

## An Introduction of the Classifications of the Interpretation

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### Abstract

**With the development of globalization, China has played an increasingly important role in the international arena, integrating into the common development of the whole world. Intercultural communications have emerged like mushrooms after rain, requiring a large amount of interpreters to accomplish the task of transferring the language from one to another on different occasions like international negotiations, commercial exhibitions, business cooperation and cultural exchanges. Interpretation, serving as a communicative tool to bridge the gap in the cross-cultural activities, is of vital importance to enhance the quality of various kinds of international cooperation. The essay is to explore the classifications of the interpretation to present a general concept and a relatively clear introduction of interpretation to enhance the quality of the practical interpreting practice and theoretical study of it.**

### Keywords

**Definition of Interpretation, Classifications of Interpretation.**

Definitions of interpretation vary from different perspectives. Basically, it means impromptu oral reproduction in one language of what is said into another one, which can not only be regarded as a linguistic undertaking, but also an aspect of communication. Various definitions are made by different scholars about interpretation: "Interpreting is a kind of communicative action transmitting one language to another language accurately and quickly through the oral form in order to exchange information, which is a kind of communicative tool on which man depends in the course of cross-cultural activities among all kinds of nationals" (Mei Deming,2000,6); "Interpreting is a verbal and mental process of extracting the meaning of a speech conveyed in one language, and explicating it in another language within limited time"; "Interpreting is considered as a kind of process during which oral expressive information is transferred equivalently from one language to another, with the intention of mutual understanding between the communicative parities"(Hu Gengshen,1993:1).In other words, interpreting is a process concerning the comprehension and reformulation of sense .Meanwhile, given that language pairs are similar in both language structures, it can be seen as a transcoding operation from one language symbol to another. From the definitions mentioned above, we can clearly see that interpretation as a cross-cultural activity is an extempore oral reproduction belonging to the communicative act for the purpose of mutual understanding.

According to different criteria and technical levels, interpretation can be classified into different categories. It is divided into simultaneous interpretation, consecutive interpretation and sight interpretation based on the means of conveying the language; on the basis of contents and occasions on which interpretation is made, it can be classified into conference interpretation, whispering interpretation, escort interpretation, court interpretation and broadcast interpretation.

Simultaneous interpretation is often applied in large-scale conference and international seminars, and adopted as the standard manner for multi-lingual meetings and high-end conventions. With the use of special equipment, two or more interpreters convey the source language to the audience continuously through a receiver, without interrupting the speech of the speaker. It sets high requirement on the professional quality of the interpreter, who should utter the words at the very moment when the message is received, which means that conceiving the thought and processing the received information almost happen at the same time. The interpreter should undergo a tremendous amount of

rigid practice and training to earn the ability of transferring the languages and digesting the new message spontaneously.

Consecutive interpretation requires the interpreter to convey the message sentence by sentence or paragraph by paragraph during the course of the interval of the speech, which enables the interpreter to digest and process the source language information before rendering it into the target one. The speech of the speaker usually last some time, giving the interpreter the opportunity to understand, take notes, analyze the meaning, clarify the obscure statement and reveal the assumptions underlying the surface of the source language information. Consecutive interpretation is applicable to various kinds of cross-cultural communications, being almost the most extensively-used and popular form which is very familiar to people through the broadcasting of press conference, daily business negotiation, and varied forms of international exchanges.

Sight interpretation requires the interpreter to receive the message by reading and gives the oral interpretation simultaneously. The reading material is often the script of an article and some paragraphs or something else that is prepared previously. The interpreter has the advantage of transcoding the two languages while looking at the draft, only outputting the received information to the audience with the clear visual hint to employ. Not having to take notes or use the short-term memory in a tense way, interpreters regard it as a relatively easy task comparing with other forms of interpretations.

Escort interpretation is often conducted during on-site visits and often provided for the people with high social status such as government officials, investors, celebrities and business executives. The content of it includes the greeting and seeing off guests, travel arrangements, business visits, exhibitions and conferences, protocol and etiquette, entertainment, tourist accommodation etc. While accompanying the guests to attend various activities, the interpreter plays multiple roles during escort interpretation: tourist guide, receptionist and host. Thus a good command of protocol and behaving properly to give the clients a good impression during the intercultural communication is necessary, which is of great importance yet often neglected.

Broadcast interpretation means the interpreting for films, videos, video conferences, and television or radio programs. Not facing the real speaker on the spot, the interpreter focuses the attention on the content of the visual or auditory information to undertake the task of memorizing, comprehending, analyzing and visualizing the message, then reformulating the information in the target language to the viewers. With no real speaker on the scene, the interpreter could not exchange the information with the source language information lecturer when unexpected situations happen such as not catching the speaker simultaneously, nor can he communicate with the speaker beforehand to be more familiar with the content of the speech or his way of speaking such as accent and intonation. This form of interpretation is especially applicable for the important event of the entertainment circle, for example, the international Film Festival, during which the movies are to be interpreted into many languages so that the judges and audience who speak different languages from that in the movie could understand the lines. Video conference is extensively used by the international companies, which requires the application of broadcast interpretation to render the content of the speaker into the target language to the colleagues speaking different languages who are possibly on the other end of the earth.

In conclusion, the mentioned above is the classifications of interpretation based on the different criteria and occasions. With a deeper understanding of the categories and features of the interpretation, the interpreter could be more aware of the role he plays and adopt a corresponding way of transferring the two languages to present better performance when interpreting.

## Bibliography

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