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 11

Module 3: Modern concepts of Translation Studies

Lecture 11: Speech redundancy

Plan of the lecture

1. Introduction
2. Speech redundancy in SI
3. Conclusion
4. References

Aspects of the lecture

1. Redundant gesture
2. Non-redundant gesture–speech combinations
3. System for coding redundancy

Goals of the lecture

1. Describe the role of redundant gesture
2. Explain main characteristics of non-redundant gesture–speech
3. Describe system for coding redundancy

Basic concepts

Gesture, verbal skills, spatial skills, image, gesture–speech redundancy and etc.

Speakers communicate information in many ways. Most obviously, speakers often produce words and sentences that describe their entire meaning verbally. In addition, speakers produce nonverbal cues such as facial expressions, intonations, and hand gestures that can reinforce or even carry part of their meaning. For instance, imagine a speaker who says "he did some exercises" while pushing her hands outward from her body repeatedly, as though doing push ups. This gesture conveys more specific information about the kind of exercises she is describing than

does her speech. Such gesture–speech combinations have been referred to as "mismatching" (e.g., Church & Goldin-Meadow, 1986), "complementary" (e.g., McNeill, 1992), or "non-redundant" (e.g., Alibali, Evans, Hostetter, Ryan, & Mainela-Arnold, 2009). The degree of redundancy between a gesture and its accompanying speech can be considered along a continuum (Goldin-Meadow, 2003). Because gestures and speech encode meanings in very different ways, all gestures are non-redundant with speech to some degree. The spatial, holistic medium of gesture supports the expression of more detailed spatial and motor information than does the verbal, linear medium of speech. Consider a speaker who describes the actions of a cartoon character on a high bar by saying "and he starts flipping around the bar" while quickly making three small circles with the index finger of her left hand. The gesture provides some information about how many flips occurred and how fast they were; however, the basic action event being described (e.g., spinning around the bar) is conveyed by both gesture and speech. In this sense, this gesture is largely redundant with the accompanying speech. In contrast, consider the "exercising" gesture described previously. This gesture conveys more information about the nature of the action being described than does the accompanying speech, and is therefore closer to the non-redundant end of the continuum. Throughout this paper, we use the term "non-redundant gesture" to refer to gestures that elaborate on the identity of the specific action or object that is referred to in a speaker's message. We use the term "redundant gesture" to refer to gestures that depict the same object or action that is mentioned in speech, even if they elaborate on some characteristic such as size, speed, or direction, as in the "flipping" example described above. At first blush, dividing the information one wishes to convey between the verbal and gestural channels may seem like a less effective communicative strategy than conveying the entire message in speech. However, extensive evidence suggests that information that is conveyed uniquely in gesture is attended to and readily understood by listeners (e.g., Alibali, Flevares, & Goldin-Meadow, 1997; Mc-Neill, Cassell, & McCullough, 1994). Indeed, a recent meta-analysis suggests that gestures that are non-redundant with speech actually have a greater influence on listener comprehension than gestures that are redundant with speech (Hostetter, 2011). Thus, producing non-redundant gestures with speech is a successful communicative strategy, and it may be as successful as articulating all of the important details in speech.

Follow-up questions

1. Describe main issues of redundant gesture speech
2. Make a classification of speech redundancy in SI
3. Describe the structure of translation analysis

References

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4. Graham, Jean Ann & Simon Heywood (1975). The effects of elimination of hand gestures and of verbal codability on speech performance. European Journal of Social Psychology, 5, 189–195.