

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 3: Cognitive Aspects in Simultaneous Interpretation

Lecture 14: Remote Simultaneous Interpretation

Plan of the lecture

1. Introduction
2. Remote interpreting: The crucial role of presence
3. Conclusion
4. References

Aspects of the lecture

1. Origin of RSI
2. The interpreting task and cognitive constraints in remote interpreting
3. Expertise and individual adaptability
4. Feeling of control
5. Human factors

Goals of the lecture

1. Identify types of Distance Interpreting
2. Identify classification of Remote Interpreting
3. Familiarize with Appropriate Working Conditions for Various Forms of Distance Interpreting

Basic concepts

Teleconference Interpreting, Videoconference Interpreting, Audioconference Interpreting, Video Remote Interpreting, Multiscreen Video Remote Interpreting, and etc.

There are many – sometimes contradictory – definitions of distance interpreting and its various sub-components in remote interpreting pilot studies, interpreting studies literature and on interpreting websites, including AIIC's.

Whereas AIIC's Code for the Use of New Technologies in Conference Interpretation provides for an upper limit for video-conference interpreting of not more than two hours a day, no such conditions currently apply to remote interpreting which it deems "unacceptable". This contrasts with AIIC's website however, which shows "remote interpreting services²" (even including webcasts in this category) being offered by 19 AIIC consultants and consultancies. It is also the case that remote interpreting is already being negotiated or even implemented in several of the organisations represented by AIIC's staff interpreters' committee. However this is just a symptom of the real problem³. Not only are different terms found in the literature to describe the various forms of ICT-enabled distance interpreting, but confusingly the same terms are sometimes used to denote different things. Audio-enabled distance interpreting is referred to as telephone interpreting and tele-conference interpreting (AIIC, 2000), whilst audiovisually-enabled distance interpreting is also referred to as video-mediated interpreting (Braun et al, 2011). The latter can be subdivided into two categories: audiovisually-enabled distance interpreting with a direct view of one or more participants (also known as video-conferencing), audiovisually-enabled distance interpreting with no direct view of any participants (also known as tele-interpreting (AIIC, 2000), remote conferencing (Buck, 2000), remote interpreting, and video remote interpreting). Remote interpreting is described as "a situation in which interpreters are no longer present in the meeting room, but work from a screen using earphones, without direct view of the meeting room or the speaker" (European Parliament Interpretation Directorate, 2001, p. 12). Meanwhile videoconferencing is defined by European Parliament staff interpreter Panayotis Mouzourakis as "where the interpreter is still physically present in the meeting room where most delegates are gathered, except for one or more participants who are attending remotely via a video link-up" (Buck 2000, p. 2). For Moser-Mercer, remote interpreting is used to describe a situation where interpretation is provided for a bi- or multilingual video-conference by interpreters who are physically remote from the meeting room and thus do not have a direct view of speakers and delegates. Videoconference interpreting on the other hand denotes a meeting scenario where participants are distributed across two or more sites with interpreters located at one of them (Moser-Mercer, 2011).

Follow-up questions

1. What is multi-sensory integration, and why is it relevant to the debate on distance interpreting?
2. Does remote interpreting impact on quality, fatigue or stress?

3. Speak about working conditions of RSI

References

1. Braun, S. and Taylor, J. (eds.) (2011) *Videoconference and Remote Interpreting in Criminal*
2. Moser-Mercer, B., Künzli, A. & Korac, M. (1998). Prolonged turns in interpreting: Effects on quality, physiological and psychological stress (pilot study). *Interpreting* 3 (1), 47–64.
3. Buck, M. (2010). Much ado about something remote: Stress and performance in remote interpreting. *Interpreting*, 12 (2), 214–247