

AL-FARABI KAZAKH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
International Relations Department
Chair of Diplomatic Translation
Translation business in the field of international and legal relations
“Simultaneous Translation of Monologue and Dialogical Speech”
2022-2023 academic year fall semester

Lecture 14

Module 3: Modern concepts of Translation Studies

Lecture 14: Translation and interpretation as a profession

Plan of the lecture

1. Introduction
2. Becoming a simultaneous interpreter
3. Conclusion
4. References

Aspects of the lecture

1. Job growth for translators and interpreters
2. Machine translation is one of the drivers of growth in the industry
3. The Translator’s position

Goals of the lecture

1. Identify the Translator’s role in SI
2. Identify the importance of MT in SI
3. Explain the notion of “translator” in cross-cultural communication

Basic concepts

Sender, receiver, didactic orientation, rotating side-taking, single-sided loyalty, dialogue
Interpreting, community interpreting and etc.

Large-scale reports on the translation industry estimate that there are around 250,000 people working in the global translation industry, including 110,000 in Europe. Some sources also suggest that there may be over 300,000 human translators (& interpreters) worldwide (EUATC, 2005), but the actual number may be even greater.

One of the factors that makes it difficult to have a clear picture of the translation industry is the relative flexibility of the professional status of the translator. Unlike lawyers and doctors, translators and interpreters do not legally require formal qualifications to practice.

This means that, at least theoretically, anyone could call themselves a translator or interpreter. However, the majority of countries have strong professional associations for translators and interpreters, which help to guarantee quality, professional standards of competence and conduct and reliability of service.

Professional translators are expected to be able to translate from one or two foreign languages into their native language. Translators also have different areas of specialisation (e.g. literature, science and technology, law, medicine). The more a translator knows about a subject, the easier it will be to render texts accurately and quickly and spot errors. Being an expert in law doesn't make one an expert in medicine!

Alongside translators, the language profession employs a number of other figures who help systematise the process of translation (or translation workflow) for large organisations. Among these, we find: localisers, who specialise in the translation of software/video games/websites; specialists who research texts and systematise terminology (terminologists, phraseologists); those who look after texts after they have been translated and perform quality controls (post-editors, proofreaders, revisers, Quality Assurance Specialists); and those who provide technical support (linguistic engineers, technical writers).

One of the first questions clients ask translators is what combination of working languages they work between and in which direction. Generally, in the industry, translation languages are classified as:

Language A: Native language/mother tongue

Language B: First foreign language or “active foreign language” because the translator can read, understand and speak it almost like a native

Language C: Second foreign language or “passive foreign language” because the translator can read and understand it almost like a native but not speak it so well

Language combinations work slightly differently for interpreters, who usually have native or near-native competence in two or more languages and interpret in both directions.

Follow-up questions

1. Do translator's personal moral or political positions affect interpretation process?
2. Speak about 'transparent' neutrality of interpreters
3. Name the actors of communication the Translator's livelihood depends on

References

1. Nord, C. (1997d): "Text analysis in Translation by Christiane Nord"
2. Gerver, David & H. Wallace Sinaiko (eds). 1978. Language Interpretation and Communication. New York and London: Plenum Press.