AL-FARABI KAZAKH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

International Relations Department

Chair of Diplomatic Translation

**Translation business in the field of international and legal relations**

**“Practice of Simultaneous Interpreting”**

2024-2025 academic year fall semester

**Lecture 8**

Loss and gain in SI

ccording to the Tightrope Hypothesis, three types of phenomena cause the overwhelmingmajority of errors and omissions among professional simultaneous interpreters. The first ismismanagement of attentional resources. The second is an increase of processing capacityrequirements. The third is short information-carrying signals with little redundancy such asshort names, numbers, short lexical units in text with little grammatical or semanticredundancy such as are often found in Chinese, for example. They are particularly vulnerableto short lapses of attention which cause loss of signal from the speaker with little chance ofrecovery through redundancy. Triggers most often discussed among interpreters and studiedin the literature belong to the second category and include in particular the following:a. Rapid delivery of speeches, dense speeches and speech segments as well as writtenspeeches read out aloudIn all these cases, interpreters are forced to analyze much incoming information-containing signal over very short periods, which puts the Reception Effort under a heavyworkload. Moreover, since they cannot afford to lag behind (see section 4.5), they also haveto formulate their target speech rapidly, which imposes a heavy load on the Production Effort
b. Embedded structures and multi-word names such (names of organizations, conventionsetc.)In both of these cases, interpreters have to store much information in memory as thetarget speech unfolds before they can reformulate it. In multi-word names, the problem arisesmainly due to the need to reorganize the components in the target language. For instance,
WIPO, the World Intellectual Property Organization, translates into French as OMPI,Organisation Mondiale de la Propriété Intellectuelle. The first word in the name in English issecond in French, the second becomes fourth, the third remains third, and the fourth becomesthe first. If the interpreter cannot anticipate the name in a speech and is not very familiar withthe French equivalent, s/he will be forced to wait until the fourth word is pronounced inEnglish before starting to translate it, with repeated retrievals from memory of the Englishname and what has already been translated into French at every stage of the translation, a verytaxing task. In a small experiment with a 12 minutes extract from an authentic speech, Gile(1984) found that out of 15 interpreters who interpreted the speech from English into French,only 3 managed to interpret correctly one of the two multi-word names it contained and noneinterpreted correctly the other

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