



**Paper: Applied Language -(B) Translation And Interpreting**

**Lesson: Translation And Interpreting**

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### Interpreting

An interpretation is an activity of oral translation of speech delivered in one language from another. In the words of Bruce W. Anderson, Interpreters reproduce a message from one speaker to another faithfully, accurately, and without personal bias entering into the interpretation. An Interpreter has essentially three different roles.<sup>1</sup> The interpreter acts as a bilingual, he is the middleman in a conflicting situation put primarily by the subject parties. For the task of interpreting at least two languages is involved, the mechanism of interpreting is divided into three important parts.

The three important parts of interpreting are:

1. To listen to and understand the original speech.
2. The mental processes involved in the art of interpreting.
3. The interpretation.

Hence, interpreting involves a patient and clear listening of the views and ideas expressed through speech in the source language. While listening to the speech the interpreter attempts to understand the meaning of the same. He would not have an access to the dictionary; neither could he approach any other person for the meaning of any difficult term. The interpreter while simultaneously analyzing the subject, context, words and target of the language of origin, prepares himself for the task of interpreting. While translating the speech of source language into the target language the interpreter recreates the entire subject matter from one language into the other. Thus the exercise of expression of views from one language to the other is an original and challenging attempt.

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<sup>1</sup> Anderson, RBW: Perspective on the Role of Interpreter

There can be two major type of interpreting; simultaneous and consecutive. Depending upon the nature and mechanism of interpretation i.e. mainly the amount of time available to the interpreter for interpreting, the interpretation is categorized into either simultaneous or consecutive interpreting. Simultaneous interpretation is defined as the process of interpreting into the target language at the same time as the source language is being delivered. Consecutive interpreting is defined as the process of interpreting after the speaker or signer has completed one or more ideas in the source language and pauses while the interpreter transmits that information. As an example we present here two illustrations for your understanding. The example from English into Hindi illustrates the case for simultaneous interpreting and the other one from English to Hindi illustrates the case for consecutive interpreting.

Do you know where the modern mail system originated?

Well, it **originated** in England.

And the strange thing was that it was not the sender but the receiver who had to pay for the post.

Initially, the postmen delivering letters used to collect the money in cash.<sup>2</sup>

The division of interpretation into simultaneous and consecutive interpreting is also markeable here because all other types of interpreting viz.conference, liaison etc. are situation specific and they are rendered mostly through the mechanism involved either in simultaneous or consecutive

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<sup>2</sup> Post, Penny. Everyday English. p 10

interpreting. Humphrey and Ahlcorn (1995)<sup>3</sup> summarize the common features of these models, which apply to both consecutive and simultaneous interpreting:

- a) The interpreter takes in the source utterance;
- b) Lexical and semantic units are strung together and held until the interpreter has sufficient units to determine the meaning of what is being said or signed;
- c) A string of lexical and semantic units (referred to as a chunk) is analyzed to identify the speaker's or signer's intent and communication goal(s), explicit and implicit ideas, and a multitude of sociolinguistic features that impact upon the meaning of the source utterance. This could include gender, power distance between the speakers, setting, and contextual factors such as the impact or significance of the message on the receiver;
- d) Cultural and linguistic equivalents are sought, observing cultural norms and the cultural overlays of meaning;
- e) A search is made of the target language to identify the lexical and semantic units and communication behaviours that can be used to produce an utterance in the target language with an equivalent meaning;
- f) The interpretation is expressed in the target language; and
- g) The interpreter monitors internal and external feedback to check for errors or needed correction.

### **Simultaneous interpretation**

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<sup>3</sup> Humphrey, Janice H. & Bob J Alcorn. So You Want to be an Interpreter?: An Introduction to Sign Language Interpreting (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition), Amarillo, Texas: H&H Publishers, 2001.

