



CONSECUTIVE INTERPRETATION AS A TYPE OF ORAL TRANSLATION

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Abstract

This paper analyzes consecutive interpretation as a type of oral translation in order to identify its basic and unique features to create methodological basis of training consecutive interpreters at universities. It compares consecutive interpretation with other types of interpretation and defines its identical and unique peculiarities.

Keywords: consecutive interpretation, simultaneous interpretation, one-sided, two-sided consecutive interpretation, translation records, note-taking.

Абстракт

В данной статье анализируется последовательный перевод как вид устного перевода с целью выявления его основных и уникальных особенностей для создания методологической основы подготовки последовательных переводчиков в университетах. В нем сравнивается последовательный перевод с другими видами устного перевода и определяются его идентичные и уникальные особенности.

Ключевые слова: последовательный перевод, синхронный перевод, односторонний, двусторонний последовательный перевод, переводческой записи.

Introduction

Solving the problem of developing a methodological concept that ensures effective training in interpreting requires referring to a taxonomic description of the types of interpreting, analyzing consecutive interpretation as a type of oral translation and its unique peculiarities.

Translation is the transformation of a message in the source language into a message in the target language. By definition, an accurate translation is impossible due to the fact that different languages differ both in grammatical structure and in the simple number of words, not to mention the difference in cultures, which can also have an impact on the process and results of translation. In the case of interpretation, the original and the translation act in the process of translation in an unwritten (oral)





form, which determines the one-time perception of the original segments by the translator and the impossibility of subsequent comparison or correction of the translation after its voicing. Interpretation can be performed sequentially - after the speaker delivers his speech or some part of it - or synchronously, that is, simultaneously with the speaker's speech. A special type of interpretation is the translation of a conversation or two-way translation, when the translator alternately uses each of the languages as the translation language. There are also mixed types of translation: oral translation of a written text ("translation from a sheet") and written translation of a tape recording of an oral speech.

The type of interpretation in which speech is translated sequentially, i.e. when the translator perceives a certain segment of speech and reproduces it in translation after the shortest possible time, is called consecutive interpretation. It is conducted fragmentally, and the translator, as it were, replaces the speaker, speaking for him and finding himself in the center of the audience's attention.

In consecutive interpretation, perception, analysis, synthesis, and even partial translation (to oneself) occur simultaneously with recording, which causes additional difficulties in mastering cursive writing techniques at the initial stage, when consciousness seems to be bifurcated in the need to simultaneously listen and record. It should be noted that the texts translated consecutively are the information of oral, momentary communication, which is reflected at all levels of the language such as phonetic, morphological, syntactic and, of course, stylistic.

In connection with the indicated contradictions in previous works in translation studies introduces a clarification that interpretation includes all types of professional translation based on verbal sound or gesture transmission of the original message in oral or written form from one language to another.

Theoretical Basis

Consecutive interpretation is a type of interpretation in which "the translator perceives a piece of speech and after some time (as short as possible) reproduces it in translation. It is conducted fragmentally, and the translator seems to replace the speaker, speaking for him and finding himself in the center of attention" (Chuzhakin 2007: 20). According to T.S.Serova, "consecutive interpretation is an intermediary speech activity performed with the participation of at least three subjects and includes several types and forms of speech activity, namely: listening, thinking, writing, reading a record and speaking" (Serova 2005: 103). Consecutive interpretation usually involves interaction with a specific user, providing the translator with the possibility of feedback (however, it is worth noting that its implementation is highly





