

THE IMPORTANCE OF USING THE COMPRESSION STRATEGY WHEN PERFORMING SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION FROM ARABIC INTO KAZKHAH

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ABSTRACT

This article investigates the role and importance of the compression strategy in simultaneous interpretation from Arabic into Kazakh language which is inalienable part of simultaneous interpretation.

KEYWORDS: Simultaneous Interpretation, Simultaneous Interpretation Strategies, Strategy of Compression, Communication Context, Communicative Task, Message Context and Peculiarities of Languages Grammatical Structures, Arabic Language, Kazakh Language

INTRODUCTION

The researchers' interest to simultaneous interpretation started growing approximately in 60's of XX century. Studies in simultaneous interpretation were conducted in parallel with psycholinguistic studies, because the simultaneous interpretation attracted attention of linguists as well as psycholinguists. The special attention was pinned at the method of compression which goes together with simultaneous interpretation. There are many scholars who investigated this sphere. Among whom G.V.Chernov, I.A.Zimnyaya, A.F.Shiryayev, A.D.Schweizer, V.A.Artemov, I.V.Gurin have a remarkable place.

Ilyuhin defined the concept of strategy in simultaneous interpretation as «the means of fulfilling translation task» [1, 203] and divided it into two: *simultaneous interpretation strategies connected to the factor of time and simultaneous interpretation strategies conditioned by permanent factors*. He included the strategy of compression which is the object of our research into the group of simultaneous interpretation strategies conditioned by permanent factors.

It is difficult to state that any person who acquired a foreign language can master the skills necessary for performing simultaneous interpretation successfully [2, 280]. The task of a translator covers not only conveying the exact meaning of a source text, but also conveying it fully. However, conditions of simultaneous interpretation do not give an interpreter a liberty to convey the source text completely as in written translation. For example, in cases when the speed of an orator's speech is fast, the interpreter is consciously compelled to reduce the size of a source text. [3] A.F.Shiryayev says several factors cause the text reduction process.

Firstly, when performing translation from one language into another the text size increases. For instance, the number of syllables increases as much as one and half times when the written translation is performed from English into Russian with all the possible editing, but in oral interpretation where editing is not possible as in written translation the syllables number increases as much as two times. [4] Therefore, if the speed of an orator's speech is high or medium, it is impossible to get translation without reducing the text size.

Secondly, in order for the interpreter to follow the source text successfully he/she must make very short pauses while interpretation. Otherwise the interpreter might miss a very important piece of information. Therefore, without making short pauses while translation the interpreter risks to miss some significant portion of a source text.

Third, in cases when speed of the orator's speech is high the interpreter may make mistakes without proper performance of linguistic mechanisms in the process of switching from translation language to the source language.

That is why conditions under which the simultaneous interpretation takes place, especially when orators' speed is high or medium compel an interpreter to use linguistic transformation to the message in order to reduce the source text size.

The interpreter utilizes the compression mechanism for successful and effective fulfillment of text reduction. The method of reducing syllables number without damage to the communicative task put forth by an interpreter is referred to as compression. [3, 183] Compression is process of compressing by preserving information which is essential for the present communicative tasks and putting aside the remaining part. [5, 90]

Needless to say that compression of information is naturally present in any process of simultaneous interpretation. The basis to that is firstly characteristic features of language system of languages and features of simultaneous interpretation as a branch of translation. It means that compression is a phenomenon which originates from linguistic and psycholinguistic principles of conveying statement. It insinuates that it is natural that information which does not bear semantic value is dropped during decoding and recoding processes while information bearing communicative value is preserved. It is natural to reduce information up to 60 % even in transmitting process in monolingual environment. (Tunkel.V.D., 1965).

Compression strategy is likely to happen when repeating and odd information can be found in source text. According to A.D.Schweizer compression of information can be reached by omitting excessive information in a statement. The excessive information mentioned here according to him is elements complimented in the context of situation and communication. [2, 280].

I. V. Gurin having said that grammatical structure peculiarities of languages influenced the above-mentioned factors of compression mechanism usage, mentioned 5 factors: *conditions of simultaneous interpreter's activities, communication context, communicative task, message context and peculiarities of languages grammatical structures.*

Conditions of simultaneous interpreter's activities, that is the above-mentioned time deficiency and high and medium speed of the orator's speech force the simultaneous interpreter to utilize compression in the process of interpretation. In addition to that G.V.Chernov's reasoning can also be cited. It states that two mechanisms assure speaking and hearing synchronization: *probable forecasting and compression.* According to this the interpreter should think over ways of omitting words and phrases that need to be disclosed clearly by paying close attention to what the orator is saying. For example, Arabic Muslims usually cite Quranic verses so that their statements will be influential. Since religious texts have specific peculiarities, it is difficult for translators to translate Quranic verses. Moreover even the clergymen train 10-15 years in order to be able to give interpretations to Quranic verses. Therefore if an orator cites any Quranic verse and specifies its order number, the interpreter gives just the name of the verse and its number so as not to fall behind the orator. And if the orator does not specify in what part of Quran a verse is and its number when he cites a verse, as the orator cites a

