**Translating/Interpreting Constraints. Linguistic Constraints**

**Translating/Interpreting Constraints**

The constraints imposed on the interpreters are more and greater than those on the translator. They also vary in type and degree of intensity as regards the direction of translating or interpreting, i.e., whether from L1 into L2 or the other way round. Below are the main constraints.

**Linguistic Constraints:** They subsume:

**Syntactic Constraints.**

The different word order in SL and TL puts a heavy burden on the interpreter. A case in point is when interpreting a verbal sentence from Arabic into English. The verb may introduce a long nominal phrase. The interpreter has to store the verb and wait for the whole subject before he could retrieve and start the English rendition. Deprived of the sufficient time for manipulation, structural asymmetry often obliges the interpreter to commit pauses and delays among other things.

**Semantic Constraints**

These constraints compel the interpreter to exert a far more laborious effort than those originated by syntactic 16 constraints, for as Jackendoff (1991: 96)puts it, “once one

understands the meaning, the syntax follows naturally and automatically.” Lexical incompatibility between SL and TL gives rise to slips, hesitations and even pauses, due to the

interpreter’s struggle with a difficult jargon term, a neologism or a blended word as in interpreting words like Macdonalization or the 1980s Reagonomics. To mitigate semantic constraints, the interpreter should be fully familiar with the speaker's topic and/or register.

**Phonological and Prosodic Constraints**

They include features that are non-existent in either SL or TL pertaining to segmental phonemes ( vowels, consonants, consonant clusters, and diphthongs ), suprasegmentals and prosodic features such as stress, intonation, pitch, rhythm and tempo. Many scholars rightly

maintain that translating/interpreting is an intercultural communication act that requires bicultural competence .

least the gist, of the message so as to reformulate it in the

TL. Such lag puts a heavy burden on the short-term

memory of the interpreter who might inevitably miss the

subsequent segments of information and prod