International Journal of Engineering & Technology, 7 (4.8) (2018) 755-758

International Journal of Engineering & Technology

Website:www.sciencepubco.com/index.php/IJET

Research paper



Training English Conference Interpreters Peculiarities at Higher Educational Establishments in Ukraine

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Abstract

The article describes topical problems of the present-day situation with conference interpretation in Ukraine (working conditions and the time pattern, difficulties caused by the imperfect organizing and management of conferences, inadequate equipment, and specific difficulties of simultaneous interpretation) and considers certain aspects of oral simultaneous translation training at higher educational establishments of Ukraine. The article also investigates developing interpreting skills at the examples of modern English economic terminology with regard to the main functions of compound noun economic terms in modern English scientific-economic texts. Special training exercises and techniques are suggested to be applied in the teaching process.

Keywords: *appropriate equivalents, conference interpretation, inevitable lagging, synchronous interpretation systems, training exercises.*

1. Introduction

Simultaneous translation has always been and remains one of the most complicated types of translation activity. This is particularly true for translations at highly specialized conferences on the problems of separate science and technology branches.

Constant progress in the world economic sphere including markets globalization, innovation technologies implementation, and intense business development, which can be observed during the recent years, results in the widening of economic concept framework, leading to enrichment of English economic terminological system, and consequently to complicating interpreting. All mentioned above provokes huge linguists' interest to terminology.

Economic terminology occupies a special place among other terminologies due to specificity of the human activity sphere it supplies. English is also the language of the country, which was the first to form economic notions, and where the very science of economics got the language expression.

In terms of the rapid science and technology development, mass computerization and emergence of the latest information technologies, development of students' foreign-language professional communication skills is becoming crucially important. The need for specialists who besides their main specialty have special professional terminology, are able to process information from foreign sources is one of the requirements of modern employers. Mastering English as a language of international communication at a professional level, ability to provide adequate translation and interpreting. That is why special attention should be paid to training and correct application of skills and abilities of making translational transformations constitute a significant component of a translator's competence.

2. Problem Search

Despite the availability of plentiful scientific materials relating to the problem of future specialists in English-Ukrainian translating professional training, teaching interpreting in the field of various industries remains insufficiently studied. In this paper we suggest sharing practical experience in teaching interpreting, which considerably contributes to achieving visible results in future specialists professional training.

All mentioned above determines the aim of the current investigation that is defining the skills and abilities necessary for mastering professional translator's competences by future specialists in interpreting as well as analysis of methods for translating various grammatical forms and constructions.

At the Faculty of Humanities of the Poltava National Technical Yuri Kondratyuk University, oral and written translators are trained for further working in industry. It implies the necessity of mastering terminology, general technical, economical, chemical and legal terms, which is equally important for experts in both written and oral translation. And whereas a translator has a certain time allowance to perform an adequate translation of the text, including search for one or another necessary term, a consecutive interpretation expert, and moreover a conference interpreter, does not possess any of that time. Besides, a translator usually has an opportunity to review the entire context of the original and choose the appropriate equivalents of this or that language structure.

In the case of simultaneous translation, the interpreter only receives, as a rule, a few words entered, since a synchronist cannot wait for a longer segment of the text to enter: it will lead to an inevitable lagging. Usually a synchronist waits for the end of a

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syntactic structure or a logical syntagma and then starts interpreting.

Thus, in the simultaneous translation, the context is practically absent and the choice of the equivalent from the set suggested by the convention (a dictionary) has to be made on the basis of the particular situation and background (general and thematic) knowledge.

Hence it can be concluded that for successful simultaneous translation an interpreter needs:

1) as broad and universal set of equivalents as possible;

2) a profound general and special "knowledge base";

3) proper knowledge of the situation and ability to use it correctly in his own interests. [17]

However, even with a sufficiently high level of a synchronist's training, there are problems that significantly complicate his operation process.

