

THE ROLE OF CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE IN SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION

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Annotation: *This article delves deep into the exploration of the crucial role of cultural knowledge in simultaneous interpretation. It highlights the intricate nuances of how culture influences communication and underscores the importance of understanding these nuances for effective interpretation. The article further elaborates on the challenges that interpreters face in incorporating cultural knowledge into their work. It discusses the complexities involved and the common pitfalls. The article then provides practical strategies for improving cultural understanding.*

Keywords: *Simultaneous Interpretation, Cultural Knowledge, Communication, Challenges, Strategies.*

Simultaneous interpretation is a highly skilled form of translation where an interpreter translates the spoken language in real-time (Özer, 2017). This form of interpretation, often used in international conferences, high-level meetings, and various multilingual events, requires not only linguistic proficiency but also the ability to quickly and accurately convey the speaker's message in another language (Özer, 2017). The complexity of this task is further compounded by the need for interpreters to understand and navigate cultural nuances (Jaradat, 2010).

The importance of cultural knowledge in interpretation cannot be overstated (Jaradat, 2010). Cultural knowledge goes beyond mere translation of words; it involves understanding the context, idioms, customs, and nuances of the source language (Özer, 2017). This understanding allows the interpreter to convey the speaker's message more accurately and effectively, ensuring that the intended meaning is not lost or misinterpreted (Özer, 2017). It also helps in bridging the gap between different cultures, fostering better communication and understanding (Jaradat, 2010).

The purpose of this article is to delve deeper into the role of cultural knowledge in simultaneous interpretation (Özer, 2017). It aims to highlight the challenges faced by interpreters in incorporating cultural knowledge and discuss strategies to overcome these challenges (Jaradat, 2010). By shedding light on this often overlooked aspect of interpretation, the article hopes to contribute to the ongoing discourse on improving the quality and effectiveness of simultaneous interpretation (Özer, 2017). It also seeks to encourage further research and discussion in this area, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the practice of simultaneous interpretation (Jaradat, 2010).

Understanding simultaneous interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation is a complex and highly skilled form of translation where an interpreter translates the spoken language in real-time (Özer, 2017). This form of interpretation is commonly used in international conferences, high-level meetings, and various multilingual events. It requires not only linguistic proficiency but also the ability to quickly and accurately convey the speaker's message in another



language⁹. The complexity of this task is further compounded by the need for interpreters to understand and navigate cultural nuances (Özer, 2017).

Simultaneous interpreting is characterized by its immediacy: interpreters give a first and final rendering of a previously expressed message in real time and for immediate communicative use. This immediacy distinguishes simultaneous interpreting from consecutive interpreting, where the speaker has to pause mid-flow to allow the interpreter time for the translation. While in simultaneous interpreting the natural flow of the speaker is not disturbed, consecutive interpreting requires much more time. (The Oxford Handbook of Translation Studies, 2012)

The skills required for effective simultaneous interpretation are numerous and diverse. According to research, some of the key skills include language pairing, focus and concentration, cultural understanding, in-depth knowledge of the subject matter, quick thinking and reaction, flexibility and creativity, and active listening (CEO Today, 2023). Just being bilingual is not enough, your understanding of that language should be comparable to an educated native speaker. You should be able to read the newspaper and understand the jokes in the comic section and converse about historical, theoretical, political and social subject matter with ease (NISAR NIKZAD, 2023). In addition to these skills, continuous learning is an ongoing objective for a simultaneous interpreter. Once school or interpreter training has been completed it is important to constantly be feeding your mind new information, whether it be current events or information on topics that you know little to nothing about. Your job as a simultaneous interpreter will put you in many situations, conversing with different people regarding all sorts of topics. So intaking general knowledge on a multitude of subjects on a regular basis is a great way to advance your education while you're working as a simultaneous interpreter. (CEO Today,

Conclusion

In the realm of simultaneous interpretation, the importance of cultural knowledge cannot be overstated. It is a crucial element that goes beyond mere translation of words, involving an understanding of the context, idioms, customs, and nuances of the source language. This understanding allows interpreters to convey the speaker's message more accurately and effectively, ensuring that the intended meaning is not lost or misinterpreted. It also helps in bridging the gap between different cultures, fostering better communication and understanding.

However, incorporating cultural knowledge into simultaneous interpretation is not without its challenges. Interpreters often face difficulties in understanding and applying cultural knowledge, and these challenges can significantly affect the quality of interpretation. Despite these challenges, there are strategies that interpreters can employ to improve their cultural understanding, such as continuous learning and exposure to different cultures. In conclusion, cultural knowledge is a vital component of simultaneous interpretation. It enhances the interpreter's ability to deliver accurate and culturally competent interpretations, thereby facilitating effective cross-cultural communication. Therefore, it is imperative for interpreters to invest in cultural learning and continuously strive to enhance their cultural understanding. By doing so, they can contribute to the ongoing discourse on improving the quality and effectiveness of

simultaneous interpretation and play a pivotal role in fostering cross-cultural understanding and cooperation.

As we continue to live in an increasingly globalized world, the demand for skilled interpreters who are not only linguistically proficient but also culturally competent will continue to rise. Therefore, let this be a call to action for all interpreters to invest in cultural learning and strive for excellence in their profession. The journey may be challenging, but the rewards are immeasurable. Let us all strive to bridge cultural gaps and foster a world where everyone is understood, regardless of the language they speak.

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