

## THE NOTION OF SYNCHRONIC TRANSLATION, ITS HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT AND THE EXTENSION OF ITS USAGE

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**Abstract.** Simultaneous translation, which is the most difficult type of interpretation, requires from a specialist translator not only deep knowledge of the languages from which he translates, but also knowledge of all spheres of social life, as well as the world of science and technology. Spiritual concepts also require a fundamental knowledge of current trends in the field. This article addresses this issue.

**Key words:** interpretation, simultaneous translation, specialist simultaneous interpretation, chuchotage, petite equipe.

Before speaking about synchronic interpretation, it would be appropriate to mention about the actual meaning of the word “synchronic”. The verbatim translation of this word in language refers to linguistic phenomenon which occurs at a specific point in time. Speaking in a nutshell, synchronic translation denotes conveying understanding. Another term for the synchronic translation which is commonly used by the world community is “simultaneous interpretation”. Its usefulness stems from the fact that a speaker’s meaning is best expressed in his or her native tongue but is best understood in the languages of the listeners. In today’s world, in the field of philology there is a kind of misunderstanding to differentiate the translation and interpretation. Many people consider that these above-mentioned terms denote the same meaning, but it is absolutely wrong. Well, how does interpretation differ from translation? A translator studies written material in one language (the source language) and reproduces it in written form in another language (the target language). An interpreter listens to a spoken message in the source language and renders it orally, consecutively or simultaneously, in the target language. Both the translator and the interpreter must have a thorough mastery of the target language, as well as a very good passive understanding of the source language or languages with which they work. For most interpreters, the target language will be his or her native tongue. The translator relies mainly on thorough research with background materials and dictionaries in order to produce the most accurate and readable written translation possible. The interpreter relies mainly on the ability to get the gist of the message across to the target audience on the spot.

No translation is ever “perfect” because cultures and languages differ. However, in practice, the translator is usually held to a higher standard of accuracy and completeness (including the ability to reproduce the style of the original), while the interpreter is expected to convey the essence of the message immediately. The translator’s activity is more like that of a writer, while the interpreter’s performance is more like that of an actor. A good translator will spend much time searching for the correct technical term or the right choice of words, but a good interpreter must immediately come up with a satisfactory paraphrase or a rough equivalent if appropriate term does not come to mind, in order not to keep the audience waiting. Synchronic translation is the most complex one among the oral translation, in which translation is conducted with the help of special devices. It is a kind of popular and common way which is used during the process of interpretation in order to deliver the entire and constant meaning of a speaker’s words without any interference.

Researches on synchronic interpretation were conducted completely separately from other practical linguistic researches. That is because of the methodological problems emerged from the existence of multiple languages and various situations. The need to master this type of translation demanded new methods and special techniques, as the significance of synchronic translation increased rapidly in the last few years. Therefore, new methods, techniques and scientific works on simultaneous interpretation were initially created by those who once worked as professional interpreters. Nevertheless, it has been more than 50 years since the time when the first research analysis were held in the sphere of simultaneous interpretation, it is still unknown what kind of paradigm is suitable for this type of translation. Because of noble features of synchronic translation, scientists working on simultaneous interpreting had to produce

various theoretical opinions of their own. First of all, the scientists emphasized to make use of synchronic translation into several existent modes. In the first place, they tried to synchronize the process of listening and speaking successfully. Secondly, the scientists who are expert at differentiating the semantic and structural gap between languages underlined the preciseness and momentary phenomenon of discourse in synchronic translation. The results of scientific research showed that synchronic translation, in some ways, is both characteristic of written and oral forms of speech. Furthermore, some differences have been discovered relating to simultaneous interpretation which separate it from written form of speech and indicated what kind of further study is needed.

According to the form of speech, oral translation is divided into two main types: simultaneous and consecutive translation. There is a huge gap between these types of oral translation. A consecutive interpreter listens to the speaker, takes notes, and then reproduces the speech in the target language. Depending on the length of the speech, this may be done all at one go or in several segments. The consecutive interpreter relies mainly on memory, but good note-taking technique is an essential aid. A simultaneous interpreter, usually sitting in a soundproof booth, listens to the speaker through earphones and, speaking into a microphone, reproduces the speech in the target language as it is being delivered in the source language. Because the simultaneous interpreter cannot fall too far behind, this method requires considerable practice and presence of mind. Consecutive interpretation was long the standard method, until simultaneous interpretation was first tried out on a large scale, and found to be workable, at the Nuremberg trials.

Thanks to that breakthrough and to modern sound equipment, simultaneous interpretation has now become the most widely used method, in every type of meeting from business conventions to summit conferences, and can even be done via remote communications links. It is much less time-consuming and enables a multilingual conference, with participants speaking a number of languages, to proceed without interruption. However, consecutive interpretation is still preferred in certain situations, such as one-on-one interviews, confidential hearings, brief public appearances by prominent persons, or some legal proceedings. It has the advantage of not requiring much equipment. Occasionally, interpreters may be asked to do “whispering” or “chuchotage”, which consists of sitting behind a participant at a meeting and simultaneously interpreting the proceedings only for that person. Simultaneous interpreters normally work in teams of two per booth, taking turns in shifts of about 30 minutes each for a maximum of about three hours at a time, which has been found to be the maximum average time during which the necessary concentration and accuracy can be sustained. They generally work only into their “A” (best) language, or their mother tongue. In certain situations (e.g. in a meeting where one language largely predominates), a single team of three people, known as a “petite equipe”, will work both ways, rather than two booths of two people each. The number of languages spoken at the meeting may also determine the make-up of the team. In the United Nations, for example, the standard “English booth” team consists of two interpreters, one of whom interprets from Russian, one of whom interprets from Spanish, and both of whom can interpret from French. For certain language combinations, relay, or two-step, interpretation is also sometimes used: a speaker will be interpreted in one booth from language A into language B, and then in another booth from language B into language C.

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