

THE CHALLENGES OF SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION, SUCH AS THE NEED FOR SPEED AND ACCURACY, THE NEED TO HANDLE MULTIPLE CHANNELS OF INFORMATION, AND THE NEED TO MAINTAIN COHERENCE AND CLARITY

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***Abstract:** This article focuses on the main aspects of interpreting challenges that interpreters may encounter such as speed and accuracy, the need to handle multiple channels of information, and the need to maintain coherence and clarity. Also, this article introduces linguistic and non-linguistic problems including momentous categorization. Some feasible solutions are proposed when the difficulties came across. Additionally, A questionnaire is made for novices in order to check what linguistic and non-linguistic challenges they encounter while interpreting.*

***Keywords:** speed, accuracy, clarity, coherence, challenges, linguistic, non-linguistic, short-term memory, long term memory, lack of memorization.*

Simultaneous translation can be effort taking and challenging task for interpreters. The main reason is that it requires them to quickly and accurately translate spoken language in real-time. Simultaneous translation requires a high level of language proficiency, cognitive processing speed and the skills to deal with multiple channels of information while maintaining coherence and clarity. Interpreters who are capable of handling these issues effectively can provide valuable communication support in a wide range of settings, from international conferences to legal proceedings and healthcare consultations. Here are some of the key challenges that interpreters may encounter:

1.Speed and accuracy

One of the biggest challenges of simultaneous translation is the need to translate the speech at a very fast pace while ensuring accuracy. Interpreters should listen carefully to the speaker and translate the message into the target language without delay. This process demand high level of language proficiency and cognitive processing speed.

¹For instance, Ten professional interpreters from the United Nations were asked to simultaneously interpret three speeches, which were written to be read and were of similar lexical density, at different speeds. The findings indicate that at higher speeds interpreters omit more redundant information, and it would appear that omission is a strategy the interpreter resorts to for coping with speed. Professional interpreters at the United Nations and in the private market, and have observed that speed has become an increasingly present challenge in their work, have conducted an experimental study with the aim of elucidating one of the strategies that expert interpreters resort to when confronted with different speed rates, such as the omission of redundant information. There is a plethora of factors that can hinder the process, speed and accuracy being one of the contributors most frequently put forward by practicing interpreters as a major challenge.

2.Handling multiple channels of information:

Interpreters should be able to deal with multiple channels of information at the same time, particularly the speaker's tone of voice, body language, and any visual aids or presentations. They should be capable for filtering out any background noise or distractions while preserving their focus on the speaker. Handling multiple channels of information is a highly complex process which targets to deliver a complete and accurate rendition of the original message in real time.

3.Sustaining coherence and clarity:

Interpreters should make sure that their translations are coherent and clear, even dealing with complex or technical language. They should be capable of conveying

¹ [www.certified translation services](https://www.certifiedtranslation.com/) by CTS content team

speaker's intended meaning accurately, even if the words applied ambiguous or multiple meanings.

4. Managing cognitive load:

Interpreters may experience cognitive overload due to the demands of simultaneous translation, which can lead to fatigue, stress, and decreased accuracy. They should be able to manage their cognitive load effectively by taking breaks, using appropriate coping strategies, and staying alert and focused throughout the translation.

In addition, one of the biggest challenges in interpreting is that multiple processes take place at once. You start with listening and analyzing the speech, putting in short term memory efforts and then reproducing it in the language of the audience. The fast pace of the speaker and unfamiliarity with the subject can make the process more difficult. Another challenging point with interpreting is that while you are interpreting what the speaker has just said you are also listening to the speaker's next phrase and analyzing it to deliver it in the native language of your audience. This process continues until the speaker stops speaking. All this requires strict concentration. Interpreters should make sure that they deliver the speech in the same style and tone as that of the speaker to make sure that the message reaches the audience in the right form. They also should sustain the same level of fluency in the target language.

¹After conducting the actual interpreting texts, a number of problems has emerged. These problems can be classified into two categories. The first one concerns language - related problems. The second category constitutes problems related to non-linguistic aspects.