undesirable) with the speaker or listener in case of problems. For this reason, in the consecutive interpretation mode, not only the verbal, but also the nonverbal components of interpretation are evaluated (Alikina 2010: 35, Miram 1999: 102). Consecutive interpretation requires not only excellent knowledge of the language and possession of translation skills, but also psychological stability, since the interpreter is in the center of attention. In fact, more people in the audience are looking at the translator and waiting for his "speech". When an interpreter is on stage, he may feel very nervous, because he has to perform his role without the opportunity to rehearse it or prepare mentally (Cheng 1994: 11). To analyze the mechanisms of consecutive interpretation, first of all it is necessary to determine the object of the translator's attention. During the perception of the utterance, the content of this message will act as the central object of attention. Nonverbal behavior, materials and the surrounding environment can also act as objects of attention at certain moments (Serova 2001: 134). Recordings help to concentrate on important points, as they are an object in the process of fixing information and decoding it (Seleskovith 1975: 87). If necessary, the interpreter can quickly switch attention from the main aspects to the secondary ones, making them dominant at the exact time (Zimnaya, Ermolovich 1981: 62). Consecutive interpretation exerts a greater load on memory than simultaneous interpretation, while providing the opportunity for a more thoughtful analysis of the meaning of what was said (Chuzhakin 2007: 21, Alikina 2010: 35). The authors believe that the speaker pauses in speech after a certain period of time, but in a real situation, continuous segments of speech are not actually limited, therefore, it is often impossible to do without using a special translation record, or quick notes, in such cases. Researchers define translation notes as a system of auxiliary means, external memory stimuli that help to translate, traces or skeleton of the utterance, emphasizing that the record itself is not a means, but acts only as a translator's tool. On the one hand, the use of notes contributes to faster and better extraction of perceived information and its transmission in accordance with the norms of the target language. On the other hand, the note-taking is a reflection of which elements the translator chose for writing, on which points his attention was focused and how he subsequently processed them. This fact may be of great interest and benefit for post-translational analysis in order to identify both mistakes and successful strategies (Kraevskaya 1981:75, Minyarbeloruchev 1976: 120, Sachava 2011:5). Note-taking for translation is based on the principle of non-linguistic fixation of information and its semantic analysis (Sachava 2011: 7-8). Semantic analysis is the first step in consecutive interpretation. Taking notes is based on the principles of economy of symbols, clarity and universality. Nevertheless, despite the fact that over time a certain system of





symbols has been developed to replace individual words and speech turns, each translator can use symbols that he invented himself, depending on what associative connections they cause (Minyar-Beloruchev 1999: 109-112, Minyar-Beloruchev 2005: 7). The principle of economy is one of the key principles for consecutive interpretation using notes, since the more time is saved, the more space the interpreter's brain has to work: for better understanding of speech, its digestion and subsequent reproduction (Cheng 1994: 13-14). For this reason, the use of writing should be limited to the type of information that is difficult to remember and extract from memory, which includes structural aspects of the text, characteristic details (facts, figures, names) and some nuances (Ilg, Lambert 1996: 78). As already mentioned above, notes in consecutive interpretation are the embodiment of the "skeleton" of speech. The original speech represents a group of ideas arranged in a certain order, and not an arbitrary confusion of unrelated thoughts. At least in the speaker's head, the ideas that make up the speech are related to each other logically, chronologically, or by degree of importance. These relations and structures used to express ideas are limited in number and are periodically repeated in all types of speeches, therefore, having learned to recognize them, the translator acquires the skill of a quick and effective way to fix them. In this regard, translation records become the visual embodiment of the translation analysis of the original speech (Gillies 2005: 8). Some researchers note that despite the importance of using translation notes, this process should be optimized (Alexieva 1994: 199). On the one hand, even those with excellent memory cannot remember absolutely everything that is said at lectures, seminars, press conferences, especially when it comes to names, dates and numbers (Mahmoodzadeh 1992: 235). On the other hand, it is noted that less use of records helps to train memory, facilitates the memorization of precision information (Gile 1990: 81). If we talk about the advantages and disadvantages of consecutive interpretation, the researchers attribute to the first a higher degree of accuracy compared to simultaneous interpretation (which, however, is the difficulty of restoring the original statement from memory), direct contact with the speaker and the audience and the opportunity for the speaker to relax and mentally tune in to further speech during pauses for interpretation. Among the disadvantages of consecutive interpretation, its duration is usually noted and there is a probability of making serious mistakes when increasing the intervals between the original and the translation (Visson 2007: 12-13). Nevertheless, during many diplomatic meetings, it is consecutive interpretation that is used, since, on the one hand, it gives participants more time to think about the issues under discussion, and, on the other, allows the translator to delve deeper into the essence of the matter and, if necessary, smooth out the corners. Thus, the presence





of an interpreter establishes contacts between people (Kučerova 1990: 37). So, the specific features of consecutive interpretation include the translator's greater involvement in contact with the audience and the speaker, which leads to the need to control not only the verbal, but also the non-verbal component of the entire process.

Discussion

The concept of oral translation, interpretation, includes such types of professional translation that involve verbal (sound or gesture) transmission of an oral message from one language to another. The types of interpretation are considered as the allocation of which can be carried out for different reasons. Depending on the scope of application, a number of researchers distinguish communal and conference interpretation. Conference interpretation is the translation of public speeches at major international meetings using two or more languages. Communal translation is commonly understood as providing interlanguage/intercultural mediation in judicial, medical, administrative institutions, i.e. it is a type of cultural translation assistance to persons living in the country but not speaking its language (immigrants, refugees, etc.). Intermediate forms are:

- translation-support – interlanguage/intercultural mediation in everyday situations foreign trips;
- media translation – translation in mass media (press conferences, interviews, TV and radio broadcasts, video conferences, films);
- telephone translation – translation of telephone conversations;
- translation of negotiations – interlanguage/intercultural mediation in the business sphere.