As the term indicates in simultaneous interpretation, the interpreter receives the source language message and translates it immediately in the target language. The translation and interpretation of source language message that the interpreter receives depends largely on the size and the nature of the sentence. Sometimes the interpreter may start interpreting in the middle of the sentence if he/she could make out the following speech. If the sentence is short then its interpretation will start after the first speaker finishes the sentence. So, in simultaneous interpretation the audience can hear a translation of a speech while it is being delivered. The interpreter usually seat in the sound proof booth, where they hear the message and transmit it in another language through the sound transmission devices available to them. The simultaneous interpreting is mostly used for interpreting the parliamentary debates and discussions. The example is given below:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been a very long and arduous election. The Congress, as always, in all humility accepts the verdict of the people whether it propels us into Government or makes us sit in the Opposition because we believe that Government and Opposition are the two sides of the same democratic coin. It is in that spirit that we approached this new Parliament. But, we could never imagine the depths to which the Government were prepared to fall in the way they have vitiated the atmosphere and made their intentions clear in launching a witch-hunt after ten long years, dragging in the name of our dear departed leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi into the Bofors chargesheet without a shred of evidence.

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Sh.Mulayam Singh Yadov (Sambhal): Sir Speaker, this is not a matter between the government and Congress; this is a matter of entire house. We won't remain silent here; we would also speak on the same.

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...(Interruption)

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Mr. Speaker this is a matter of house, we would also speak on a debate on it, this has also been an issue for us, and we would also speak.

अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह सदन का मामला है, इस पर होने वाली बहस में हम भी बोलेंगे, यह हमारे लिए भी एक मुद्दा है, और हम भी बोलेंगे।

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Prime minister (Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee): Mr. Speaker this day of today would remain as a memorable day in the history of parliament. The election of the speaker of lok sabha is an important event. When we gather after the election and decide to begin the proceedings of the house the election of the speaker happens to be there in our list. But this election is illustrious because you are elected speaker for the second time. Everybody doesn't get this chance. A unanimous election by the house is a matter of joy and pride. Today the entire house welcomes as you shine on the chair of the speaker. Last time you were unanimously elected.

The nature and pattern of simultaneous interpretation is dependent upon the primary speech. If the speech is delivered very fast the interpreter might find it difficult to translate each and every word spoken. In such cases there are possibilities there that the interpreter might follow the larger structure of the sentence and end up providing nearest possible meaning to the audience. On the other hand if there is a good deal of time available to the interpreter for correction and amplification then one may expect a better interpretation. Interpreters make a better use of pauses taken by the original speaker. The pauses provide some time to the interpreter to think over and before he prepares himself for the delivery of translated speech. Eva Paneth illustrates the timing of interpretation in relation to the

original speech in following:

