set out her views on the key process of de-verbalization and raised the public's attention to this essential stage. "For those monolinguals", she said, "there was no difference between 'language' and 'thought' and they often confuse them". Therefore, if someone said that these two concepts should be divided to study, they might feel extremely astounded. [6]

. In fact, people learned to show their outlooks by words since they were young. The kids who grew up abroad might still speak their native language (such as Chinese), but their mind had been westernized and though they came back to China to live afterwards, they had to undergo many bottlenecks to suit to their new life, for their verbal expression, customs and behaviors had all been dominated by the thinking manners of Western world. This is a vivid example of why "language" and "thought" can be separated and why the interpreter is always supposed to focus on the speaker's real intention no matter interpreting in Chinese or in English.

2.4.3 Reformulation

After sense comes into being and the interpreter smoothly grasps it, interpretation then enters into its final stage on which audiences depend to receive valuable messages virtually passed on by the speaker. Best of all, since comprehension and de-verbalization are all inner processes, the stage of reformulation works as the sore manifestation of the interpreter's true ability and aptitude. Reformulation, by definition, refers to the re-expressing of sense from the source language to the target language through employing its appropriate linguistic signs, and it has to meet four principles, namely, to convey the original meaning of the speaker accurately and completely; to be in accordance with the common way of expression; to speak articulately and glibly; to be accepted by the audience [7]. In addition, the quality of "reformulation" relies on not only the interpreter's expression skills and knowledge of the target language, but also on the interpreter's world knowledge of the subject [8].

3. In-depth Analysis of the 2nd SMA Conference Interpreting

3.1 Features of the 2nd SMA Conference

The 2nd China SMA conference entails the following features:

First, it is professional. During the sessions of SMA conference, experts at home and abroad working in the field of SMA were invited to this seminar, sharing cutting-edge ideas and technologies available to SMA patients and families. Concerning the contents and technical terms covered in the 2nd China SMA conference were both in-depth and highly professional, the interpreter might risk failing to catch the speaker's idea and unable to perform her task even if she had just a little bit of uncertainty or ambiguity.

Second, its audiences own differing levels of knowledge. According to Zhang Jiliang, there are three groups of listeners, ordinary listeners, professional listeners and particular audiences [9]. Attendees of the 2nd China SMA conference were mostly parents of SMA children, adult SMA patients and families who barely had or just had a little basic knowledge about physical therapy in SMA, and their English proficiency (ordinary listeners) was also quite limited. Besides, there were also some specialists in this field with a great mastery of information in this domain (professional listeners) and those distinguished guests and bilingual listeners, such as their interpreter counterparts, being present as well (particular audiences). Insomuch as the audiences come from diverse cultural backgrounds with different levels of acceptance to some extent, the interpreter is supposed to concentrate not merely on reception, comprehension and explanation but also on the reception of the target language by different levels of listeners. "It is extremely necessary to observe the audiences' responses from time to time, knowing their composition and level of intelligence beforehand, in a bid to bring about the maximum benefit and optimum efficiency to listeners" [10].

In addition, it is interactive in which interpreters can communicate with the speaker and listener directly. During the 115-minute lecture, the speaker tried to impart knowledge to the public in an easier way for them to understand and make it more interactive. She exhibited many body movements and gestures for the listeners to read and interspersed some interactive sessions with the audiences. In this process, the interpreter could ask for repetition or explanation of the speaker if the ideas could not be understood. The interpreter no longer played the role of megaphone or a robot mechanically running the input and output of the messages. Rather, it was a must for her to possess data mining capability and the ability to handle all kinds of emergencies flexibly, acting as a"turn-controller", "cultural bridge" and "gatekeeper" [11].

3.2 Analysis of Influential Factors on Difficulties during Interpreting

According to the Interpretive Theory, interpretation is a communication-oriented activity. It stands not as a linear transcoding process between two languages, but a dynamic flow of sense which includes understanding, dropping form and producing a new utterance in the target language [12]. In this process, participants include both the addresser and addressee, and definitely, the interpreter per se plays the indispensable role that could be analyzed from two perspectives as follows.

