CHALLENGES THAT INFLUENCE THE PERFORMANCE OF CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS AND THEIR KEY STRATEGIES

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Annotation: The article outlines common obstacles interpreters may face during the conference. Furthermore, the article aims to explore the main challenges confronted by interpreters and provide highly recommended solutions to overcome them. The main focus of the paper is to familiarize readers with key strategies and nuances that can be utilized before and during the translation process in official events.

Keywords: source language, target language, conference interpretation, time management, emotional health.

Interpreting at conferences is indeed a highly demanding job. Professionals should foster certain immunity to overcome expected or unexpected problems to meet the requirements of simultaneous interpretation in official events. However, problems cannot always be associated with the interpreters themselves. They may not always have the power to monitor the process. Inevitably, it means that they should already have acquired potential key solutions or hacks that can take them out of failure. In fact, some protective tactics or strategies can be implemented along the process since it can be pointless to put them into practice without proper conditions.

According to Christian Degueldre, some challenges may occur during the conference. The list may range from challenges related to time management, accents, speed, understanding the speaker or theme, terminology, and numbers to presentation [1]. Based on the listed above, the first visible and practical problem is managing time. It can be tough to manage both the speed of the speech in the source language and transmission it into the target language simultaneously considering important details of the message. While Siddig Ahmed Ali thinks that experts and professional translators determine the difficulties that frequently encounter interpreters while on stage as follows:

a) a speaker reads out text fast;

b) The speaker's language is dense, and implicit, whereas the target language tends to be redundant and explicit;

c) The speaker quotes complex text passages or reads out figures, names, and acronyms that have not been made available to interpreters, prior advice to speakers and conference organizers;

d) a speaker commits a speech error or uses language that would be judged offensive in the target culture; uses metaphors, puns, or figurative speech for which there is no equivalent in the target language,

e) a speaker loses his or her thread or is linguistically vague or intentionally ambiguous, even for the ST audience

f) a speaker comes to an end, but the next speaker or chairman does not wait for the interpreter to complete the output [2]

Additionally, since conference interpretation entails the quick and precise translation of spoken language, it is a challenging profession that demands significant mental and emotional resilience. Conference interpreters need to sustain focus and concentration for extended periods, often in high-pressure environments with strict deadlines and demanding clients.

We recognize the emotional challenges associated with conference interpreting and their possible impact on interpreters' mental well-being. We strive to foster a supportive and nurturing environment for our interpreters, understanding that they may face stress, anxiety, and even burnout.[3]

So far, past experiences have provided us with empirical data that assist candidates in the SI at conferences. As long as personnel in the sphere face some tricky and unfavorable conditions during the event, they try to identify key solutions or techniques that can minimize inappropriate effects on the overall efficiency.

In her 1999 study, Riccardi highlights that there are overarching strategies that can be used across all language combinations, as well as specific strategies tailored to particular language pairs. In her 2005 work, she categorizes strategies into comprehension, production, overall, and emergency strategies. Comprehension strategies typically involve techniques like anticipation, segmentation, information selection, stalling, or waiting. In contrast, production strategies include compression, expansion, approximation, generalization, the use of open-ended linguistic forms, morpho-syntactic transformations, and prosodic features such as pauses and intonation [4]

In summary, as far as I have comprehended, grasping cultural nuances is essential for effective conference interpreting as well. It is important to master technical terminology through research and teamwork to ensure accuracy. Improving listening skills through practice and exposure to various accents and dialects is also key. In general, employing stress management techniques and seeking support when necessary is crucial for maintaining professional resilience.

References:

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