Unfortunately, in some cases an interpreter has to work without a booth, in tight earphones, providing a certain sound insulation. Such working conditions significantly complicate the interpretation, because:

- sound insulation is incomplete and the synchronist's own voice interferes with the translator;

- it is necessary to control the volume of your voice, and this is an additional "irritant" that does not allow you to concetrate.

The following professional headset is currently recommended for conference interpreters, being equipped with a special screened microphone to eliminate noise and interference: SPBAUDIO SM-1, AKG HSD 271, Beyerdynamic DT 394.sis. However, instead of the above professional headset, our interpreters use the same headphones as the conference participants and are forced to listen to their own voice, amplified by the microphone and muffling the speaker's voice.

In such conditions only our national conference interpreters are working, and who is to blame if we ourselves cannot defend our professional principles before officials or translation companies intermediates?

Moreover, it is customary in the world practice to provide synchronous interpreters in advance with the full texts of the conference participants' reports for the interpreter to have the opportunity of preparing for the work in advance. In our realities, it happens quite often that not only the texts are not provided at all, but the agenda of the conference, including the list of speakers and the talks order, is changed. In such cases, it is very difficult for an interpreter to slip into a different frame of mind.

The interpreters-synchronists should be replaced every 10-15 minutes. According to occupational safety standards, it is illegal to translate synchronously for more than 15 minutes and to rest for less than 30 minutes.

Interpreters are normally replaced as follows: the "first" starts and is translating for no more than 15 minutes, while the second "insures" simultaneously, then the second enters and the first insures, after a few seconds (not immediately) the first is replaced by the "third" and the first is having rest, etc. In our reality, there are two synchronists working in a booth, as a rule. One is trans-lating, the other is having rest. Sometimes one and the same in-terpreter is translating for over 20 minutes, and for half an hour, sometimes longer.

According to the generally accepted rules (for example, according to the UN rules), the synchronist should only translate into his mother tongue, but this rule, like many others, is rarely observed and we have to translate into English, combining the incompatible: the official style of our speakers with patterns of English rhetoric, which, frankly speaking, is almost unknown to us.

Taking into account all the above-mentioned problems that complicate the simultaneous interpretation process, training of synchronizers should be carried out as fundamentally and thor-oughly as possible. The students' classes should be carried out in the conditions as close to the reality as possible: in a specially equipped synchronists' "booth", special classrooms equipped for training a simultaneous translation using a professional headset and a simultaneous interpretation system.

There are few suppliers of professional equipment for simultaneous interpretation in the world. Traditionally, equipment of the two best manufacturers is used: Brahler Konferenztechnik and Bosch Security Systems. A few years ago, this business was bought from Philips Communications, and the technology under this brand is being still sold in the market. By the technology of wireless distribution of languages, the systems differ into infrared and radio frequency ones. It is recommended to choose infrared equipment. Neither Brailer nor Bosch produce radio frequency synchronous interpretation systems. Simultaneous translation equipment always works together with the sound amplification equipment. The input signal to the translation system comes from the audio mixing console. So you need to order both sound and simultaneous translation from the same supplier.

A number of exercises and practices for teaching the technique of simultaneous interpretation is recommended: [Maria Pearson]

1. Training delivery:

- The so-called "imaginary listener". When the interpreter works in the booth, alone in a small cabin, no one looks at him. It's easy to fall into a trance and speak into infinity, but listening to the product of such speaking is difficult. It is recommended to put on the screen of a laptop or a phone a photo of "a man with clever, understanding eyes" and to speak addressing this particular person. One should focus not on speaking on the text, but on communication, conveying the meaning of the text. This technique is extremely useful, it allows you to easily separate what's critically important and what's merely, to focus on the essence, not loosing logical links.

- Another standard method is to remove one earphone. Then, with his one ear, the synchronist hears the speech that he is translating, and with the the other one - his own speech. In the stress of translation, without hearing himself, an interpreter can break off phrases, use "calcues" and cluttering fillers. If part of the attention is spent on hearing yourself, it improves control over speech, but less attention is directed to the perception of the reporter's speech. Training is needed for this attention to be enough.

