

MAIN SKILLS AND FACTORS REQUIRED BY CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS

Nafruza Azizova Esanboyevna
Senior teacher, UzSWLU
Kurbanova Komila Abdullo qizi
Student, UzSWLU

Annotation: *The article aims to describe the standard format and environment of the conference interpreting process. Along the way, it can give the idea about the skills of professionally trained interpreters and certain factors that can influence the performance of interpreters during the conference. Moreover, the paper analyzes the elements that contribute to simultaneous conference interpretation that make it go fluently from a professional aspect. Additionally, the paper lists certain external and internal factors and their effects to the overall interpretation process.*

Keywords: *conference interpretation, booth, headphones, auditory, external environment, negotiation, denial.*

Conference translation is the process in which interpreters must work operatively and meticulously. It is known that conferences are mostly organized in an official and serious tone according to their target sphere. It means that any hasty manner, gestures, and task-related mistakes of interpreters can leave an unprofessional image on two parties or participants who attend the conference. Even these elements of unprofessionalism may turn ongoing negotiation into denial in the end. Being aware of tasks performed during translation appropriately, conference interpreters may have an opportunity to be ready beforehand and prepare certain nuances that can serve their sake. This preparation can overcome any unforeseen hurdles and misunderstandings in the official event.

The term "Conference Interpreting" refers to the practice of consecutive or simultaneous interpreting during conferences or meetings. In contemporary settings, simultaneous interpreting is more prevalent and is predominantly utilized in international organizations. This type of interpreting is considered the most prestigious and financially lucrative. Many countries offer degrees or postgraduate qualifications specifically in conference interpreting.[3]

Throughout history, there were conferences in which the purpose was to gather two or more people into a meeting to discuss or make decisions based on the topic. The first known use of "conference" appears in 1527, meaning "a meeting of two or more persons for discussing matters of common concern". [1] It came from the word *confer*, which means "to compare views or take counsel". However the idea of a conference far predates the word. [2]. As a matter of fact, General-director, Guy Ryder, reminds us that, while Paris was the birthplace of conference interpreting, Geneva, and more specifically, the ILO, was the birthplace of simultaneous conference interpreting. Close cooperation with the professional association (AIIC) on one hand and universities on the other, argues Ryder, will ensure that the professionals in the booths can act as a “comfort blanket” for delegates who know that “however incoher-

ent or illogical they may be speaking in their own language, somebody in the booth is going to make a bit more sense of it somehow”.[4]

Interpreters should take into account the standard format of the conference if they experience it for the first time. During the conference, a translator is the bridge between people who do not have the same language awareness. To begin with, the speaker talks or presents in their language, referred to as the source language. Usually, two translators operate in a special booth taking turns during the conference to make the translation smooth and fluent. Both translators listen to the ongoing speech and transfer the idea in the form of the required language which is referred to as the target language. During the process meeting participants wear headphones to receive the message in their language with the help of interpreters. There can be exceptional cases where interpreters perform their tasks outside the booth as well.

Interpreters should have some potential to perform their tasks inside or outside the booth. Undoubtedly, the process during the translation may go well as long as they know their sphere from scratch. As it comes to important skills and features of interpreters that they should shape as professionals, these are considered the preliminary aspects of this position. These can be language proficiency, excellent listening and speaking skills, strong memory, quick thinking, oratory skills, cultural awareness, research skills, and background knowledge.

Furthermore, to achieve the highest level of accuracy in interpreting, an interpreter must prepare by reviewing event materials, including the guest list, conference topics, context, and relevant terminology.

Conference interpreters also develop skills through experience, learning to make the most of minimal information, such as the names of speakers or the event itself, and quickly gathering pertinent details to aid their preparation. Since they work at live events, they often seek out materials on-site when advance resources are lacking.

Collaborative Approach: Given the high demands of simultaneous interpreting, conference interpreters typically work in pairs for each language, taking turns to maintain high-quality interpretation throughout the speech. While one interpreter is actively working, the other prepares by collecting resources, noting down numbers and names, researching acronyms and keywords, and identifying relevant terminology to assist their partner in preparation for their turn.

Cross-Cultural Work Under Pressure: Interpreters are accustomed to performing under pressure, especially when interpreting for potentially large audiences. They frequently encounter challenges such as last-minute speech changes, receiving the speech only five minutes before entering the booth, technical difficulties, managing fast-paced speakers, handling unexpected languages, and addressing obscure quotes and references. As specialists in crisis management, conference interpreters are skilled at adapting to unforeseen circumstances.[6]

Daniel Gale identifies three essential factors that should be established at the outset of training: Interpreters (and translators) must possess a strong command of their active working languages, have a solid understanding of the topics and themes present in the texts or speeches they are translating, and possess both declarative and procedural knowledge regarding translation (Gile 8-9).[4]



The quality of the interpreter's output depends on many factors: his own professional qualification as a result of his natural gifts, his training and professional experience; the quality of the technical environment (workspace, ventilation and lighting of his booth for simultaneous interpretation, seating arrangement and acoustics in consecutive interpreting); preparation of the subject matter by the interpreter before the meeting and documentation during the sessions; duration of the sittings and manning strength of the team; teamwork within each booth or consecutive team, and the understanding of the problem of language communication and willingness to cooperate on the part of the participants, in particular, the chairman of the meeting; last but not least: the interpreter's fitness on that particular day.[5]

Several factors can affect translation in conferences, including language proficiency, subject matter knowledge, technical jargon, cultural context, delivery speed, audio quality, equipment and technology, audience engagement, format of the conference, and time constraints. The translator's fluency in both the source and target languages is crucial for accurate interpretation, and familiarity with the topic helps capture nuances and terminology. Specialized vocabulary in fields like medicine, technology, or law requires a strong grasp of industry-specific terms. Understanding cultural references and idiomatic expressions is essential for conveying the intended meaning. The pace at which speakers talk can impact the translator's ability to deliver a coherent translation, and clear audio is vital for effective communication, as background noise or poor sound quality can hinder comprehension. The quality of translation equipment, such as headsets and microphones, also affects the overall experience. Additionally, the audience's familiarity with the subject and their engagement can influence how translations are received, and different formats, like panel discussions or workshops, may require varied approaches to translation. Finally, limited time for translation can lead to compromises in accuracy and detail, making each of these factors significant in ensuring effective communication in multilingual settings.

In conclusion, simultaneous interpretation in conferences is a mentally and psychologically demanding job. No matter how prestige this task is, it requires certain potential skills and endeavors from to-be-interpreters. Providing they make efforts through excessive training and improving their linguistic, professional, and personal skills, they are likely to make clear enlightenment in front of the audience they are addressing in the future.

References:

1. "Conference Interpreting: A Student's Perspective" by Anne W. P. S. S. Liu or "The Interpreter's Resource" by Mary Phelan.
2. "Definition of CONFERENCE". merriam-webster.com. Retrieved 2022-03-20.
3. "Definition of CONFER". merriam-webster.com. Retrieved 2022-03-20.
4. D. Gerver et al. (eds.), Language Interpretation and Communication © Plenum Press, New York 1978
5. Seldean Smith | Jul 31, 2024 The Art of Conference Interpreting: Skills Needed for Success
6. <https://dayinterpreting.com/blog/the-art-of-conference-interpreting-skills-needed-for-success/>