

## The Basic Understanding of Interpretation

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### Abstract

**This paper describes the understanding of interpretation from five aspects, the introduction, the definition of interpretation, the preparation that the interpreter needs to make, the problems encountered during interpretation and the solutions and the summary.**

### Keywords

**Interpretation; Translation; Notes.**

### 1. Introduction

The author thinks that there are some similarities between translation and interpretation. Mr. Qian Zhongshu once discussed the theory of "transformation" in the book *Lin Shu's Translation*. He said: "the highest ideal of literary translation can be said to be 'transformation'. When transform a work from one country's characters to another country's characters, we can not reveal the translationese due to the differences in writing habits, but also fully preserve the flavor of the original work, which is called get into" transformation ". As Mr. Qian Zhongshu himself explained, translation is the process of transforming one language into another under the condition of preserving the flavor of the original. <sup>[1]</sup>In this process, I think the role of the translator is very important, and the first thing to do is to be objective. In the same process of interpretation, Mr. Zhong Weihe once wrote: "the content of interpretation should be subordinated to the ideological content and emotion of the speaker. The interpreter should not add, delete or change the speaker's speech, let alone change the speaker's emotion along with his or her likes and dislikes. In the process of translation, we should forget ourselves. " <sup>[2]</sup>Therefore, we can see that, on the premise of expressing the requirements of the source language, both translation and interpretation require the translator to act as an intermediary and transform one language into another without any individual emotion..

### 2. Definition of Interpretation

In my opinion, interpretation is a task which is long and complex, and requires a considerable degree of professional quality.

In the book *Introducing Interpreting Studies*, the author defines interpretation as a kind of translation activity. Within the conceptual framework of translation, the most obvious difference between interpretation and other forms of translation activity lies in its immediacy: fundamentally speaking, interpretation is to provide instant convenience for people who want to communicate across language and cultural barriers.<sup>[3]</sup> This does not conflict with the author's view that interpretation is a task with a long duration. In the book, "anytime and anywhere" refers to the state in which interpretation is going on, while the author believes that the long duration refers to the time needed for the interpreter to start accepting the task. Let's take a look at what the interpreter needs to do in addition to preparation.

### 3. Preparations for Interpreters

Before starting the work, the interpreter shall make corresponding preparations, such as: terminology preparation, finding out relevant professional terms and mastering them to a certain extent before the start of the translation work; theme background preparation, only knowing the background and theme

can make the correct use of words in the translation; and also knowing the speaker and the audience to find words acceptable to the audience To express the speaker's words accurately.

In the book "*A Foundation Coursebook of Interpretation*", the author sums up the work that the interpreter needs to do, which is about two parts: one is to train the learners' listening comprehension ability; the other is to strengthen the learners' interpretation basic skills. The first part includes the introduction of interpretation, from speech listening to stream listening, from listening to words to listening to meaning, segmentation of meaning groups, subject information recognition and extraction; the second part includes the basic principles and skills of interpretation memory, logical clues and information integration, analysis of speech type , basic principles and skills of interpretation notes, digital interpretation, interpretation conversion, target language reconstruction and interpretation expression.

In the introduction to interpretation, a brief introduction is made to the interpretation, which expounds the differences between the interpretation and the translation. The interpretation methods include continuous interpretation, simultaneous interpretation, whispering interpretation and liaison interpretation. The types of interpretation are divided into conference interpretation, escort interpretation, community interpretation, court interpretation, medical interpretation, "focus group" interpretation and sign language interpretation. The quality requirements of the interpreter are also introduced : bilingual ability (especially listening and speaking ability), extra verbal knowledge (including encyclopedia knowledge and professional knowledge), interpretation skills (including interpretation listening and speaking, memory, notes and other skills), the psychological and physical quality suitable for the interpretation work, as well as the awareness of cross-cultural communication in interpreting service.

While making sufficient preparation and accumulating a certain degree of relevant knowledge, the most important thing is to have the quality as a interpreter. The interpreter's listening is different from other people's, the interpreter takes "being able to understand" as the first goal, not demanding pronunciation; the interpreter requires to complete listening and understanding, word, sentence and even paragraph or text meaning understanding at the same time; and the interpreter focuses on the context, discourse logic and discourse content and meaning. This requires that the interpreter has short-term memory ability, which is different from ordinary people, and they need to sort out the logical clues in a short time, and integrate the information. At this time, it needs some auxiliary tools -- the interpretation notes.

#### **4. Problems Encountered in Interpretation and Solutions**

Through the training during studying and the practice after class, the author thinks that the difficulties encountered in the process of interpretation are as follows: on the macro level, the translator does not understand some professional questions, resulting in the incorrect translation of the listening content, and the insufficiency of the interpreter's own listening ability and memory ability; on the micro level, the translator is not familiar with some vocabularies and some problems encountered in the process of taking notes.

As for the difficulty of not understanding some professional problems, the author believes that in addition to the corresponding preparations when accept the task, the interpreter also needs to accumulate more knowledge of other disciplines at spare time. Just like translation, the translator needs to be an "encyclopedic" learner, and constantly update his or her own knowledge. The problem of enhancing listening ability and memory ability is a step-by-step process, and continuous practice can achieve the effect of practice makes perfect. The problem of vocabulary is the same. Only by accumulating constantly can we expand and consolidate our own vocabulary lists. However, the problem of taking notes in the process of interpretation is different from the above problems. First, we need to see what problems and puzzles us in taking notes during interpretation, that is, why and what we need to record.

Although the interpreter has excellent short-term memory ability, the length of the speech segment of the official interpreter on site is at least a few words, lasting for one or two minutes; generally several words, lasting for three or five minutes; the length may last for more than 10 minutes. The capacity of short-term memory is not enough for this kind of speeches. For such a long paragraph, if you don't use some memory aids, it's hard to remember. Therefore, it is necessary to take notes. Note taking plays an important role in memory, that is to say, we should write down the clue of thinking and meaning framework of the source language speech, and put it into words, that is, the subject words, key words and logical clues. Note taking also plays an auxiliary role in memory. The information which brain may not be able to remember is also need taking into note accurately, including numbers, proper nouns, enumerated items, etc. However, there is no standard form of interpretation notes, which mainly lies in the continuous exploration of the translator himself or herself, finding out some symbols that are most conducive to own use, so as to make notes play an auxiliary role.

## 5. Conclusion

All of the above are the author's opinions about interpretation. However, any subject needs constant exploration and learning in order to achieve a deeper understanding and a better mastery of it. As a student learning English translation, we also hope to learn the knowledge of interpretation on the basis of learning translation well, so that the two subjects can complement each other better.

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