

The Study Report about Interpretation Course

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Abstract: In today's world of deepening globalization, in order to realize the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and promote the common prosperity of all mankind, it is necessary to increase the intensity of Sino-foreign exchanges. Marxism believes that social existence determines social consciousness, and language is the product of human society. In the process of foreign business and cultural exchanges, interpreters build a bridge for people who speak different languages to communicate with each other. With the initial formation of the pattern of "all-round, multi-level and wide-ranging" opening to the outside world, the economic and trade exchanges and cultural exchanges between China and other countries are becoming more and more frequent, and the demand for interpreters is increasing, which greatly promotes the process of professionalization of interpretation. In view of this, the author writes the relative study report about interpretation course to tease out the development of the interpretation and point out what should be done in the practice of interpretation.

Keywords: Study Report; Interpretation.

1. The Definition and Classification of Interpretation

The interpretation is a complex communicative activity and plays an important role in international conference, commerce and court. As students majoring in translation, we are supposed to make a deep understanding about the definition and features of interpretation.

1.1. The Definition of Interpretation

Interpretation is a kind of language service which is based on verbal communication and supplemented by non-verbal communication for two or more parties who cannot communicate with each other or are basically disconnect in language and culture, mainly in the form of oral expression and for the purpose of information transmission. It is a basic communication tool for cross-cultural and inter-ethnic communication. At the same time, it is a comprehensive language activity that integrates sighting, listening, speaking, writing and reading.

1.2. The Classification of Interpretation

According to its translation form, interpretation can be divided into four main categories: consecutive interpreting, simultaneous interpreting sight interpretation and whisper interpretation.

1.2.1. Consecutive Interpreting

Consecutive interpreting, also known as ad-hoc interpretation, continuous interpretation, continuous interpretation, progressive interpretation, gradual interpretation. It refers to a translation practice in which the interpreter and other speakers use the source language to speak part or all of them, and then use the target language to re-express the information, thoughts and emotions expressed in the speaker's source language to the audience in oral form. In consecutive interpretation, the interpreter starts to speak the target language after receiving the speech from the source language, and the time between the two interpreting programs is short. Consecutive interpretation is more used in business negotiations, political meetings, life escorts and other occasions.

1.2.2. Simultaneous Interpreting

Simultaneous Interpreting refers to the practice of verbally reinterpreting the information, thoughts, and emotions expressed in the source language of the speaker using the target language at an almost simultaneous speed with that of the speaker. Simultaneous interpretation is mainly used for forums, summits and other meetings. In simultaneous interpretation, the two interpreting procedures are almost synchronized, and there is only a very short difference of a few seconds to ten seconds between the two speakers, and sometimes this difference will even disappear completely due to the successful prediction of the source language information by the interpreter.

At present, 80 to 90 percent of the world's international conferences use simultaneous interpretation. This kind of translation requires certain equipment. Usually, the speaker speaks into a microphone connected to the interpretation room. The speaker translates the speech into another language, and the participant receives the translation through the headset. If the audience is speaking multiple language speaker, it is necessary to equip each language with 1 to 2 interpreters and add interpretation rooms transmission lines, and each listener seat is equipped with a corresponding receiving device that can select different languages in order to keep everyone up with the process of the meeting.

1.2.3. Sight Interpretation

Sight interpretation refers to provide a prepared speech or document in the original language to the interpreter and let she or he translate it when she or he see it. Visual translation is also a kind of simultaneous interpretation.

1.2.4. Whisper Interpretation

whispering interpretation means that the translator do translation when hearing the content of the speech continuously. It is a way to translate quietly to the audience around you. Whisper translation also belongs to simultaneous interpretation. The difference is that simultaneous interpretation is used for international conferences, international academic conferences, while whisper translation is mostly used for group discussions, watching artistic performances and other occasions. Whisper translation is only for an audience or two.

2. The Development and Features of Interpretation

2.1. The Development of Interpretation

Both interpretation and translation have a long history. Interpretation activities arise and develop with the need of communication among all peoples. It can be traced back to the period after the gradual formation of human languages. In this sense, the history of interpretation is longer than written translation. When Columbus discovered the new land, he took a lot of Indian to Spain to learn Spanish and train them as interpreters. In some Chinese novels of Ming and Qing dynasties. Interpreters were given the formal title of “minister”. After the First World War, the demand for interpreters increased dramatically as exchanges between countries became more frequent. In 1919, For the first time, the Paris Peace Conference was negotiated with the help of English and French translators. This is an important point in the history of interpretation

At the turning point, interpretation techniques in the modern appeared officially for the first time, that is, basic skills such as memorization, note-taking and retelling of interpretation. Since then, the United States has invented a “synchronic translation” that allows translators to use headphones to hear the source language while using a microphone to transmit the target language.