Based on the directions, the translation can be:

- one-sided, i.e. carried out in one direction when translating monologue public speeches;
- two-sided, which involves switching from one language to another when translating dialogical statements and discussions.

Interpretation can be carried out without any technical means and with the use of technology (for example, simultaneous interpretation in the cockpit). Modern types of interpretation with the use of technology are tele-translation (translation of video conferences, in which the translator is in direct contact with speakers, but not with listeners) and telephone translation (translation of teleconferences or telephone conversations, in which the translator may be either in direct contact with one of the interlocutors, or not have direct contact with anyone of them). According to the time of correlation with the original message, there are:





- simultaneous interpretation performed simultaneously with listening to the original message;
- consecutive interpretation performed after listening to a fragment of the original message.

Simultaneous interpretation in the form of implementation is divided into the following types: actually simultaneous interpretation, in which the translator sits in the special booth, perceives the speaker's speech through headphones and pronounces the translation into the microphone; - translation from a sheet, carried out simultaneously with reading aloud the text; - "whispering", which provides that the translator synchronously translates into the ear of the client; - translation into sign language, during which the translator transmits a message in visual-gestural form (for deaf recipients); - simultaneous interpretation of the film text, involving the translation of the characters' replicas based on the editing sheets and the visual series. The forms of consecutive interpretation are: - proper-consecutive interpretation with recording, which involves recording at the time of listening to the original message and generating a translation based on this recording after the end of a large fragment of speech; - paragraph-phrase translation, carried out without recording small fragments of speech during the speaker's pauses.

The analysis of sources shows that both in the domestic translation discourse and in the foreign one, there is a heterogeneity of taxonomic categories of oral translation. This fact, in our opinion, is associated with the ambiguous use of the categories type, species, subspecies, form, method, mode, modality, type, form, field and with the unfounded hyperhyponymic relationships between them.

According to Minyar-Beloruhev R.K., consecutive translation is called interpretation by ear with notes as a professional kind of translation activity.

Conclusion

Consecutive interpretation, as mentioned above, can be one-sided or two-sided, with or without recording, complete and abbreviated. If it is moved on to a more detailed consideration of consecutive interpretation. Most often, consecutive interpretation is understood as a professional type of translation activity involving oral translation by ear with recordings. In relation to consecutive interpretation, the chain of translator's actions can be represented as follows: the translator translates the message being listened to, makes notes at the time of its utterance and generates a message in the target language based on the notes. At the same time, the internal motive of the interpreter is the analysis, understanding and memorization of information, and the external motive is the generation of a message in the target language. The specificity





of consecutive interpretation is primarily determined by the general differences between interpretation and written translation. These differences are widely covered in the works of both domestic and foreign researchers. Before considering the differences between consecutive and simultaneous interpretations, let's focus on the most significant differences between interpretation and written translation. One of them is the difference in the types of perception (for interpretation – auditory, for written – visual). It should be assumed that the built-in procedural nature of interpretation is also indicative, suggesting the activity of mental mechanisms and the passivity of these mechanisms during the implementation of translation. In this regard, the requirements for the quality of interpreters and translators also differ. Thus, according to the Western model of translator training, interpretation and translation are considered as different types of activities. According to Western translators, the profession of a translator presupposes a highly developed sense of language, skillful handling of stylistic nuances, excellent knowledge of the features and expressive means of the source language and the target language. An interpreter must have the ability to concentrate attention, listen attentively, diction and excellent memory. Naturally, both written and oral types of translation are inextricably linked with mental activity. However, when performing a written translation, the translator's consciousness works in a less stressful mode, since he has enough time available to find the right equivalent of the translation.

If compare consecutive interpretation is compared with simultaneous interpretation. Simultaneous interpretation is carried out simultaneously with the auditory perception of the message and involves the work of an interpreter using special technical installations. Simultaneous interpretation from the sheet is carried out simultaneously with the visual perception of the source text. Consecutive interpretation also implies the simultaneous performance of certain actions: listening and writing, reading the translation record and speaking. As we can see, all types of interpretation have a common feature – a temporary combination of speech-thinking actions performed. Simultaneous perception (listening, reading) and mental activity of the translator, a small amount of time for reflection, retention of a different amount of information in memory, the need for high concentration and distribution of attention, stressful conditions indicate the intensity of the involvement of mental mechanisms. The distinctive features of simultaneous interpretation and consecutive interpretation are the greater separation in time between the perception of the text in the source language and the generation of the message in the target language, the need to retain information in RAM during consecutive interpretation and the intensive





involvement of short-term memory during simultaneous interpretation, the need to use translation recording.

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