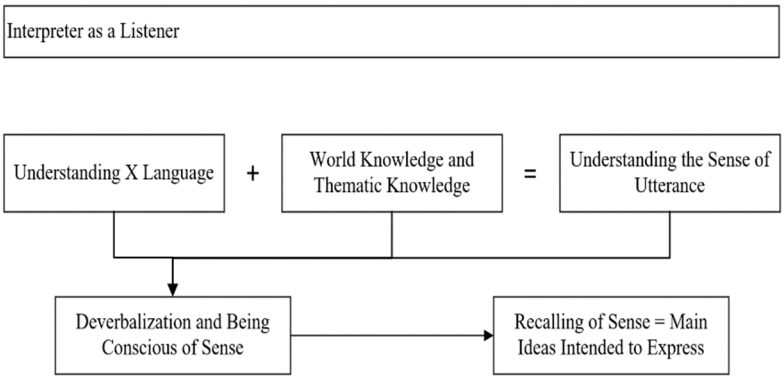


Fig. 2 Interpreter as a Listener

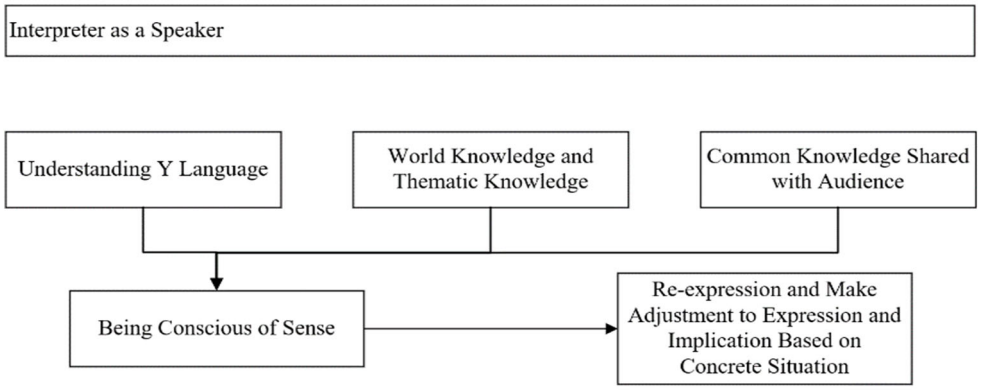


Fig. 3 Interpreter as a Speaker

3.2.1 Difficulties When Interpreter Acts as a Listener

Interpreter acts a part of not merely conveying messages but being a special hearer him/herself at the same time. What distinguishes the interpreter from the mass audiences apart, however, is that he/she should listen attentively to grasp the senses and real communicative intentions of the speaker comprehensively, and to remain aware of even the nuances of meaning.

Listening barriers due to noises and accents. Listening is always put on the top as prerequisite for either learning a foreign language or being a qualified interpreter. However, not on all the occasions that the speakers' articulation and elocution are all in perfectly condition and the setting is without noises. Unlike simultaneous interpreter who normally sits in a booth to translate and is in relatively vacuum, consecutive interpreter on stage is easier to be interfered by surroundings or other emergencies.

Barriers in understanding medical concepts. The complexity and fast updating of medical concepts may cause comprehension difficulties even to the interpreter with professional medical background. The Interpretive Theory believes interpreter should keep in mind that listening is not merely to know all the words in the discourse, but to grasp the intentions and feelings of the speaker soberly. Thus, it is imperative to catch the meaning of the subject no matter how complicated it is. The fact is that the interpreter's inadequate extra-linguistic knowledge as of the subject matter may result in misunderstanding and erroneous translation to the audience.

Barriers in understanding long sentences. To explain explicitly a concept, a flow of long-winded sentences without clear logic may be presented in front of the interpreter. They may bring about misunderstanding or distortion of original ideas if left alone. Meanwhile, medical concepts are intricate and precise that require miscellaneous clauses and determiners as their sentence framework. In this way, trivial matters are mingled with the main idea of utterances, making it more sophisticated for the interpreter to understand.

