

SOME FEATURES OF PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH TO SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION

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Abstract.

This article gives general information about the main features of translation process from theoretical point of view, its types, forms and kinds. The problem of psychological peculiarities of the simultaneous interpretation will be analyzed by means of different approaches proposed by outstanding scholars in the field of the theory and practice of translation.

Key words:

translation, interpretation, oral translation, simultaneous interpretation, source language (SL), target language (TL), text, translation process, interpreter, psychological mechanisms, approach

Translation is usually defined as the interpretation of the meaning of a text in one language and the production, in another language, of an equivalent text that communicates the same message. Translation must take into account a number of constraints, including context, the rules of grammar of the two languages, their writing conventions, their idioms and the likeⁱ.

Although translation is considered to be an ancient human's activity, the foundations of scientific theory of translation started to be developed in the middle of the 20th century when the problematics of translating appeared to be urgent amongst linguists. During this period the translation of political, commercial, scientific-technical and other texts was of great priority. During the translation of materials, it was not enough to get "general" translation as the translation was supposed to provide information transmission in all details up to the meaning of single words. It was required to identify linguistic meaning of this process and what factors identified it and what range they have for information transmitting.ⁱⁱ

Though the basic characteristics of translation can be observed in all translation events, different types of translation can be singled out depending on the predominant communicative function of the source text or the form of speech involved in the translation process. Thus we can distinguish between literary and informative translation, on the one hand, and between written and oral translation (or interpretation), on the other hand.ⁱⁱⁱ There are two main forms of translation: oral and written. The line of demarcation between written and oral translation is drawn not only because of their forms but also because of the sets of conditions in which the process takes place. The first is continuous, the other momentary. In written translation the original can be read and re-read as many times as the translator may need or like. The conditions of oral translation impose a number of important restrictions on the translator's performance^{iv}.

There are two main kinds of oral translation - consecutive and simultaneous. In consecutive translation the translating starts after the original speech or some part of it has been completed. Here the interpreter's strategy and the final results depend, to a great extent, on the length of the segment to be translated. If the segment is just a sentence or two the interpreter closely follows the original speech. As often as not, however, the interpreter is expected to translate a long speech which has lasted for scores of minutes or even longer. In this case he has to remember a great number of messages and keep them in mind until he begins his translation. To make this possible the interpreter has to take notes of the original messages, various systems of notation having been suggested for the purpose. The study of, and practice in, such notation is the integral part of the interpreter's training as are special exercises to develop his memory.^v

Simultaneous translation is a kind of oral interpretation in which speech in the TL is generated simultaneously (or almost simultaneously) with the perception of speech in the SL. Let us study main characteristic features of simultaneous translation now. First of all, simultaneous translation is a type of oral translation differing from, for example, written translation or oral translation performed by means paper; secondly, the process of translation begins and ends simultaneously (or almost simultaneously) with the speech of the speaker, differing from another type of oral interpretation – consecutive translation, which is carried out after the end of the

entire or part of speech pronounced by the speaker; thirdly, a simultaneous interpreter should have such qualities as lightning-fast reaction, a colossal ability to concentrate and, of course, competent speech^{vi}. It should also be mentioned that the simultaneous interpreter can work not only with special equipment the interpretation booth, but also outside being in close distance to the people receiving the translated message (whisper the translation into the ear).

In simultaneous interpretation the interpreter is supposed to be able to give his translation while the speaker is uttering the original message. This can be achieved with a special radio or telephone-type equipment. The interpreter receives the original speech through his earphones and simultaneously talks into the microphone which transmits his translation to the listeners. This type of translation involves a number of psycholinguistic problems, both of theoretical and practical nature.

Obviously, the translation process includes an understanding stage and a translation stage. These two interrelated stages of the translation process differ in the nature of speech actions. The first stage includes the translator's actions related to extracting information from the original. The second includes the choice of the necessary means in the TL when creating the translation text. In accordance with this, the entire set of speech actions of an interpreter can be divided into actions using the SL and actions based on the TL.

To study the translation process, methods such as the introspection method, the "think aloud" method, the creation of theoretical models and the description of various types of transformations are used. Besides, that there is a semantic model proceeds from the fact that when translating, the values of the units of the original are transmitted, which are made up of elementary meanings – the seme.

Another important model in translation process is a psycholinguistic model which is based on the psycholinguistic model of speech activity. It presupposes the presence of a motive, a goal, an internal program for a future utterance, the construction of an utterance in inner speech and its verbalization in oral or written speech. The internal program of the translator represents the compressed content of the original, since in the course of his activity the translator does not create his own speech statements. According to this model, the transfer is carried out in two stages: 1) the translator "translates" the content of the original they understand into their "language of the brain" in the form of their internal program; and 2) they deploy this program in another language, as any speaker of this language does.^{vii}

The main directions of psycholinguistic analysis in translation theory are:

modeling of the translation process;

study of psychological mechanisms of different types of translation;

translation competence as the ability translate.

The issues of creating a psychological model of translation go back to the works of the American translator Eugene Nida. The model proposed by him is based on the vision of the translation process as a psychological process, consisting of the following stages:

perception and analysis of the original message;

transferring the analyzed material into target language (transcoding);

the stage of generating a message in the target language.

Depending on the type of translation, certain psychological mechanisms function:

the load on memory is especially high in translation process. Mental mechanisms work in a stressful situation. Difficult conditions highlight the skills and abilities brought to perfection in translation, the functioning of mental mechanisms occurs in calm conditions. The focus is on the stage of generating a high-quality translation test.

in simultaneous translation, the stages of perception and generation of statements in the target language occur almost simultaneously. The mechanism of probabilistic forecasting is found.

The essence of the mechanism of probabilistic forecasting is that in the process of perceiving the original message, the translator puts forward assumptions about one or another semantic completion of the author's statement. The range of psycholinguistic problems of translation includes an attempt at the psychological foundation of translational competence.

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