Language -related problems: these problems include:

1. Specialized terminology: which is the major problem in our study. Each discipline has its own terminology, as we are in the age of specialization.

¹ Challenges that Novice Interpreters Encounter when Interpreting Scientific Texts from English into Arabic By Ibrahim A. Alhiyari page 62

2. *Lack of equivalence* : for some terms since Uzbek is far lagging behind English speaking countries in terms of scientific progress.

3. *Lack of specialized scientific dictionaries and resources*: One of the main problems facing speakers and language practitioners is the shortage of appropriate dictionaries for a variety of purposes. This lack results in users consulting any available but inappropriate dictionaries which leads to improper lexicography.

4. *Acronyms and abbreviations*: there are recognized acronyms and abbreviations as well as symbols for almost all fields of knowledge that cannot be realized except by the experts of that field.

5. *Numbers recognition*: since scientific texts are abundant and rich of figures and statistics which pose additional burden on the interpreter as he lacks time.

6. *language mistakes and erroneous pronunciation which may result in misinterpreting or omission*.

7. *Style*: interpreters should be familiar with scientific style in order to render the text appropriately without distorting the original meaning.

8. *reproduction of coherent interpretations from messages which were sometimes incoherent*.

Non-Linguistic Problems:

Non-linguistic factors in the form of context are important for bridging the gap between the linguistic meaning of an utterance and the meaning that the communicator wishes to convey. Good knowledge of context, background and world are important elements in the determination of utterance interpretation. Hence, non-linguistic problems can be categorized as follows:

- **Lack of prior knowledge of the subject matter**: since the interpreter has no specialized knowledge, or even no general knowledge which may lead to poor rendition.

- **Speed of delivery**: which is a considerable problem in interpreting in general, but more demanding for scientific aspects in particular.

- **Working memory:** which differs from one discipline to another. Scientific fields need more short term memory than literary ones.

- **Lack of time for preparation:** when the institution or organization that held the conference did not inform the interpreter early before the conference so that he/she can prepare well and consult adequate information and documents about the subject in question.

- **Loss of concentration:** the interpreter becomes distracted and suffers from stress and information overload. The interpreter's attention is split between comprehending one set of words and speaking the translation of a just-prior set of words, and one must self-monitor to assure that the translation produced is correct in content, structure, and word-choice. - **Non-visibility of the speaker:** the interpreter cannot take advantage of the body language and gestures of the speaker making him/her feel unconfident and annoyed. - **Number of attendees and attitudes towards the interpreters** which can affect the morals and, consequently, the performance of interpreters. - **Necessity of the knowledge of the target audience** because it will determine whether the text is translated or interpreted to layperson or to specialist one. When physicians talk to their patients they usually use a common term of the disease which is different from its scientific name since this patient does not know its professional name. If the audience is specialized then the interpreter should stick to the specialized technical terms, but if it is directed to laypersons, the interpreter has to choose the proper technical term that can be understood by such audience

- **Time constraints:** when the interpreters need to make treatment and adjustment as mentioned in the above point which consumes more precious time and may hinder the overall interpretation. However, the interpreter should be fully prepared as s/he interprets "on the spot".

In addition, student interpreters were interviewed and asked three questions. The first question dealt with the difficulties that they encountered while interpreting scientific texts that contained specialized terminology. Their answers were summarized as follows:

- *Unfamiliarity with some technological and specialized terminology* that require high level of proficiency in order to pick up the most proper vocabulary or synonym, without distorting the original meaning, since some of them have more than one meaning.

- *Difficulty to grasp the overall meaning of the text*, i.e. in context.

- *Poor rendition due to both the peculiarity of scientific discourse* as well as lack of proficiency in the mother tongue.

- *Loss of interest in the subject matter*. Some novice interpreters get bored to handle such technical texts since they entail more concentration, higher attention and additional effort.

- *Lack of experience in using specialized dictionaries*.