3.2.2 Difficulties When Interpreter Acts as a Speaker

Interpreter stands not merely as a hearer, but also speaks by him/ herself. At this point, he/she becomes the second to give a speech, needs to grasp the ideas from the source language and then restates them in the target language. Certainly, the key difference between the interpreter and the first speaker is that the former does not need to consider what he/she is going to say, nor need he/she to make efforts to link these ideas. All the senses and thoughts have already been "ready-made" [6].

Difficulties in Rendering Medical Terms. Each one may have run into the situation when a word or phrase was just on the tip of his/her tongue, but he/she simply could not remember it, such as some proper nouns or a bunch of cellphone numbers. Try as we did, we might still fail to recollect the exact answer in the end. Actually, this is a type of remembering mechanism targeted tophonetic structure, which is activated necessarily when conveying the matching concept [6]. During interpretation, though he/ she has already made supple preparations previously in the certain field, such as glossaries accumulation, encyclopedic and cognitive knowledge build-up, the interpreter may still risk dropping the ball at key moment.

Difficulties in Realizing Coherence Owning to Over Literal Translation. Senses are the subject of interpretation and ought to be delivered in a manner that is coherent and easier to be accepted by the general audiences. English has a very different expression type from Chinese. While English puts particular emphasis on abstract thinking, objectivity and individuality, Chinese accentuates symmetry in form and embodies the beauty in sound, form and artistic conception [13]. In essence, it is the hypotaxis-prominent and parataxis-prominent nature of English and Chinese that determines excessive literal translation is inadvisable. To overcome the habit of literal translation, the Interpretive Theory suggests that, interpretation is not a word-to-word simulation from the source language to the targeted one, instead, the goal of interpretation is to give audiences the full picture of what the speaker has addressed and his/her real intentions and emotions. In other words, the interpreter should translate senses and re-express them in his/her own words in the best way of achieving coherence.

Difficulties to Achieve Equivalence Brought About by Cultural Disparity. Realizing equivalence stands as the benchmark for measuring interpretation quality. It is not uncommon to see that some interpreters have remarkable pronunciation and a good command of grammar, but still fail to deliver the sense of two sides despite that they can switch easily from one language to another. Largely, both English and Chinese are rich in its metaphors and allusions, resulting that some same symbols may imply two totally different associations and some English terms may have no counterparts or correspondence in Chinese at all. Moreover, idioms, proverbs as well as many culture loaded expressions exist and vary in each language, which hamper the interpreter to convey the message from the sender to the receiver in a timely manner. Therefore, it is part and parcel to set up equivalence or pursue the equality of overall sense from source language to target language in a discourse.

Sensory, Long Term and Short Term Memory Impairment. Memory is a frightening challenge for a number of interpreters. The smallest unit of translation or the unit of sense lasts for around 8 words in characters and nearly 3 seconds in sound, yet it is impossible for each sense group to be restrained in this range. Many people contend that professional interpreters must have outstanding working memories different from the general public which enable them to flawlessly and seamlessly restate every detail of the original speaking. “You were word perfect” is one of the most commonly seen compliments to the interpreter’s performance [12]. As a matter of fact, plenty of interpreters also complain that poor memory is an obstacle in their daily lives and pushes them to write things down. So how on earth does memory work? Its components and mechanisms of retaining and processing information are of primary significance to realize.

3.3 Tackling of the Difficulties in Medical Conference Interpreting

Based on analysis of the features and obstacles of medical conference interpreting above, a fitting conclusion can therefore be drawn theoretically, that the Interpretive Theory has guidance function with real significance for coping with interpretation in the medical setting and for promoting the quality of interpretation within a limited time.In light of how to deal with the barriers in real medical interpretation, the author proposes the following strategies according to the triangle formula of the Paris School - comprehension, de-verbalization and reformulation - in a bid to lift interpreter’s on-the-spot performance in medical conference.

