

SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION AND REQUIRED COMPETENCIES FOR CHOOSING THE PROFESSION

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ANNOTATION

This article explores the rigorous and multifaceted nature of simultaneous interpretation. It explains the characteristics and skills required for simultaneous interpreters. Additionally, it provides a brief overview of the standards for these qualities and how to develop the relevant competencies.

Key words: Simultaneous interpretation, interpreter qualifications, cognitive demands, language proficiency, stress management, memory and concentration, professional training.

INTRODUCTION

Simultaneous translation - is a kind of interpretation where the translation is performed simultaneously with the speech of the speaker. It is a complex process and requires careful preparation, both professional and technical. In addition, simultaneous interpreting requires tasks that are related to comprehension, semantic and syntactic decoding and they have to be carried out at the same time with lexical selection and language production tasks. This kind of interpretation is used in the forums, congresses, seminars, meetings of the UN, important international conferences and hearings in the Parliament of the European Union.

European Union defines the simultaneous interpretation and its differences from consecutive interpreting in the official website as following: "Simultaneous interpreting is a mode of interpreting in which the speaker makes a speech and the interpreter reformulates the speech into a language his audience understands *at the same time (or simultaneously)*. Simultaneous interpreters work in an interpreting booth (though they may also be using a *bidule* (portable interpretation equipment without a booth) or whispering (chuchotage).

The three main actions that should be done in any interpretation type:

- 1) listening actively (understanding);
- 2) analysing (structuring the message);
- 3) reproducing (communicating).

Consecutive interpretation is also one type of interpretation. Main difference between consecutive and simultaneous interpretation is that in simultaneous interpretation all of mentioned things need to happen simultaneously (at the same time). It means that in consecutive interpretation translator activates short-term memory. Good simultaneous interpreter also need short-term memory, but it is nearly impossible to do SI without anticipation. This will be harder the ever when the language pairs have different a very different syntactical structure to the one it

is being interpreted into. Being calm under pressure and fight the stress is also required during simultaneous interpretation process.

Before being a simultaneous interpreter, one could be a consecutive interpreter. This job requires time and effort. One needs active language skill and profound understanding of both source and target language. Without having deep learning of SI, it is impossible to interpret properly.

It is important to mention simultaneous interpretation tools. Because, it is impossible to simultaneously interpret without them. According to ccalanguagesolutions.com, the needed equipment for interpretation is the following:

1. Soundproof Booths;
2. Interpretation Systems;
3. IR Systems;
4. PA Systems;
5. Encrypted systems.

Everyone knows that being a simultaneous interpreter is a tough job cannot be taught immediately at home. In order to be a skilled professional interpreter, they have to train persistently and without break. In addition, interpreters have to be admired to their job. Now, I am going to list some of the qualities that required for being qualified interpreter. Then I will discuss each of them:

- Deep understanding and knowledge of all working languages;
- Awareness and knowledge of customs, cultures, traditions, current situation and events, daily life of the country that working language is spoken. Having knowledge of slangs and dialects is also paramount;
- Ability to relieve stress;
- Ability to switch between languages and adapt easily in the short time;
- Ability to express ideas completely and find appropriate words in the target language;
- Quick thinking and concentration;
- Strong short-term memory;
- Ability to work under a lot of pressure and long hours;
- Knowledge of every field;
- Having lexical vocabulary and understanding of terms of every field (at least in the basic level);
- Cultural sensitivity and awareness (ability to handle different situations in different ways);
- Communication and diplomatic skills;
- Ability to be “invisible” during the translation (not to add). Only bad interpreters are noticed, good ones are “invisible”;
- Strong skills in both **consecutive and simultaneous interpretation**. At least 10,000 hours of practice are needed for each of the modes of interpretation for being master in it. Practice makes perfect!

Vocabulary knowledge of many areas and topics is also crucial. Common topics that interpreters need to know are the following: politics, science and technology, economics, government, education, law, etc. Interpreter should know the translation of all of these vocabularies in all working languages, in source and target language as well. According to some information, scholars argue that professional translators and interpreters tend to have an active vocabulary of 20,000 – 30,000 words and a passive vocabulary of 150,000+ words. It is quite possible, considering many know more than 2 working languages!

Memory, talent, practice and experience are another area for consideration. Without having a good memory and talent, being a simultaneous interpreter is beyond remedy. Lambert said that, “Memory is one of the principal arguments for the complexity of simultaneous interpreting, and consequently the source of the perceived difficulty of the task, lies in the fact that it requires several different cognitive tasks to be carried out more or less concurrently”.

Moreover, being a simultaneous interpreter requires having good nerves, strong attention, fluent speech and accent. Apart from that, every interpreter should be naturally talented and has a strong power of concentration, self-control as well as responsibility.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the art of simultaneous interpretation is characterized by its high cognitive demands and the necessity for unwavering dedication. The skills required—from comprehensive language mastery and cultural sensitivity to rapid cognitive processing and stress resilience—illustrate why this profession is both challenging and indispensable in our globalized society. While natural talent plays a significant role, the path to becoming a skilled interpreter is paved with extensive training, continual practice, and an enduring commitment to excellence. Ultimately, the success of a simultaneous interpreter is measured not only by their ability to translate words but also by their capacity to seamlessly bridge cultural divides and facilitate effective communication in high-pressure environments.

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