- For people whose problem with the delivery lies in uncertainty and because of this they speak quietly, abruptly or not very clearly, the following exercise can help: speaking deliberately slightly louder, as if for a hearing-impaired interlocutor. This leads automatically to greater clarity and control over speech.

2. Training speaking rate:

- It can be difficult to translate not only speakers who speak extremely fast, but also speakers who speak very slowly, as well as those used to often repeat phrases and who are difficult to formulate. The interpreter should not afford pauses in his speech, even if he actually translates 100% of the speaker's spoken words, since pauses will make listeners to instinctively distrust the translation. Therefore, it is necessary to master the technique, which we conventionally call "accordion", the ability to both maximally shorten and sprain the speech, without losing anything or adding extra.

Suppose one and the same thought can be expressed as: "X is like this, and Y is like that", but you can do this way: "So, let's look at X. In his case, the following happens. <...> On the other hand, there is Y. Y should be treated quite differently. That's what we have here. <...> ". Phrases are filled with a kind of a peculiar "cotton wool". There is no pause, the listener is pleased, everything is said, no one's own concoction is added.

- Practice, which can be useful in case of very fast presented and dense text is "salami", slicing, in English -chunking technique. This is a fragmentation of a very long phrase into several vigorous and short phrases, one thought per phrase.

3. Training logic:

- It is vitally important for a synchronist, to feel the logic of speech, semantic links and transitions between theses, even when they are not explicitly indicated (and they are often not clearly indicated). Some remarks may be omitted. Many Russian speakers are characterized by transitions from thought to thought simply

through the union “and” or “but”, “And thus”. It is recommended to insert the missing links into the speech, in fact, to reveal them.
A number of English linking words are used, for example: although, accordingly, therefore, as a rule, to be more exact, that is, to put it differently, indeed, as a result, due to, namely, for instance, similarly, and yet, nevertheless, despite, on the contrary, but at the same time, whereas, while, on the other hand, to summarize and many others.
We actually prohibit (as an exercise) using and as a link between sentences when translating a speech filled with these “and”. To observe such a restriction is not easy, but it is very useful: it develops awareness and disables automatism.
This very method is important when you “are taken a relay from”, i.e., your translation is translated into a third language: it is very important, the text you are pronouncing to be logical. You can miss some details, but it's important to keep track of the logic. Then the result can be translated in its turn.
4. Training interpretation of a complicated text written in its sounding:

- The easiest way to translate a speech of a reporter, speaking spontaneously (and at the same time logically thinking and well keeping up with the subject). “Spontaneously” means that from time to time he makes natural pauses, formulating, searching for a word, thinking on-the-go. Unfortunately, quite often an interpreter has to work with speakers reading from paper. In this case it is known that they will, without noticing it, speak much faster than natural speech flows, because they do not need time to think about it.

In addition to the fast speech rate, another "minus" of reading from paper is that this speech often has a written character, in colloquial speech people do not always use sophisticated phrases, participial and adverbial constructions, lengthening. But such reports happen very often, so skills in translating them are necessary.
The best method is decalage, it's also “lagging”: we “let the speaker go”, in no case following him “on the leash”, listen to the thought, not to words, and change the wording so that the phrase sounds natural.

- There is one more little secret: sometimes the text can be made more vigorous, when it is translated not by nouns, but by verbs. For example, at the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia says: “Keeping commitments, valuing human life, protecting property and extending freedom are universal aspiration, not Australian ones.” It is possible to translate this gerund by nouns: “Complying with obligations, understanding the value of human life, protecting property and expanding freedom are common human aspirations, not just Australian”, but it can be expressed by the verb infinitive: to honor commitments, value human life, protect property and expand freedom .