3.3.1 Chucking and Visualization Strategies during Comprehension

Chucking helps enhance short-term memory by extending the unit of sense and lengthening the span of listening. Psycholinguistics study indicates whether the output or perception of utterances during communication is both carried out in the unit of “chunking” [14]. In consecutive interpreting, it is commonly seen that a string of words being uttered by the speaker last for 3 to 5 minutes without interruption. Against that backdrop, the interpreter could also complete his/her job all at once without any assistance of taking notes. In fact, this is connected with the interpreters’ long-time training of listening in chunk to broaden their span of listening comprehension, that is, the amount of information they can intake once. Chunking takes effects in that it integrates old information into a larger sense unit and scales memory capacity. In practice, this skill can be cultivated through paying more

attention to the sentence structure and logical relationship, such as taking heed of logical connectors within complex sentence, assimilating information subject-verb-object construction.

Visual memory can also work greatly in promoting short term storage and helping comprehend the sense if combined with imagination. In practice, experienced interpreters are accustomed to using "visualization" model, likening senses in a discourse to a picture. The subject terms, key words and logic clues, which originally form the framework of senses, are envisioned as major lines in the imaginary picture, and those beginnings and endings of each paragraph reveal the different layers of image. With this picture in mind, it will be a salutary aid for the interpreter to comprehend and then keep the senses in mind. Also, the interpreter could recreate the scene described in words in the discourse into visual images, or associate another information that similar or relevant to it, hence cementing the memory for message received. For instance, when hearing a string of numbers like "122866", one could correlate it with some families' birthday or anniversary date that he/she knows to consolidate memory. And if the discourse is narrative or descriptive, it will be of more efficiency.

3.3.2 Cognitive Input and Anticipation during Deverbalization

Cognitive input comprises world knowledge and medical knowledge in medical conference interpretation. Zhong Weihe, the former headmaster of Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, pinpoints the value of world knowledge which is composed of three modules, linguistic knowledge, encyclopedic knowledge and skills, and put forward the formula: KI=KL+EK+S(P+AP), in which KI stands for Knowledge Required for an Interpreter; EK symbolizes Encyclopedic Knowledge and S(P+AP) represents Professional Interpreting Skills and Artistic Presentation Skills. It reveals the more reserves one has in his/her storehouse of world knowledge, the greater the likelihood of schematic background knowledge be activated, and thus the more accurately the interpretation would likely to be delivered.

Anticipation is a crucial part as well as a vital technique during de-verbalization. It involves a cognitive process, including information analysis, reasoning, integration and processing, in which the interpreter relies on what occasion and context the interpretation task is carried out to judge and deduce the relevant linguistic information and thematic knowledge during the discourse. Most importantly, anticipation is not a result of groundless guessing but is harvested from sound judgement and reasoning. Apart from anticipation on the linguistic level, the target could reach out to the themes, contents and purposes, etc. prior to the interpretation task begins.

In Pédagogie raisonnée de l'interprétation, Seleskovitch put forward that interpreter is able to perceive based on discourse ingredients, predict its semantic meaning according to knowledge in the target language and anticipate senses on the grounds of understanding. What the interpreter should remember are not words or sentences, but the senses of discourse instead [12]. For this reason, anticipation during the course of interpretation calls for the focus of real contents rather than superficial expressions. In specific contexts, paying more attention on logic connectors and concrete context connection as well as extra-linguistic intelligence being tied in wedlock could boost the anticipation of information to a larger scale.

3.3.3 Omission and Amplification during Reformulation

Omission plays a part in realizing coherence and eliminating the ambiguity that brought about by cultural disparities. "Interpretation underlines message under that cloak of language instead of language itself" [15]. Owning to the linguistic disparities between English and Chinese, redundancy could be induced to some degree and mechanical translation of these superfluousness may hamper ready understanding of re-expression of its target language audiences. Consequently, omission is commonly adopted by the interpreter to spare trivial matters while leaving the overall meaning unchanged. Nonetheless, it is noteworthy that medical interpretation stresses the preciseness of contents delivery, thus the approach of omission should be applied appropriately.

Concerning English to Chinese translation, Wang Zhongjia pointed out that, sometimes, literal translation in the target language is not clear or the utterance is not altogether grammatical or logical [16]. At this moment, some intangible but meaningful words should be added that helps it achieve

coherence and clearness. However, amplification of words and sentences should serve for making up the deficiency and could by no means born out of thin air, in other words, it aims to polish "expressiveness" and "elegance" on the basis of "faithfulness" [16]. To pass on messages from the source language in a better, more efficient way in medical interpretation, supplemented translation is often employed to realize equivalence and meet expectations of the hearer.

