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History of Simultaneous Interpretation

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Abstract

This article is devoted to the history of simultaneous interpretation (SI), and its development. The article presents the history and development of simultaneous translation, as well as the opinions of scientists about simultaneous

translation. In addition, information about the special equipment used in the process of simultaneous translation: microphone, booth, their use in the process of simultaneous translation, and the history of development is given.

Keywords: Simultaneous Interpretation, History, Equipment, Conferences, Meetings, Interpreter, Translation

Introduction

Simultaneous translation is an oral translation performed by the interpreter in parallel with the speech message in the source language [4, p. 171]. This type of translation became widely known after the Nuremberg trials (1945-1946), which went down in history as a trial of the former leaders of Germany. Prior to this event, consecutive translation was used for international meetings and conferences. In most cases, the working languages of such events were English and French, but since five countries participated in this trial (USSR, Germany, France, USA, and Great Britain), it was decided to hold court sessions in four languages: English, French, Russian and German. The use of consecutive translation was ruled out since then the Nuremberg Trials would have dragged on for an indefinite amount of time. The choice was made in favor of simultaneous translation, and it was there, in Nuremberg in 1945, that two teams of simultaneous interpreters were first introduced: one - Soviet, the other - American, who adequately coped with the tasks set. The Nuremberg trials showed the obvious advantages of simultaneous interpreting over consecutive interpreting when working with a multilingual audience.

Experimental and theoretical studies of simultaneous translation began to appear only in the mid-1960s. In our work, we relied on works that studied and described the techniques and strategies of SP, the history of the development of simultaneous translation, and the evolution of equipment for SP. The study also involved material on the methods of assessing the psychophysiological load during the SI and the mechanisms for ensuring the SP, since all of the above aspects are directly related to the topic of our work.

Literature review

Among the works of Russian and Soviet scientists, I would like to highlight the publications of A.F. Shiryaev [1979], who described in detail the mechanism of synchronization, the phenomenon of probabilistic forecasting, the strategy of speech compression, as well as V. M. Ilyukhin [2001], who provided the most complete selection of SI strategies. The work of I.V. Gurina [2008] considered the problem of speech compression. G.V. Chernov (1987) in his works gives a classification of types of SP, and studies various mechanisms accompanying this type of translation and its communicative model. A detailed excursion into the history of simultaneous translation is given by E.A. Hoffman in the Translator's Notebooks [1963] and R.K. Minyar- Beloruchev [1999]. Articles by E. Razlogova and B. Zagota are valuable material for the study of simultaneous translation in the film industry and at film festivals in the USSR and European countries. Zubanova [2012] provides recommendations and practical information for beginners and practicing synchronized swimmers, including rules of conduct in the cockpit, rules for communicating with customers, and possible problems with equipment.

In foreign literature, the work of B. Moser-Merger [1998] stands out - the first study of cognitive load in simultaneous translation. To study the aspect of psychophysiological load, the material of K. Sieber [2013] is of particular interest, where the author reveals the concept of cognitive load, and describes in detail the existing methods for its assessment. For each method, a list of advantages and disadvantages is given, as well as a subjective assessment of the author himself regarding the effectiveness of the use of certain methods for studying the psychophysiological load during SP. K. Eltsov presented a report on psychophysiological loads and regulation of the work time of simultaneous interpreters at the Summer Translation School

in 2014. Noteworthy is the work of L. Wisson [1999], in which the author gives information about the history of SP, lists many difficulties that a simultaneous interpreter may face, and gives recommendations on how to overcome them. The article by E. Onsins [2012] along with the publications by E. Razlogova and B. Zagota indicated above, gives historical background on translation at film festivals. Research by D.A. Gerwera (1980) shows the influence of linguistic and extralinguistic factors on the process of SP. The basis for our work was the manual by D. Nolan [2005] with exercises for simultaneous interpreters, the work of V. Donato, where some translation techniques were described in detail, the dissertation of K. Fugen [2008], where the author touched on a number of translation strategies.