2.2. The Features of Interpretation

The common point of translation and translation is to abandon the expression of language level and express the thoughts of the original speaker or author’s emotion on the basis of understanding the text. The difference between interpreters and translators is that interpreters do not allow for linguistic analysis or re-listening to speech. After listening to the speech, they need immediately grasp the meaning of the expression. If they fail to do, they will become tongue-tied so that the audience cannot understand it. In interpretation, wordy expression should be avoided and all content should be translated, but the interpreter should not comment on the content of the speech when translating, or use his own thoughts for it

In general, the characteristics of interpretation can be summarized as follows: the first is immediacy. In interpreting, interpreters need to analyze and understand the endless stream of oral information they hear in a very short period of time. It is impossible to remember by themselves. In interpreting, the interpreter must transfer the acquired linguistic information in the blink of an eye and input into their brain, after judgment and processing, they need quickly convert the information into another language, and then accurately and smoothly express them to achieve the purpose of communication and exchange. The translator must do all this independently, without reference to any documents, materials. It is impossible to seek advice from any expert or scholar.

The second is dynamic, which means that in interpreting, translators are faced with a dynamic communication environment, where they can see both the original speaker and the audience, share with them in time and space, and receive immediate feedback. The interpreters must make full use of all available factors in understanding and expressing including posture, expression, body language, etc.

The third is meaning, when interpreting, due to the urgency of time, It is not possible or necessary to translate every word and sentence of the original sentence one by one. Therefore,

the most important thing in interpretation is to express the meaning of the speaker and the effect of the words. the interpreter must respond quickly and have to firstly pay attention to the meaning of the original speaker, and almost have no time to take into account the wording of the speech so that the audience can understand it.

3. Interpretation Theory

Choosing the suitable translation theory is an important part of written translation practice. Under the guidance of right translation theory, the translators are able to achieve the translation goals and acquire the target texts which are satisfying and can win the people’s favor. Although there are also excellent translation theory in the field of interpretation, interpretation theory is inclined to analyses the interpreter’s mind process during the process of interpreting. By learning interpretation theory, people can learn about the code transformation of the brain in the short time of interpreting and can make targeted exercises before interpreting. One of the most popular interpretation theories is the Paris school.

3.1. The Introduction of the Paris School

The Paris School of Interpretation was born in France in the late 60s of the 20th centuries, and its core figures were two professors, Seleskovitch and Lederer of the. Guided by the theory of cognitive science, they have made unremitting exploration around the perception, understanding, memory, extraction and expression of meaning in the process of interpretation, and created the first systematic theory of interpretation in the international interpreting session to explain the psychological process of interpreting and guide the teaching and practice of conference interpreting. Through long-term interpreting practice, Seleskovitch has concluded that interpreting is not a process of transfiguration of linguistic symbols, but a communicative activity, a dynamic psychological process centered on the understanding and expression of meaning, which is related to the main interpretation activity. To this end, Seleskovitch has always placed translators and interpreter psychology at the center of observation and research, and through the analysis of the procedures of each stage of the interpreting process, the study of interpreting has been changed from a static analysis of language structure to a dynamic investigation of the process of meaning transmission. This bold move by Seleskovitch has enabled interpreting, this research o break away from the tradition of focusing on objects over subjects, and embarked on the research path of translator-centered research, opening a precedent for the study of the dynamic psychology of interpretation, and exerting a profound impact on contemporary international interpreting research.

3.2. The Content of the Paris School

The theory holds that translation, by its very nature, is a complex act of communicative behavior. Interpretive theory emphasizes that translation is a communicative act, and the object of translation is never language, but the meaning.

The Interpretive theory holds that interpretation is not a direct conversion from the source language to the translated language, but re-expression based on understanding. Interpreting is an interpretive process based on speech comprehension plus cognitive complement of extralinguistic knowledge.

3.3. The Interpretation Process Elaborated by the Paris School

The Interpretive Theory points out that there exist three main aspects: understanding the source language, breaking away from the shell of the source language and expressing the target language. These three main links all involve interpreters' mental processes. Each main link connects together, forming a continuous chain of work in interpretation.