AN INVESTIGATION INTO CONFERENCE INTERPRETING

The Timing of "Simultaneous" Interpretation

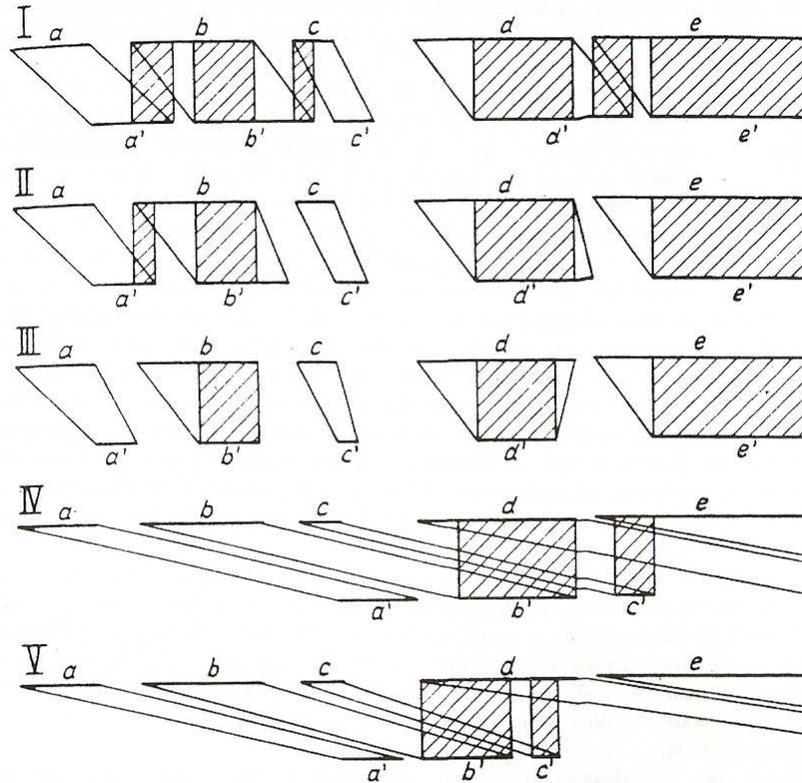


Figure 1 Five techniques are illustrated. Word groups in the original speech are represented by a, b, c, d, e. Their interpretation is shown as a', b', c', d', e'. The abscissa represents time.

Eva Paneth further elaborates that the letters a, b, c, d, e, represents groups of words spoken by the original speaker without any remarkable pause between the words. The group a', b', c', d', e', represent their interpretation. The horizontal progress indicates the time taken for the work of interpretation. We notice a rightward movement of group a' in relation to group a, because the translation of a group of words for interpretation with a considerable time difference has always a likewise trend. The interpreter while interpreting the words of group a, simultaneously listens to the words of group b. This is represented in the figure through the

overlapping of time and the rectangles drawn in different groups. According to the length of the phrases the overlap and the size of rectangle vary. Hence the time of interpreting is also variable. The following five sentences given below are illustration of five different stages of interpreting as suggested by Eva Paneth:

1. It's lovely weather outside and I've quite perked up since yesterday.

बाहर मौसम काफी सुहाना है और मैं कल से ही उत्साहित महसूस कर रहन हूँ।

2. Nearly every morning I go to the attic where Peter works to blow the stuffy air out of my lungs.

तकरीबन प्रत्येक सुबह मैं अटारी पर जाता हूँ जहाँ पीटर मेरे फेफड़ों से नीरस हवा बाहर निकलता है।

3 From my favourite spot on the floor I look up at the blue sky.

फर्श पर अपनी खाश जगह से मैं नीले आसमान को देखता हूँ।

4. The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside; somewhere they can be quite alone with the heavens, nature and God.

जो लोग डरे हुए , अकेले या उदास हैं उनके लिए बाहर जाना सबसे अच्छा इलाज है;जहाँ की वो प्रकृति ,आसमान और ईस्वर के साथ एकांत रह सकते हैं।

5 Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that god wants to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature.

क्योंकि तभी लोग यह महसूस कर सकते हैं की सब कुछ उनके मुताबिक है,और प्रकृति की साधारण सौंदर्य के मध्य ईश्वर लोगों को प्रसन्न देखना चाहता है।

The interpretation of the longer phrases often starts before the termination of original sentence. The following shorter phrases fit into a pause of the speakers' delivery. The translations of longer phrases coincide partly with the end of its delivery and partly with the beginning of a new phrase. On the other hand interpreters speed up their own delivery to catch – up and adjust with the original speaker by making maximum use of pauses made by the original speaker. The second lines of diagram represent the relative reduction of area of overlap between listening and interpreting. (Illustration here)

Further the interpretation of short word group is left till the speaker has finished them. The interpreter unconsciously falls in with the type of –group pause relationship set by the speaker. Many an interpreter finish interpreting nearly as the original speech. Sometimes an early start on long phrases with considerable acceleration in the delivery of the interpretation may result in interpreter finishing a group before the speaker. This suggests that interpreter has anticipated the likely conclusion.