Main body

The need for a new kind of translation became apparent in the 20th century, when many international organizations appeared, such as the League of Nations in 1919, the UN in 1945, etc. [Ilyukhin, 2001, p.7]. The idea of simultaneous translation was put forward by Eduard Filein, an American businessman. He noticed that consecutive translation in the League of Nations takes a very long time, and began to search for a solution to this problem. In 1925, E. Filein wrote to the secretariat of the League of Nations with a proposal to use a new method of translation, which could significantly save time. According to Filein's design, the interpreter had to sit in a booth equipped with a telephone and a microphone. The simultaneous interpreter had to listen to the speaker's speech on the telephone and at the same time speak the translation into the microphone, which was immediately broadcast to the headphones of those sitting in the hall [Whispering and the Origin ...].

“According to some authors, when the idea of using the SI was first proposed, critics questioned its expediency (Lederer 1981:19)” [Cit. by: Ilyukhin, 2001, p. 7]. However, after the test application of simultaneous translation in the League of Nations, critics changed their position, because. It turned out that the translation, going simultaneously with the speaker's speech, is feasible not only hypothetically, but also practically.

The simultaneous translation had a number of advantages over other types of interpretation. Consecutive interpreting was time-consuming, while "whispering" was inconvenient for both the interpreter and the listener, and did not fit well with the format of higher-level meetings. To successfully implement the idea of E. Filein, special equipment was needed, and, according to various sources, in 1926 or 1927 a patent for equipment for simultaneous translation was issued to the Boston radio engineer Gordon Finlay and the president of IBM, Thomas Watson [Minyar- Beloruchev, 1999, With. 124].

Prior to 1945, simultaneous translation was used sporadically. In the USSR, simultaneous translation with equipment was tested in 1928 at the VI Congress of the Comintern. According to E.A. Hoffman, the first simultaneous interpreters sat in the stands, they had uncomfortable equipment with a microphone around their necks, and there were no headphones [Hoffman, 1963, p. 20]. The sound quality for the recipients was degraded by interference. In 1933, at the XIII plenum of the Executive Committee of the Comintern, the interpreters sat in the booths, and they had headphones. With the suspension of the activities of the League of Nations before the Second

World War, the relevance of the joint venture has significantly decreased.

The second stage in the development of simultaneous translation came after the end of the Second World War. The SI again became an integral part of multinational meetings and events in 1944, at the General Conference of the International Labor Organization, and then at the Nuremberg Trials in 1945, where there were two groups of interpreters - the Soviet team and the Allied team. There were four working languages: Russian, German, English, and French. Leon Dostert, the personal interpreter for Dwight Eisenhower, the 34th President of the United States, ran the simultaneous translation service. It was he who arranged a demonstration of simultaneous translation at the UN in 1946, and in 1947 the organization purchased equipment for the joint venture. Until 1951, the UN Secretariat could not decide which translation to approve, simultaneous or consecutive. For a number of reasons, mainly due to significant time savings, it was decided to leave simultaneous translation [Quoted from Hoffman, 1963, p.23]. In 1948, the Geneva School of Translators began training professional simultaneous interpreters. In the USSR, the first training program for simultaneous interpreters - the UN Interpreter Courses at the Moscow State Pedagogical Institute named after M. Torez - was established only in 1962 in Moscow.