3.3.1. Comprehension

Comprehension means source language understanding, which involves the interpreter's perception, discrimination and comprehensive understanding of the source language, including word meaning, the construction and organization of meaning units, and the establishment of discourse. For many beginners in consecutive interpretation, it is difficult to be able to hear clearly and understand the general content of the speaker's speech and remember it. In the process of learning, beginners may be difficult to grasp the key information. They lack of confidence and fear of missing information in the process of listening, and want to write down all the information. There is no distinction between the primary and secondary content, so in the process of listening, it is easy to ignore one of them. Therefore, practicing good personal listening ability is a necessary skill for translation translators. But for beginners, the emphasis is still on the individual's memory and the logical organization of information in a timely manner during listening. But the cultivation of good memory must be a long process, we should insist on exercise to further improve their listening ability and confidence. Beginners of alternate interpretation tend to focus on taking notes, so they should pay special attention to how to shift their attention to listening and understanding the original text.

3.3.2. Deverbalisation

The verbal input is divided into units of meaning and cognitive memory with preparatory knowledge, so that language can be removed from its linguistic form and thus transformed into meaning. In the translator's mind, the linguistic form of the source language completely disappears and is replaced by the non-linguistic meaning.

The process of translation understanding is a process of actively understanding and organizing information. In this process, the translator can actively imagine the content of the speaker in his mind when listening to the speaker, and make the heard content visual. In the process of listening, the translator may hear some unfamiliar words, at this time, the translator should not be entangled in the word, but actively listen to the whole content of the paragraph, and combine with the context to speculate and understand. If the translator is too entangled in the concept of a word, he will inevitably miss a lot of key information and destroy the normal output of the whole content. In the process of listening, the translator can also infer the next output information according to the content of the speaker's output and learn to identify the main information and secondary information output by the speaker, and in an emergency, the translator must express the main information, and can omit some secondary information.

translators should actively improve their short-term memory in daily training. In this process, monolingual retelling exercises are generally adopted. Translators write down key words during listening and then immediately use the source language to retell what they have heard in their own words according to the key words.

However, human memory is limited, and another way to

completely record what the speaker has said is to take notes. Notes in successive interpretation do not mean to record all the information heard word by word, but record key words selectively and hierarchically, and the levels and logical relations between the words. Be concise in your key words and make sure you recognize what your notes are saying. Therefore, translators often use symbols or abbreviations to take notes. The symbols used in successive interpretation are diverse, and translators can use mathematical symbols, pinyin, Chinese characters, and graphics as note symbols. Symbols used in alternate interpretation notes do not have to be recorded according to their specific meanings. Translators can set their own applicable symbols according to their own usage habits, and set specific meanings for various symbols by themselves, such as drawing a small sun to indicate that the weather is sunny or that the spokesman has a positive attitude towards the content of his speech. With an upward or downward arrow indicating the rise and fall of a certain trend or quantity, the same symbol may have two different meanings in the eyes of different translators. In continuous practice, the meaning of the symbols used by the translators is gradually fixed. In the process of listening, the translator will generally divide the white paper in two vertically, and the form of recording notes is also vertical, which will make the level of notes described clearer, and the record of notes should not be too crowded, so as to ensure the recognition of notes. In the process of listening and taking notes, the translator should not tangle with some words that he has not heard clearly or is very strange to himself. The important thing is to understand the basic level and general idea of the content of the paragraph.

3.3.3. Reproduction

Reproduction involves translation. The preparation of the target language, the internal organization of the target language and the output of the target language, including the processing of key points and the implicit key information and other important information.

Fluent pronounce is very important. Practicing oral English is the first step. Interpreters do not need to be able to understand every word, the key is to make the original meaning clear and accurate. Interpretation always wants to use some beautiful words, but it takes time.

4. Case Analysis

The chosen material is Wen JiaoBao's speech at press conference in 2005. the reasons why the interpreter choose it as original material are as follow. One is that the material belongs to leader's speech and is relatively more formal, and there will be some difficult expressions such as four-character phrases, which can test the interpreter's ability to transformation. The other reason is that the given reference translation is officially better so it is worth learning. By practising this material, the interpreter concludes some translation skills.

4.1. Interpreting Skills

4.1.1. Conversion

It tends to use nouns, with stative statements and active prepositions in English. However, Chinese tends to use more verbs, and the narration is mostly dynamic. Therefore, in the process of Chinese-English interpretation, we should try to transform verbs to nouns, prepositions or adjectives in English sentences, and do not necessarily copy

the sentence patterns of the original.

Example 1

ST: 大会顺利结束了, 但是我们面前的路是不平坦的, 要保持头脑的冷静, 形势稍好, 尤需兢慎, 居安思危, 思则有备, 有备无患。

TT: Now the session of the NPC is over, yet the road ahead could be rather bumpy. We must be mindful of potential peril and get fully prepared for the worst. We must be sober-minded, cautious, and prudent, especially when the situation is getting a little better.