With these time lags the correspondence between the “source” and the “target” word groups will be less close. It must be assumed that the interpreters deliver the same information as the speaker within the limits of single sentences or short sentence of the group. A comparison of the version of different speakers following pattern I should be made from the point of view of

contents, phrasing, and style. This could only be done by a couple of observers analyzing passages of the original and of the interpreter with a stop watch and collecting data on the length of pauses as well, while another couple jotted down the pattern. Tape-recordings would be needed, as not enough observations could be made at a single hearing, and suspected divergences and interesting timings would have to be followed up. But, some points already observed are worth noting here.

### **Consecutive interpretation**

A Consecutive interpretation is the one in which the interpreter is supposed to interpret a speech, lecture, debate or dialogue vice-versa to one or more people during a conference, meeting, negotiation, or deal of any kind. The consecutive interpreters' job is different from that of a simultaneous interpreter. The consecutive interpreter has an advantage of beginning his work after the original speaker finishes his speech. As you already know the consecutive interpretation is a kind of activity where the interpreter gets more time as compared to the simultaneous interpreter. Additionally the consecutive interpreter can have a better access to ancillary equipments. But the consecutive interpreter would have to address a large number of audiences, sometimes to a large gathering of people. The consecutive interpretation involves more articulation of language because the situation of interpreting might necessitate it.

Professional interpreters primarily do consecutive interpretation; for commercial undertakings, any competent person can perform scientific discussions or other conferences. Often we see how foreign delegates travel abroad for financial, commercial, scientific, and diplomatic purposes we need people who can easily and comfortably interpret the entire discussion of the meeting to the group of people who may be linguistically different. Listening is the most difficult part of the

interpreters work. The interpreter should not pause; it is a very rare thing in interpreters' work. The consecutive interpreter emphasizes more upon the entire idea of the sentence not on the particular linguistic symbols. The interpreter has to make his speech shorter by quick delivery and occasional summarizing. Hubert Demers suggest eight steps of successful interpreting:

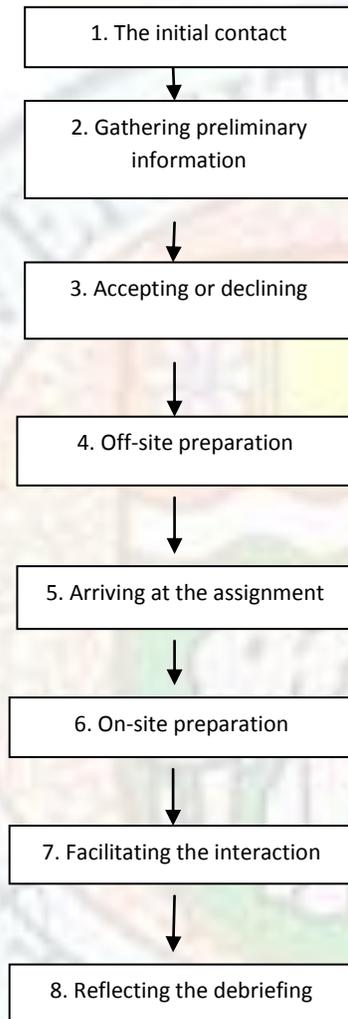


Figure.1 Eight steps of successful interpretation

**“Verhandlungdolmetschen**

This is a German word and is the name given to the interpretation of negotiations. Here the interpreter mediates between two people only. It is also called a type of consecutive interpreting. Often the interpreter is not able to take notes in such cases. Liaison and military interpretation is

of the similar kind. The exchange of short question and answer is also a part of such interpreting in situation like interrogation before a court of law or police. In such a situation the interpreter is expected to know the terminology and language for a better rendering of interpretation. A special vocabulary is also needed for an accurate interpretation.

### **“Chuchotage”**

It is an Interpretation done mainly for one person only. It takes place, during a Conference where a number of people are gathered. The interpreter sits there with his client and whispers a translation to him. The interpreter makes use of a note-pad, for the illustration of relationships, figures, underlining of points etc. Since writing disturbs the neighbours less than whispering, and good notes may serve better here. Such interpretation depends on the communication and the personal relationship established, between interpreter and the addressee.

