

SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION AND ITS HISTORY

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Abstract: Simultaneous translation is an essential tool that has become a prominent feature in the modern world. The translation method has revolutionized the way communication takes place in international forums and conferences. Its history dates back to the early 20th century when the world needed a way to promote international dialogue among nations. This article aims to explore the history of simultaneous translation and how it has impacted the world's communication.

Key words: Simultaneous interpretation, History of Simultaneous Translation, The Nuremberg Trials, lead language, computer-aided translation, diplomatic relations

Simultaneous interpretation offers fewer distractions for speakers, as they will be working from a sound-proof away from the event to improve focus. This allows interpretation to happen in real-time, letting events run as if all attendees speak the same language. By removing any delay, it saves time for everyone, and can reduce the cost of hiring a meeting venue. As the interpreter immediately relays what the speaker has said, ideas can be translated almost instantly, so none of the messages are lost, which ensures greater accuracy. There's also no limit to the number of concurrent languages which can be interpreted at the same time, as there are often multiple simultaneous interpreters working at once. This allows delegates to simply select their preferred language on their headsets.

History of Simultaneous Translation:

The earliest use of simultaneous translation dates back to the 1920s, where it was first used in the League of Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The method was employed to ensure that all delegates could understand what was being discussed regardless of the language they spoke. The League of Nations introduced the new method of communication after realizing that the written word was limiting and did not convey the intended meaning behind speeches accurately.

After the end of the League of Nations, simultaneous translation gained renewed attention in 1945 with the establishment of the United Nations. The UN adopted simultaneous interpretation as a way of promoting international communication and has been using the method in all its forums ever since.

The introduction of technological advancements in the 1950s, including soundproof booths and other audio equipment, greatly improved the quality and

effectiveness of simultaneous translation. The Nuremberg Trials (1945-1946), which were conducted in four languages (French, English, German, and Russian), marked the first time simultaneous translation was done using soundproof booths, which allowed translators to relay speeches in real-time to delegates. Especially after the Nuremberg trials (1945-46) and Tokyo trials (1946-68), conference interpreting became more widespread. It is now used widely, not only at international conferences but also on radio and TV programs.

The first experiment in simultaneous conference interpreting dates back to 1928, the VIth Comintern Congress. There were no telephone. The speaker's message reached the interpreters' ears directly. The first booth and headphones appeared in 1933 at the XIIIth Plenary Meeting of the Comintern Executive. A group of Russian simultaneous interpreters from Moscow formed part of the conference interpreter's team servicing the Nuremberg Trials and another one participated in the Tokyo Trials of the Japanese war criminals.

The interpreters who worked at those first conferences came out of the Nuremberg Trial Interpretation Service where they had made their debut as simultaneous interpreters. They had been young graduates of the Military Institute of Foreign Languages (established in 1942 on the basis of the Military Department of the Moscow Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages), where they were trained as military translators-interpreters, Moscow Institute of Foreign Languages, Moscow University, and the Institute of Philosophy and Literature (IFLI), as well as several staff members of the Foreign Ministry and the Society for Cultural Exchanges with Foreign Countries took a part in training interpreters. Some of the most capable among them formed the first post-war group of free-lance conference interpreters in Russia.

An International Economic Conference serviced with simultaneous interpreting was conducted in 1952 in Moscow, employing over fifty simultaneous interpreters with six conference languages: Russian, English, French, German, Spanish and Chinese. The lead language-changing mode is a purely national system based on one native tongue common to all members of the team of simultaneous interpreters, which in fact serves as a "lead language"

Since 1962 the United Nations Language Training Course in Moscow, at the Maurice Thorez Institute of Foreign Languages, set itself as a school where 5 to 7 simultaneous conference interpreters are trained annually for the Russian Booth of the UN Secretariat in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

A decade later, in 1971, a postgraduate Advanced Translating and Interpreting Schools at the same college introduced a two-year course of simultaneous conference interpretation in A to B and B to A language combination, if so desired by the student.

Simultaneous translation studies began after the invention of the multichannel tape recorder and were done at roughly the same time by several researchers at the end

of the sixties and the beginning of the seventies (Henri C.Barik in the United States and Canada 1971; D.Gerver in the United Kingdom 1974; I. A. Zimnyaya in Russia and others.

Shiryayev writes that simultaneous interpretation as a specialized activity consists of Steps or Actions, each of which has several stages. The most important stages are: stage of orientation, stage of the search for, the translation decision and execution stage. When the speaking rate in the source language is slow, enough, stage one of step two follows stage three of step one there is no simultaneity of listening and speaking, in fact.

The simultaneous interpretation is a complex type. It is bilingual, sense- oriented.

Historically, research in conference interpreting can be broken down into four periods; early writings, the experimental period, the practitioner's period and the renewal period (Gile 1994)

The early writings period covers the 1950s and early 1960s. During this period, some interpreters and interpreting teachers in Geneva (Herbert 1952, Rozan 1965 Ilg 1959) and Brussels (van Hoof 1962) started thinking and writing about their profession. These were intuitive and personal publications with practical didactic and professional aims, but they did identify most of the fundamental issues that are still debated today.

Simultaneous translation continued to benefit from technological advancements in the following years with the introduction of computer-aided translation (CAT) systems, machine translation, and cloud-based translation systems. These advancements have simplified the process of simultaneous translation, made it more efficient and accurate while reducing the need for human intervention.

Impact of Simultaneous Translation: Simultaneous translation has played a significant role in promoting international dialogue and the exchange of ideas. It has made communication smoother, more comfortable, and more accessible globally, allowing people from different cultures and walks of life to engage meaningfully with each other. This has contributed to building strong diplomatic relations and strengthening international cooperation in various fields, including science, technology, finance, and education.

Moreover, simultaneous translation has facilitated the interpretation of international law, enabling the smooth resolution of disputes between nations or governmental entities. It has also facilitated better communication between businesses operating in different countries, allowing for increased trade and foreign investment.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, simultaneous translation has a rich history that has shaped the world of today. The method has played a significant role in promoting international communication, diplomacy, and cooperation and has facilitated the exchange of ideas across cultures. Its impact on the world can be felt through the ease of international

commerce and the fostering of diplomatic relations, leading to the peaceful resolution of disputes. Technological advancements have facilitated the process, ensuring that simultaneous translation remains relevant and essential in the modern world.

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