4. Suggestions for Training of Medical Interpreters Based on the Case Study

Rome was not built in a day and nor will the interpreting skills be. Medical conference interpretation is an intractable assignment, it entails years of drills for the interpreter to finally appear on the stage. Here the author put forward several ideas in an attempt to provide some new perspectives for the training of medical conference interpreter and to boost the development of the entire profession.

First, establishing a medical interpreting corpus with categorized themes. For one thing, being exposed to the vast corpus, interpreters interested in medicine could resort to these resources to gain knowledge and vocabularies in each specific branches and being very adept at one or two of them, such as oncology or psychiatry. In this regard, each medical interpreter may be particularly good at several topics of which he/she develops a keen understanding and handle more easily. For another, particularly for starters of medical interpretation, they could test their strengths and correct defects of interpreting by being immersed in these materials. In addition, rapid update and open access also stand as salient advantages of forming the corpus online, offering interpreters to retrieve the information easily and swiftly whenever they need it.

Second, promoting standardization of professional medical interpreter in China. The implementation of these strategies demands strong regulations and standardized market support. America, known as "cultural mosaic" or "salad bowl", has over 25 million citizens with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). To ensure the right that "everybody is equal to seeing a doctor", the U.S. government enacted laws mandating each state to draw up a training program for medical interpreter and to help facilitate the communication between LEP people and physicians. According to the statistics launched by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, academic, communal or bilingual training institutions and projects of medical interpreter, including Monterey International Research Institute, had reached 33 in 2006. To get the accreditation for medical interpretation, one has to pass the exam held by CCHI (Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters) or NBCMI (The National Board of Certification for Medical Interpreters), two institutions based in California, US. Similarly, European countries like Britain and Sweden, have also developed this profession fast and relatively more mature. China, with its medical interpretation has just arisen, has not yet reached the higher caliber of professionalization and standardization. Meanwhile, lack of supervision and regulation mechanism also poses as a big threat that the progress of medical interpretation is confronted with. In this respect, the author proposes that we should draw lessons from foreign advanced experience besteads us in drilling medical interpreter, standardize and regulate this profession properly combined of our national conditions.

Third, bolstering reality-based training in medical settings. Learning by reading books is different from learning from practices. In this respect, the tackling strategies mentioned above must be put into practice and then could be truly effective. Medical settings include the practitioner's office, private clinic, hospital, the patient's home as well as technical conference. Hospital and medical institutions are ideal places for medical interpreters being on probation or being an internship, which could also provide jobs for them in the context of recruitment. Being in the real-world scenarios surrounded by medical workers and foreigners who come to seek medical help, interpreters could toughen their clinical strain capacity, improve psychological quality and make "classroom knowledge" well aligned with the "field operations". Conference interpreting in medical setting is booming in recent years, offering a fund of abundant opportunities for the interpreters to gain first-hand experience or learn from their peers. Furthermore, remote interpreting is increasingly popular amongst many people wishing to look for medical treatment abroad. This form of interpreting, including both over-the-

phone interpreting and remote video interpreting, is more interactive and more expedient than the traditional on-site interpretation, thus emerges as a great alternative to hoisting the interpreting capacity.

5. Summary

The author attempts in this dissertation to discuss detailly the study material of the 2nd SMA Conference and to figure out the bottlenecks interpreters may come across in medical conference tasks. Furthermore, looking at the bigger picture, the author eventually renders some suggestions for the improvement and training of qualified medical interpreters in the long run. However, several limitations still remain. To put it first, the research is based on author's own ken. Some points of view and suggestions put forward could not cover everything and may vary from others. Apart from that, some limitations are invariable for obtaining relative study materials are extremely difficult.

In general, there is still room to improve in future studies. For one thing, the author believes that there will be more fans of medical interpretation research, thus more up to the minute materials and fresh thoughts will set in to learn it more deeply. For another, government and institutions may respond to initiate certain regulations and criterion for interpreters to entering the medical field. There will be more supporting documents and frame of work to reference.

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