

Problems that Arise in the Process of Simultaneous Translation

*Kamolov Dilshod Husniddin ugli*¹

Annotation: In the post-war years, the demand for simultaneous interpreters by international organizations and private conferences grew rapidly. In 1948, the first school for training professional synchronists was opened in Geneva, and in 1962 at the Moscow Institute. M. Torez, courses were organized to train special translators for the UN. Currently, not only government agencies or organizers of teleconferences and conferences, but also managers of companies involved in computers, satellite communications and many other types of global communication need the services of qualified simultaneous interpreters.

Keywords: Modern international conferences cannot be imagined without simultaneous translation into several languages.

This is true for our country and for many forums in the West, especially the UN, where six languages are official. These are English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic, and they are called booths or "stands" (from the English "stand") in equal numbers. The booths are staffed by native speakers of all languages, with the exception of the rare "bilinguals". For example, an "English booth" - and the name of the booth is determined by the language in which its translators work - ensures that the session is repeated in English, "Chinese booth" in Chinese, and so on.

Basically, six booths should work in meetings, but the first four of them, namely: English, French, Russian and Spanish, work only in PJ. Chinese from English to their mother tongue and beyond, and Arabs from English to French and vice versa. This is definitely a two-way load, as a result of which the Chinese and Arabic translators work in threes, while the rest of the cabins sit in twos. At the English booth, one translator (called a russisant) translates from Russian and French into English, and another from Spanish into the same language from Spanish and French. At the French stand, respectively, the Russiant translates French from Russian and English, and the Hispanist translates from Spanish and English into the same language.

In such a system - and it works in many large international organizations - each translator works for thirty minutes, and then it is the turn of his colleague. As a result, if the speaker speaks Russian and there is no Russian expert at the English booth, his Spanish colleague listens to the translation from Russian to French from the next booth, and then translates from French to English.

Interpreters often coordinate their work so that both do not leave the booth at the same time. Triple translation often happens at meetings - for example, a text in Russian is translated into French, from French into English, and then into Chinese. This three-phase transmission takes place in a few seconds. If the conference hall has only two working languages, for example, Russian and English, then only two booths will be created. And if interpreters translate "both ways", they sometimes sit in the same booth.

Synchronists listen to the sound of speakers through headphones. Many prefer to wear only one earpiece for better control of their sound and interpretation. A simultaneous interpreter must learn to pay attention to the speaker's speech and listen to his own translation at the same time. The interpreter himself turns on and off his microphone, which allows him to consult or chat with his colleague during work. However, the microphone in the booth should not amplify the interpreter's voice, otherwise the loudness of his own voice may drown out the voice of the speaker.

¹ 2nd year Master's student, Navoi State Pedagogical Institute, foreign language and literature specialist



With such high voltage, the synchronous translator needs working conditions that contribute to its efficiency. It is very important that the air temperature in the booth is well regulated, because heat and cold can fether the translator's energy and distract him from his work.

But the most important thing is to have all the necessary written materials for the upcoming meeting at hand. This primarily includes an agenda, a list of speakers' names and positions, a list of specific abbreviations used by experts in the field being discussed, and other documents that are printed in all working languages and distributed to translators. advance to develop special terms.

Correction of mistakes made by the translator during work is done by stenographers (literally English reporters), who keep records of the most important meetings in large international organizations. If the interpreter knows that he has made a mistake, he informs the stenographer about it after giving the speech, indicating where in the recorded speech and what corrections should be made.

Perhaps the most difficult role falls to the translator when he has to deal with obscure or extremely fast sources of the target language. These are, in particular, video and slide reviews, which are increasingly used as visual aids at international conferences today. In order to work flawlessly at such a pace, the interpreter should ask to watch the video or receive the text of the script before the meeting.

In addition to general rules of discipline and behavior in institutions where interpreters work, booths have their own ethical standards. For example, simultaneous interpreters spend most of their working time in headphones, through which it is very difficult to hear the voice of the interpreter (including the colleagues in the booth). Therefore, if you need to immediately inform the working translator about something - a term or other information - it is better to write him a note and not distract his attention; otherwise, he is forced to remove his headphones or close the microphone, which is complete with a missing part of the performance. Even if the interpreter is temporarily not working, he should still carefully monitor the progress of the meeting.

And yet, the rules of behavior on the stand, as well as the problems of using written texts, are only ethical and technical details of the translator's work. However, there are such problems in his work that the synchronists themselves prefer not to think about it, so as not to become uncertain and confused in their actions. This applies primarily to their incredibly versatile role. In fact, only a simultaneous interpreter knows how to hear, understand, remember the phrase he heard, expand or compress it if necessary, change its syntax, and at the same time breathe as quietly and calmly as possible, speak evenly and fluently.

The ability to always be in shape, to react to each translated phrase in a moment, to juggle concepts and thoughts at the same time is the essence of the job of a simultaneous translator. As one professional in the field wrote, "there is no room for slow-thinking or 'verbally dumb' among translators."

Psychologically, the working conditions of a simultaneous interpreter are very difficult. Since any speaker is ultimately addressing the audience and not the interpreter, the simultaneous interpreter must fulfill the dual role of receiver and sender of information and do both at the same time.

Attitudes towards simultaneous interpreters correspond to the general American idea that translation is a mechanical activity and that anyone who has memorized a few hundred words can become a simultaneous interpreter. This illusion is especially strong during intercontinental video conferences, where the interpreter is completely impersonal, since he is several thousand kilometers away from the scene.

The feeling of isolation puts pressure on the translator's psyche, regardless of his mentality. And this despite the fact that a colleague is sitting next to him and both are members of a team where people help each other. But when the translation begins, the simultaneous interpreter goes one-on-one with the audience. "He can rely only on himself, on his intellectual resources, on his knowledge, on his strength. He works alone. The more listeners he has, the more he can feel isolated."



Another psychological pressure affects the translator, because everyone in his field of activity is rewarded only for mistakes. In the process of delicate negotiations, there have been cases when a translator has gained unfortunate world fame as a result of one mistake or lack of control.

They say that to translate is first of all to understand. And to understand and translate - you need talent, knowledge and special training. He must have excellent long-term and short-term memory, ability to concentrate, endurance, intuition, ability to improvise, understand the tone and nuances of speech and adapt to the style of the speaker.

Much of the work on simultaneous translation has studied simultaneous translation from the perspective of information processing theory. Accordingly, the process of simultaneous translation can be divided into several small tasks. Their implementation depends on the allocation of resources at the simultaneous interpreter's attention, as well as linguistic factors capable of complicating or simplifying the tasks set before the simultaneous interpreter. For example, the order of words in sentences with the last verb in the original language complicates the task of simultaneous translation of the discourse. The interpretive theory of translation is based on a deterministic view of simultaneous translation as a whole, that is, the process of conveying meaning.

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