

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 Interpretation
2021-2022 academic year spring semester

Lecture

Module 2: Interpretation Strategies

Lecture 7: Anticipation in Simultaneous Interpretation

Plan of the lecture

1. Introduction
2. Types of Anticipation in SI
3. Conclusion
4. References

Aspects of the lecture

1. Strategy of Anticipation in SI explained by scholars
2. G.Chernov's Probability prognosis
3. Linguistic Anticipation
4. Extra-linguistic Anticipation
5. Communicative Situation in Anticipation during SI

Goals of the lecture

1. Explain the notion of Anticipation in SI
2. Differentiate Anticipation types
3. Learn about triggers for Anticipation
4. Explain the role of Communicative Situation in SI

Basic concepts

Anticipation, linguistic and extra-linguistic anticipation, plausibility analyses, differentiated probabilities and etc.

Actually, interpreters know that interpreting involves much more than speech recognition. Some kind of semantic representation of the content of source speeches is always present, which includes plausibility analyses (see Chapter 4, 5 and 6) and probably some anticipation. Chernov (1973) conducted an experiment in which he made

students interpret sentences that seemed to be leading in a certain direction and then veered off to an unexpected ending. He found they were usually interpreted according to the direction they were taking initially, not as they finally turned out to end.

His subjects not only identified words, but also made inferences about their meaning and anticipated on-line. Several studies by Gerver (1976), Lambert (1988) and others focused on comparisons of recall and recognition under various conditions and also led to results suggesting that when interpreting simultaneously, interpreters do achieve a level of comprehension much beyond the recognition of individual words.

The usefulness of anticipation, often underscored by interpreters (see Chernov 1973, 2004; Moser 1978; Déjean Le Féal 1981; Cartellieri 1983), also becomes clear when analyzed through the Effort Model for simultaneous interpreting. Two types of anticipation are considered here: 'linguistic anticipation' and 'extralinguistic anticipation'.

Linguistic anticipation

The probabilistic nature of speech comprehension is widely accepted. In every language, words follow each other not at random, but with highly differentiated probabilities ('transitional probabilities'): for instance, in English, the probability that an article will be followed by a noun or an adjective is high and the probability that it will be followed by another article or a verb is low. Beyond general grammatical rules, collocations and standard phrases offer obviously high probabilities for specific word sequences. Knowledge of such rules, albeit unconscious, helps reduce uncertainty and thus also reduces processing capacity requirements in speech comprehension. Such 'linguistic anticipation' is viewed as very central in human language perception by Richaudeau (1973: 21).

It appears, in particular in studies on reading, that subjects use transitional probabilities when identifying words (see Hörmann 1972: 97-101). All other things being equal, the more numerous and the higher transitional probabilities are in language as it is used and the better they are known to the interpreter, the less processing capacity is required for speech comprehension. A high level of linguistic proficiency implies not only that one knows words and structures and can recognize them, but also that one has good knowledge of transitional probabilities and can use them in comprehension. Such high proficiency is difficult to assess in most everyday situations in which all or nearly all available processing capacity can be allocated to the listening task.

Follow-up questions

1. Describe general phenomenon of anticipation in SI
2. Explain cognitive mechanisms in SI

3. Describe types of triggers in linguistic anticipation
4. Describe the role of Communicative Situation in SI

References

1. Chernov, Ghelly V. 2004. *Inference and Anticipation in Simultaneous Interpreting*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
2. Moser, Barbara. 1978. "Simultaneous Interpretation: A Hypothetical Model and its Practical Application." In Gerver, David & H. Wallace Sinaiko (eds). 353–368.