

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 3

Module 1: Tenets of Translation Studies

Lecture 3: Simultaneous interpretation with visual support

Plan of the lecture

1. Introduction
2. Visual input in simultaneous interpreting
3. Conclusion
4. References

Aspects of the lecture

1. Nonverbal Communication
2. Morphological and functional categories of nonverbal behavior
3. The interpreter and the nonverbal
4. Coordination

Goals of the lecture

1. Explain nonverbal communication and visual input in simultaneous interpreting
2. Introduce influence of materials and subjects involved to CS
3. Familiarize with morphological and functional categories
4. Highlight the importance of coordination and presentation skills

Basic concepts

Nonverbal communication, visual input, nonverbal behavior and etc.

Oral communication, the working tool of the interpreter, consists not only of what is said, but also how it is said – with a sullen face and an irritated tone of voice, or with a smile and a nod. Poyatos (1997b: 259) describes oral communication as follows: [...] trying to be simply realistic in our approach to speech, we must recognize that what has been called orality is produced in reality in an aural and visual manner through the combination of internal (phonetic) articulations

and sound modifications, and external articulations that depend on our facial and bodily anatomy. Oral communication is, in fact, the combination of three elements that act together to facilitate the process of communication – verbal language, paralinguistics (pitch, intonation, pauses, volume, etc.) and kinesics (Poyatos 1987). These elements can occur individually or in different combinations, fulfilling a number of different functions. The entire gamut of visual nonverbal communication encompasses not only kinesics (gestures, facial expressions, gaze direction), but also proxemics (interpersonal distance), cultural and social traits (clothing, socially determined behavior) and certain visible physiological reactions (such as blushing or tear-shedding), since they, too, convey a message (Poyatos 1997b). Nonverbal communication signals always convey information, but this sending is usually not deliberate or fully controlled by the sender, and the information is usually also not received or decoded consciously by the recipient (Argyle 2002, Bühler 1985, Scherer [1977]/1984). This may account for the difficulties interpreters have when asked which signals aid their task most, and also makes research in this area difficult (cf. Bühler 1985).

While paralinguistics is an important aspect of nonverbal communication – in fact, oral communication cannot occur completely without it – it is also that part of nonverbal communication that is accessible to the interpreter even when he is deprived of visual input. It may also often be the only way for the interpreter to convey what has been expressed kinesically by the speaker.

Some forms of visual nonverbal communication (e.g., clothing, blushing) provide contextual information rather than a message that would have to be interpreted. When we think of visual nonverbal communication in the context of interpreting, however, we usually refer to body language, or kinesics, defined by Poyatos (1987: 88f) as the conscious or unconscious psychomuscularly based body movements and intervening or resulting positions, either learned or somatogenic, of visual, visual-audible, and tactile or kinesthetic perception, which, whether isolated or combined with the linguistic and paralinguistic structures and with other somatic or objectual behavioral systems, possess intended or unintended communicative value.

Follow-up questions

1. Describe nonverbal communication and visual input
2. Explain the difference between short term and long term memory
3. Describe morphological and functional categories in SI

References

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3. Argyle, M. (2002): *Körpersprache und Kommunikation. Das Handbuch zur nonverbalen Kommunikation*, german transl. by SCHMIDT, C., 8. Aufl. (Reihe Innovative Psychotherapie und Humanwissenschaften 5), Paderborn, Junfermann.