### **Liaison interpreting**

It may be classified as a member of the Consecutive interpreting family. In liaison interpreting communication is more or less spontaneous and personal. Liaison used, for instance in doctors' practices and other welfare appointments, rather than conference and large business meeting.

In liaison interpreting there is a direct contact there between the primary participants and interpreter is also very close to them. There is no role there for ancillary equipments. Hence it has a greater intensity of interaction, involving the engagement of all sense. Each participant pays a great deal of attention not only to what other participant says but also to the way he or she

behaves (eye contact, body language, etc.). Feedback in this context is the immediate due to the frequent interchange of roles (speaker and addressee).

#### Radio and theatre and film interpreters

Here the work is different in that these people usually work from a prepared text; as the interpreter is present at rehearsals, to note the cuts, business, and highlights, he has a kind of producer's copy. He merely reads this out aloud. Interpretation on the radio is sometimes of the same type. It does occur however, that we have true simultaneous interpretation on the wireless.

#### **Telephone interpretation**

This is more a kind of future technology to be used with the help of outsourced resources. It will soon be possible to insert a simultaneous interpreter into the line connecting a subscriber with his interlocutor abroad; different exchanges will service various languages, this service might easily be developed further, so that it should no more be necessary to displace interpreters for short conferences of a few hours.

Technical terms are among the words always noted and translated in Consecutive interpreting. During a conference, the interpreter often initially notes them in the original language. As the speech progresses, and once the interpreter have started to interpret, a subconscious effort elicits the corresponding word in the other language. It is very rare for the right word not to come to mind when needed. As the conference proceeds and the specialized terms come up again and again, their correct translation becomes a reflex and the interpreter will begin noting down the technical term directly in the target language.

Given below are the exercises for the students:

**Jawaharlal Nehru's speech on tryst with destiny**

Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance.

At the dawn of history India started on her unending quest, and trackless centuries are filled with her striving and the grandeur of her success and her failures. . The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the greater triumphs and achievements that await us. Are we brave enough and wise enough to grasp this opportunity and accept the challenge of the future?

Freedom and power bring responsibility. The responsibility rests upon this Assembly, a sovereign body representing the sovereign people of India.

To the people of India, whose representatives we are, we make an appeal to join us with faith and confidence in this great adventure. We have to build the noble mansion of free India where all her children may dwell.

It is a fateful moment for us in India, for all Asia and for the world. A new star rises, the star of freedom in the East, a new hope comes into being, a vision long cherished materializes. May the star never set and that hope never be betrayed!

In this day our first thoughts go to the architect of this freedom, the Father of our Nation [Gandhi], who, embodying the old spirit of India, held aloft the torch of freedom and lighted up the darkness that surrounded us. We shall never allow that torch of freedom to be blown out, however high the wind or stormy the tempest.

Our next thoughts must be of the unknown volunteers and soldiers of freedom who, without praise or reward, have served India even unto death.

We think also of our brothers and sisters who have been cut off from us by political boundaries and who unhappily cannot share at present in the freedom that has come. They are of us and will remain of us whatever may happen, and we shall be sharers in their good and ill fortune alike.

**Gandhiji's thought on knowledge:**

As dangerous as a little knowledge is, even more dangerous is much knowledge without a strong, principled character. Purely intellectual development without commensurate internal character development makes as much sense as putting a high-powered sports car in the hands

of a teenager who is high on drugs. Yet all too often in the academic world, that's exactly what we do by not focusing on the character development of young people.

One of the reasons I'm excited about taking the Seven Habits into the schools is that it is character education. Some people don't like character education because, they say, "that's your value system." But you can get a common set of values that everyone agrees on. It is not that difficult to decide, for example, that kindness, fairness, dignity, contribution, and integrity are worth keeping. No one will fight you on those. So let's start with values that are unarguable and infuse them in our education system and in our corporate training and development programs. Let's achieve a better balance between the development of character and intellect.

The people who are transforming education today are doing it by building consensus around a common set of principles, values, and priorities and debunking the high degree of specialization, departmentalization, and partisan politics.