- *Complexity of the structure, syntax and semantics of the scientific text*. - *Lack of solid background in this subject area*. As novice interpreters, they have never been exposed to this type of discourse before.

- *Lack of equivalence*, since some English words do not have equivalence in Arabic.

- *Lack of memorization* since the interpreter has to concentrate on listening, memorizing and reproduction at the same time (in the case of simultaneous interpreting) with extra focus on technical terms. - *The need for more accuracy when dealing with scientific texts*, since they are more sensitive and contain figures and numbers as well as symbols. - *Abbreviations and acronyms*, which cause a serious problem to the interpreter, are used heavily by specialists because of the ease of use and time saving. Additionally, interpreters also listed a number of errors that can occur during interpreting which include:

- *Loss of information*

- *Lack of intelligibility*

- *Interference between source language and target language*

- *Errors in the use of target language*. These errors may all contribute to the incomprehensibility of the message which is sent.

A questionnaire is made for novices in order to check what linguistic and non-linguistic challenges they encounter while interpreting. Results indicate that:

	Novice 1	Novice 2	Novice 3	Expert 1	Expert 2
Linguistic	Terminology of a certain field particularly medical ones, are the major problems	Technical challenges lie in the presence of untranslatable terms.	-Little knowledge of the subjects -terminology of a certain field.	The existence of technical terms, acronyms and abbreviations and stylistic forms of scientific discourse.	The inadequate language proficiency in L2 related to structures, vocabulary is a major problem
Non-linguistic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -the lack of specialized disciplines -there are many people listening to what she is saying and this may lead her to panic and stop interpreting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Being under pressure -the accent of the speaker - memory loss or (blocking) -the idea of being in a booth and the responsibility. 	Lack of attention and concentration	-the accent of the speaker	memory loss or (blocking)

Briefly, novice 1 indicated that technical terms, particularly medical ones, are the major problems, in addition to the lack of specialty for the interpreter who should not stand for such specialized disciplines. Rather, she should specialize in one sub

discipline. Another issue she points out knowing that there are many people listening to what she is saying and this may lead her to panic and stop interpreting.

As for novice 2 clarified that technical challenges lie in the presence of untranslatable terms. This trend leads individual to feel pressure as well as owing to the idea of being in a booth and the responsibility that it implies. In addition, she believed that the accent of the speaker can also be problematic for interpreters in general and for novice interpreters in particular. Another issue, she added, is memory loss or (blocking).

Novice 3 indicated incorrect interpreting of science subjects such as physics and chemistry conferences is due to interpreters' little knowledge of these subjects. He also indicated that lack of attention and concentration are substantial drawbacks while 56 interpreting scientific texts.

The first expert pointed out that the major challenge is the existence of technical terms, acronyms and abbreviations and stylistic forms of scientific discourse. Compared to novices, the accent of the speaker is also effort-taking task for both novices and speakers.

The second expert referred that inadequate language proficiency in L2 related to structures, vocabulary and science register is a major problem. she added, is memory loss or (blocking) when the interpreter loses the ability to remember a certain term while it is on the tip of one's tongue is also a problem that needs to be dealt with if it continues to happen.

Taking all challenges into an account feasible solution can be offered. These include the ability to speak two languages fluently. The simultaneous interpreter needs to speak two languages fluently .The simultaneous interpreter needs to speak both tongues with native ability. Particularly, specialist knowledge of terms .This is essential for speeches that include a lot of legal jargon, technological references or medical terminology, for example. An extensive vocabulary is a must. Another basic point is active listening skills. Simultaneous interpretation techniques involve listening with all these senses and with full concentration. This is one of the reasons that simultaneous

translators need regular breaks between boots of interpretation. Also, outstanding memories is one of the contributor to convey coherence and clarity. Simultaneous interpreters need to have superb short-term and long-term memories in order to perform effectively. Empirical knowledge of cultural awareness is the key to ensuring that you use the right language and tone to convey the speaker's message effectively to the target.

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