“Deaf Interpreting Process”

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Deaf Interpreting:
Critical Issues Forum

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Comprehension in interpretation and translation

-Daniel Gile
The important of comprehension in source language are:
- Recognition of words
- Linguistic structure

Transcoding (word-for-word translation) is often caused by:
- Clumsy
- Erroneous
- Nonsensical in target-language text or discourse
Comprehension requires translator to:
- express clearly information with linguistic rules in target-language
- not given in the source-language text

Stresses the importance of extralinguistic knowledge and analysis.
The Comprehension equation

The 2 keys on comprehension are:

- Knowledge of the words and grammar of the ASL/English language.
- Outside world
  - Extralinguistic knowledge
  - World knowledge
  - Encyclopedia
C = KL + ELK

- C stands for comprehension
- KL stands for ‘knowledge of the language’
- ELK stands for ‘extralinguistic knowledge’

= does not mean ‘equality’, but refers to the interaction between KL and ELK

+ means ‘addition by interaction’ rather than arithmetic addition

(Gile, 1995, p. 78)
Knowledge Acquisition in interpretation and translation
CDI
No knowledge in legal setting
Agencies beg me to interpret at the court

A reflection of reality!

Should I? Why? Why not?
- KL? ELK?
- KL - yes ELK? - no
Knowledge Acquisition in written translation (usefulness of sources: 5 major variables)

- Information source
  - Classification of sources
    - Paper, electronic sources

- Source variables in translation work
  - Existence: certain types of sources that are important or not
  - External access: translator do not want to become owner of the document
  - Internal access: time and effort to organize the source
  - Coverage: cover information but benefits the client?
  - Reliability: degree of information found in the source:
    - Linguistic reliability, extralinguistic reliability, age of the source
The three steps of preparation

- Advance preparation
  - All information about the conference

- Briefings
  - 1/2 to a few hours of meeting with conference interpreters

- Last-minute preparation
  - Conference or speakers will not give papers in advance
  - Arrive at last minute to read and prep

- In-conference preparation
  - Much information gain during conference from:
    - The conference party
    - Documents
    - Participants
Differences between interpretation and translation

- Linguistic information
  - Terminological information
    - Knowledge of appropriate terminology
  - Stylistic information
    - Match native speaker
- Extralinguistic information
  - Understand the source
The Effort Models in interpretation
Introduction

- Problem with interpreting does not only happen in fast, dense information or high technical speeches

- Also happens in clear, slow speech with no obstacles
Case study by Gile (1989, chapter 4):
- Segment of 70 seconds of speech, more than 10 incorrect, clumsy found in slow non-technical target language made by experienced and well-reputation interpreters.


How do you explain this to students?
- Ideas and methods set up Effort Models for simultaneous and consecutive interpreting
● Processing capacity and interpretation Efforts
  ■ “The development of the Models originated in two ideas:”
    ● “Interpretation requires some sort of mental “energy” that is only available in limited supply.”
    ● “interpretation takes up almost all of this mental energy, and sometimes requires more than is available, at which times performance deteriorates.”

-(Giles, 1995, p. 161)
Deterioration and “overload” are not new in interpreting process

Short term memory
- Attention
- Nonautomatic
- Automatic
● Nonautomatic operation require attention
● Automatic does not

● Nonautomatic takes processing capacity ("brain full") and others from limited available supply that cause insufficient and performance deteriorates
  ● OSHA, SHA
Cognitive psychology said that with nonautomatic operations, those cannot be automated because of:

- Detecting a brief stimulus
  - Identifying a nonfamiliar stimulus or familiar stimulus presented under poor conditions
  - Storing information in memory for later use

Automatic is opposite of nonautomatic.
Simultaneous interpreting

Three main Efforts:

- Listening and analysis components
- Speech production components
- Short-term memory components
• Listening and Analysis Effort
  ■ Comprehension-oriented operations
    ● Source-language speech reaches the interpreter’s ears (eyes) through the identification of words to final decision about the “meaning” of the utterance.
- The Production Effort
  - Output part of interpretation
  - Set of operation from:
    - the mental representation of the message
    - deliver to speech planning
    - the performance of the speech plan

- Simultaneous and consecutive interpreting are different
The Memory Effort

- Short-term operations
  - Take time to produce:
    - Speech (lecture)
    - Information in memory

- Need more time for dense information?
  - need more time to understand and it will create problem
An Effort Model of simultaneous interpretation

“Simultaneous interpretation can be modeled as a process consisting of the three Efforts described below:

- the Listening and Analysis Effort L,
- the Short term memory Effort M,
- the Speech production Effort P,
- Coordination Effort C which is required to coordinate the three other Efforts.”

$$SI = L + P + M + C$$

(Eysenck and Keane 1990) as quoted by Gile
Processing capacity-related problems

Operational requirements

- How much is required to listen, hold memory, produce the message and manage the process

- LR = capacity requirements for L
- MR = capacity requirements for M
- PR = capacity requirements for P
- CR = capacity requirements for C

- TR = LR + MR + PR + CR
How much the interpreters have available capacity in listening, memory, production and coordination

- $TR \leq TA$
- $LR \leq LA$
- $MR \leq MA$
- $PR \leq PA$
- $CR \leq CA$
Problem triggers

- Models above help us see what is problem and explain the reason
  - High density of speech
  - High rate of delivery of speech
  - High density of information of speech
- OSHA, SHA
- Other problems:
  - Names, numbers and acronyms
  - Less capacity
  - Not familiar, short duration and low redundancy
  - Long name and bad pronunciation
An Effort Model of consecutive interpretation

Consecutive interpretation is carried out into two phases: the listening and note-taking phase and the speech production phase.

Phase one:
- Interpretation = L + N + M + C
  - L  Listening and Analysis
  - N  Note-taking
  - M  Short term memory operations
  - C  Coordination

1 to 1 interpreting
Phase two:

- Interpretation = Rem + Read + P

  - Rem  Remembering
  - Read Note-reading
  - P    Production

Phase two seems more complex because it has long term memory operations: Rem and Read

Two interpreters
Efforts in sight translation

- Reading a source language
- Listening and Analysis becomes a Reading Effort
- Production Effort remains, not seems to be a Memory Effort
- Information is available on paper at any time