For the next five years, simultaneous translation was not used in the USSR until the International Economic Conference in 1952, while in the United Nations, it became the main type of translation [Ibid.]. After that, simultaneous translation no longer lost its importance at top-level events and replaced sequential translation due to the fact that after the Second World War, representatives of a much larger number of countries began to gather at international meetings. Another important event for the translation community was the World Festival of Youth and Students, which was held in 1957 in the USSR and required a large number of simultaneous interpreters. Soviet simultaneous interpreters began work in UNO in 1961 [Chernov, 2007, p. 97]. In the USSR, simultaneous translation was especially developed - in the hall of the Kremlin Palace of Congresses, it was possible to hold conferences with thirty-working languages, while normally the audience had 5-6 options [Minyar- Beloruchev, 1999, p. 125]. In 1961, delegations from 80 foreign parties attended the XXII Congress of the CPSU, and the latest equipment at that time was used for simultaneous translation. Simultaneous translation was carried out into 29 languages, including Indonesian, Vietnamese, Korean, Japanese, Arabic, and several rare African languages [Razlogova, p. 165].

In the period from 1960 to 1980, simultaneous translation was used in the Soviet Union at film festivals. In 1974, at the International Film Festival of Asia, Africa, and Latin America in Tashkent, foreign films were translated simultaneously into Russian, and then from Russian into all working languages. And although this led to a slight lag in translation from the replicas of the actors, such a translation scheme made it possible to gather viewers from many countries [Ibid.].

Thanks to the advent of high-frequency receivers, in 1959 at the Berlin Film Festival it became possible to carry out a simultaneous translation into three languages, and in 1960 for the Cannes Film Festival equipment was installed for SI into 6 languages. Abroad, simultaneous translation was used

for the longest time at the Venice Festival - until the end of the 60s of the XX century. Simultaneous translation of films remained in practice for the longest time in the USSR, until the 1980s. In 1985, with the development of technology, it became much more convenient to use subtitles [Onsins, pp. 73–74].

In 1980, during the Olympic Games in the USSR, simultaneous translation was provided in 6 languages [Olympiad 80]. Then the first models of infrared equipment were used.

If in Soviet reality, due to certain circumstances, each simultaneous interpreter could translate for more than 30 minutes, which put a strong psycho-physiological burden on many interpreters, now the situation has changed for the better. Synchronized interpreter Grigory Khaustov said that at the 2014 Olympics, the conferences were short and often ended unexpectedly, so the interpreters agreed to work for 15 minutes. But sometimes it turned out that the second interpreter got only one phrase about the end of the conference, and the interpreters jokingly called such shifts “forty-second” [Interview with Grigory Khaustov]. But in general, translators at the 2014 Olympics had very to work a lot. At the Summer School of Translation 2014, organized by the Russian Union of Translators I.V. Alekseeva shared her experience with the team of interpreters. Up to 5-6 events with simultaneous and consecutive translations could be scheduled in the schedule every day, which took place at remote points from each other, where it was not possible to reach on time. The work was also very intense given the amount of material to prepare for translation and the unpredictability of events.

Conclusion

Toward the end of the 20th century, a mixed type of simultaneous and consecutive translation was born - simultaneous-sequential, or “*simconsec*”. It is not known who exactly put forward the idea of simultaneous-consecutive translation. EU translator Michel Ferrari first used it in March 1999 at a press conference by Neil Kinnock, Vice President of the European Commission. The equipment was used a small portable computer Palm-size PC. Later, Ferrari conducted a series of experiments and found that the accuracy of the translation with “*simconsec*” rises, but some language combinations sound unnatural, especially for closely related languages. Two court interpreters from the United States, John Lombardi, and Eric Kamade-Freiksas also experimentally confirmed the improvement in the quality of the translation. [Simultaneous Consecutive Interpreting ...].

To date, SI is one of the most popular types of translation, which is carried out not only at top-level events, but also at conferences, seminars, and lectures of a relatively small scale. The technical equipment has reached such a level of development that none of the participants in the situation of simultaneous translation experiences any inconvenience.

A review of the history of the joint venture allows us to draw the following conclusions:

1. For 86 years of existence, simultaneous translation has firmly established itself as a professional activity;
2. At present, the development of simultaneous translation is taking place on the level of development of the theoretical base for the training of professionals, as well as at the level of the study of psychophysiological processes occurring in SP.

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