INTERPRETING

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What is Interpreting?

- It is transferring the meaning from a language (Source Language) to another (Target Language).
- A verbal translation but with a difference.
- "…interpreting from and into two different languages between two or more people who are physically present in an institutional or workplace setting. This form of face-to-face interpreting may be used in many settings (for business delegates, tourists, foreign students,…)" (Rudvin and Tomassini, 12)

Types of Interpreting

- On-Sight
- Simultaneous
- Consecutive
- Bilateral

On-Sight

- An interpreter is given a written document in one language and asked to read it out loud in another language.

- It involves reading comprehension, scanning for main ideas, fast reading, analysis of language, vocabulary enrichment and comprehension verification through paraphrasing.

Simultaneous

- Most effective for large meetings and conferences.
- Requires specialized equipment: all contributions are relayed by microphone to the team of interpreters working from soundproof booths within the room – their interpretation is then transmitted back to the delegates through individual headsets.
- It is recommended for large meetings, especially those with more than two languages.

Consecutive

- Most efficient at meetings and presentations with a small audience.
- Samples of situations when consecutive interpreting is used are question and answer sessions, presentations, press conferences, speeches, court hearings, conference calls and interviews.

Bilateral

- This type of interpreting is often used for interpreting in the community, at the request of doctors, lawyers, hospitals, social services and schools.
- It can also be used over the phone for telephone interpreting.
- The interpreters are required to interpret for one or two delegates in a variety of settings ranging from business and diplomatic gatherings to factory visits.
- The Interpreter does not work in a booth

General Skills Needed

- Knowledge of the general subject and technical field of the material to be interpreted
- Intimate familiarity with both cultures
- Solid general education and extensive vocabulary in both languages
- Ability to express thoughts clearly and concisely in both languages
- Excellent note-taking techniques

The Interpreter's Code of Ethics: Role & Tasks

1. Knowledge of Language and Culture:

- <u>Language:</u>

  - Comprehension

  - Field-specific knowledge (institutional terminology, e.g. health, legal, business.)

  - Ability to produce meaningful speech in L1 & L2

  - Ability to be as accurate as possible

- <u>Culture:</u>

  - Cross-cultural awareness: such as norms, traditions, customs, taboos

  - Familiarity with dialects and accents as much as possible

2. Attitude:

- *Impartiality*: “Although in theory most practitioners and researchers would agree that interpreters should never become ‘involved’ in interpreting process, this may be difficult in practice. Nevertheless, we believe that the important issue here is that any emotional or other involvement should not overtly influence the interpreting process-to the degree that this is humanly possible.” (Rudvin and Tomassini, 38)

- *Bonding*: “Bonding between parties is a natural process, especially when the client and interpreter come from the same ethnic group […] However, bonding should never be allowed to interfere overtly in the communication process, as it may interfere in the interpretation and may jeopardise impartiality, putting even more psychological pressure on the interpreter or the other parties.” (Rudvin and Tomassini, 39-40)

- *Strong nerves*: “emotional and psychological stress, conflict, emotion, anger, fear are all issues an interpreter may have to cope with.” (Rudvin and Tomassini, 40)

3. Conduct:

- *Asking the interpreter for advice*: "When this happens, the interpreter may provide or restate information that will assist the client in making his or her own decision, but should not give her own opinion with the aim of influencing the client." (40)

- *Confidentiality*

Bibliography

Rudvin, Mette, and Elena Tomassini. *Interpreting in the Community and Workplace: A Practical Teaching Guide*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011. Print.

Gillies, Andrew. Notetaking for Consecutive Interpreting: A Short Course (Translation Practices Explained). Print.