If this example does not quite clarify what we want to say, then here's another: the absolutely official phrase: “Last week saw an intensification of the diplomatic activity”, and you can translate it word for word: “Last week intensification of diplomatic activity was observed”, but you can substitute a noun with a verb and say: “Last week, diplomatic activities intensified”. Its style is still quite elevated, but it sounds much more alive.
All the above exercises, with their regular training, contribute to improving the professional training of conference interpreters and their competitiveness in the labour market.
To train future specialists in oral and written interpreting, it is important to familiarize them with the specificity of various fields’ terminology and professional texts peculiarities. The specificity of English scientific economical text, for instance, consists in comparatively small amount of key concepts being used in it, which are in close connection with each other. Terms in such a text, together with terminological meaning can supply the elements of the common language meaning, while the nonterminological lexis can supply scientific information. Combination of common, general scientific and terminological lexis is a method of structural and semantic organization of economic text, which serves its integrality forming. The integrality of economic text is based on subsequence in the usage of common, general scientific and terminological lexis.
Professional text enables the most compete disclosing of the term’s meaning. For that reason we have based our research on scientificpopular economic texts, which are periodical literature on economic subject, considered to be a secondary sphere of economic terms functioning Terms usage in this texts type is directed toward implementation of informative and educational tasks, and keeping the intellectual contact with reader.
Peculiar feature of scientific-popular texts is the inhomogenuity and inequality of terms placement in the text structure, gradualism in terms representation, usage of complete lexical repetitions, doublets, non-terminological elements, analogues and tropes.
Deep linguists’ and translators’ interest to economic term and to scientific-popular economic texts is determined by integrative informative processes in the society, which in turn assist activation researchers’ interest to economics as a professional discipline. Common mass readers’ accessibility to such kind of texts, including those in English, is responsible for economic terms usage far beyond the boundaries of the pure professional usage, which in turn causes the necessity of understanding economic terms by a wider auditory of readers.
Professional lexis has a special role among the lexical means of cohesion connection in professional texts. It is an important tool of actualization of identity, opposition, implication, particular and common, class, variety etc. Terminological lexis is a system factor in the text and therefore contributes to its cohesion.
The term’s important feature is its ability to be the key cohesion component of professional texts. Term’s cohesion function provides dis-cursive cohesiveness of professional economic text organization. Discursive importunateness of cohesive lexis consists in its ability to connect both terms and common lexis into nominative construction. The means of the terms’ cohesive potential maintenance on semantic level include reiteration, general scientific notions, and antonyms.
Reiterations demonstrate a high cohesive ability. They contribute to easier understanding of professional information in the text; keep reader’s attention to the key data read. Cohesive nature of a text can be also realized through such forms of text composition as paragraphs.
Terms occupy a special place among lexical means of the professional text cohesion coherence, being an important instrument of maintenance of identity, opposition, involvement, a part and a whole, a class and plurality etc. Terms in the text serve as a system factor, so serve cohesion.
Thus, paying special attention to training and developing skills and abilities necessary for a future specialist in both translating and interpreting, together with equipping him with updated knowledge about terminology and terms functioning in the professional texts, are the elements of a relevant future specialists professional training.
According to the results of our research, compound nouns – economic terms mainly serve the actualization of such means of cohesion as lexical reiteration, general scientific words, and antonymic means. Lexical reiteration cohesion ability contributes to accentuation and keeping the addressee’s attention and consequently to better text understanding.

3. Conclusions

Skills and abilities of making translational transformations constitute a significant component of a translator’s competence, therefore considerable attention should be paid to their training and correct application. Translational transformations should be aimed at adequate rendering the meaning of the original’s information, taking into account the target language’s norms. Transformations are obligatory at translating the English grammar features absent

in Ukrainian. Analysis of methods for translating various grammatical forms and constructions is performed within the context of a sentence, since, on the one hand, it is the sentence which is the language unit which lends itself to systemic study, and on the other hand, the absolute majority of grammatical features are expressed in it. Only in the cases, when it is inevitable, translation is considered on the material of sentences combination.

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