Analysis: In this example, the leader used several four-character phrases to express we should have awareness of crisis. There are many verbs in the four-character phrases such as “兢慎” “居” “思” “有” “无”. If the interpreter tries to explain every phrase according to its Chinese meaning, the sentence will be so long that make people lose the key point of the leader's speech. In order to make the sentence conciser, the interpreter transforms these verbs into adjective.

4.1.2. Division

The division mainly refers to divide one sentence into two parts especially in simultaneous interpretation. In this way, the interpreter can reduce the burden of memory, and appropriate sentence segmentation can greatly improve the quality and speed of interpretation. There is another form of division in Chinese translation, which is to translate one sentence from the original text into two or more sentences. Because Chinese people are accustomed to holistic thinking, there are a large number of small clauses in Chinese. Therefore, when interpreting, long Chinese sentences need to be broken into a few sentences to translate, so that the meaning is clear, the structure is crisp, and the expression is in line with English habits.

Example 2

ST: 我们这个国家太大, 问题太多、太复杂, 这就要求我们这个民族不畏艰险、百折不挠、坚定信心、永远奋斗。

TT: Our country is so big, and problems so numerous and complex. That we, as a nation, must have a courage to overcome difficulties, confidence to win and a dauntless spirit to work hard and persist.

Analysis: the original text is one sentence. But the content encompasses two part, the country's situation and that the country should do. In order to make listeners easier accept the information, the interpreter choose to divide this sentence into two parts.

4.1.3. Adjustment of Word Order

There are great differences in word order between English and Chinese. Generally speaking, the attributive in Chinese is relatively fixed, usually before the modifier; The position of English attributive is more flexible, both pre and post can be placed. When interpreting, we should try our best to adopt expressions that conform to the English way of thinking, so as to reduce the pressure on the interpreter's short-term memory.

When dealing with the translation of attributive clauses in Chinese, we should focus on the internal connection in the meaning of the sentence when we hear the attributive clause. In order to make the translation smooth, we can properly break the sentence and rely on the meaning connection of the context.

Example 3

ST: 我愿意借此机会回答记者们的提问。我是用心来

回答大家的提问, 因此, 我不紧张, 也不害怕。

TT: Today I'm here at this press conference ready to answer your questions. I'm neither nervous nor afraid for I'll speak from my heart.

Analysis: in the original text, there is cause and effect. In English, it is inclined to put the important information before. So, the interpreter chooses interpret the effect first.

4.1.4. Clarify the Deep Logic

Chinese is a paratactic language, emphasizing the overall impression, everything is self-evident, however, English emphasize the logical order. Chinese emphasizes vagueness, just like Chinese painting or Chinese medicine pathology, which lacks explicit logic and accuracy. When interpreting, it is necessary to carefully understand the logical relationship between the lines of the speaker and express it with the help of English relational structures.

Example 4

ST: 第二, 在我们的面前遇到一系列“两难”的问题。经济发展慢了不行, 那样就业压力就会更大, 财政收入会减少, 许多应该办的各项事业缺乏资金。快了也不行, 经济生活长期处于紧张阶段, 难以为继。

TT: Secondly, we are facing a series of dilemmas in our economy. For example, a slow economic growth rate won't do because it would make it more difficult for us to create jobs, increase revenue, and engage in necessary undertakings for society. Yet too fast a growth rate won't do either, because if the economy is overstretched for a long time, it's in an unsustainable situation.

Analysis: this paraphrase describes the economic problems Chinese are faced with. There are two situations, one is the development of economy is too fast and the other is too slow, and the leader explain the reasons why they will cause bad effect. So, in the original text, there exist logical relation. English is hypotactic language which refers to make the logical relation of the sentence clear by using conjunction, so the interpreter adds the “because” and “yet” to let listener understand the meanings easily.

5. Conclusion

Interpretation plays a very important role in interlingual and intercultural communication. With China's opening to the outside world and its entry into WTO, the demand for interpreters has increased dramatically. However, interpreting is by no means an easy job. For interpreter, good bilingual expression ability and rich and diverse knowledge reserve are essential. These emergency changes not only test the translator's adaptability and work mentality, but also warn translators to be alert to the occurrence of emergency changes when they are on the scene, and must be vigil. Of course, translators should not be too nervous in this process, and translators should find out their personal mentality in various practical activities and learn to adjust themselves. In addition to solid and stable basic skills, translators also need to cultivate a good attitude. Since they have taken on the corresponding work, they must have the confidence and determination to do a good job, and fully prepared with a responsible attitude. Translators should develop the habit of active study and strive to expand their professional knowledge in various fields to be an effective role to bridge the linguistic and cultural gap. All in all, interpretation is an endless study process.

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