Quranic verse within the frame of a particular topic, the interpreter is compelled to leave the Quranic verse without translation saying: this issue was mentioned in Quran as well”. [6, 142]

”مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَتَلَ النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا”

“*Man qatala nafsān biḡhayri nafsin aw fasādin fī al-a'rḍi fakaa'nnamā qatala an-nāsa jamī'ān*”

«Anyone who murders a person who did not killed anybody and did not break the law is like a man who killed the whole humanity». (Quran, Surah «al-Ma'idah», 32)

Here we can see that translation is larger in size than source text of the Quranic verse. Also, it is easy to notice that the topic is about not committing murder. The interpreter conveys the statement by using compression as “it is said about not killing people in 32 verse of the surah “Maida” of Quran.

THE RESEARCH POINT AND THE PROPOSED SOLUTION

As G.V.Chernov says the concept of compression of excessive elements which are repeated in terms of *communicative context* is closely connected to the concept of *communicative situation*. It means that communicative situation should be understood as combination of extra linguistic situations which give information about the statement topic, audience, orator's personality, place and time of a made statement and purpose of a statement. As an example to this let us consider an extract from the statement of the General Secretary of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation made at 38th session of Council of Foreign Minister's of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation which was held in Astana:

”انضمت كازاخستان إلى منظمة المؤتمر الإسلامي في عام 1995. ومنذ ذلك الحين يتطور التعاون متعدد الأوجه بين كازاخستان ومنظمة المؤتمر الإسلامي بشكل متصاعد ومثمر“

“*Inḡammat Kazakhstan ilā Munazamati al-m`utamar al-Islamī fī `ām 1995. Ua mundhu dhālika al-hīn yataḡawwaru at-ta`ānu muta`ūdidi al-awjuhi bayna Kazakhstan wa Munazamati al-m`utamar al-Islamī bishaklin mutaṡa'idin wa muthmirin*”

«Kazakhstan became a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in 1995. Since then cooperation between Kazakhstan and the organization have grown in diverse spheres and given tangible results».

If we eliminate the excessive elements from communicative situation, it can be translated using compression as follows: «Since the membership to the organization cooperation between Kazakhstan and the organization has given its positive results». It is known to all participants that it is being told about OIC when said “organization” and Kazakhstan became a member of the organization in 1995 from the communicative situation. Another thing to be mentioned is that even the orator sometimes tries to reduce the information which is known to all participants of the event from communicative situation. For instance, he/she can give the full name of the organization at the beginning of his speech and refer to it as organization at the middle of speech. It is especially used among Kazakh speakers. Such an approach is scarcely practiced among Arabic speakers.

As for fulfilling communication task, unimportant pieces of information which bear no argumentative value are exposed to compression, that is words meant for making a statement more colorful, more pleasant, synonymic streak of words, introductory words, sometimes (when time is too short) kind remarks, irrelevant to the topic words are dropped.[7] Arabic speakers in their statements use many idiomatic units to make their speech evocative and emotional,

thus trying to demonstrate rich vocabulary of Arabic language, rich culture by using a streak of synonyms. Especially, one can frequently come across synonymic adjectives and doubled synonymic words in Arabic: “ازدادت و تقدمت” *“izdadat wa taqaddamat”* grew and developed “التوتر الطائفي والعرقى” *“at-tauattur at-ṭāi’f ī wa al-‘irqī”* religious, racial rage “مودتهم و محبتهم” *“mawaddatuhum wa maḥabbatuhum”* their love and adoration «الشكر و التقدير» *“ash-shukru wa at-raqdīru”* thanks and gratitude, etc.

The statement context also creates pleasant conditions to use compression, that is utterances used in a statement context are often repeated, because utterances preserve interconnection through this. This iterations in statement context can be translated by using compression if needed. The abbreviations can serve as evidence to that. Conveying an organization or country name which has been familiar to the audience from previous utterances with abbreviation or shortened words facilitates text compression. It is worth noting that abbreviations are not used in Arabic. That is why there appear some factors making translation from Arabic into Kazakh easier. However the reverse translation from Kazakh into Arabic the interpreter faces certain difficulties, as there is a possibility that a Kazakh speaker uses abbreviations in his speech. That is to be translated into Arabic fully. However, if it is one of known pieces of information from communicative situation, it can be conveyed with one word which is recognized by all participants.

It is a well known fact that difference in languages structures imposes on interpreters additional hardships while translation. In three languages out of ten mostly used languages (English, German, Arabic, Russian, Chinese, French, Italian, Japan, Portugal, Spanish) by simultaneous interpreters have syntactic system in which verb’s position is at the end of a sentence. As for Arabic, its verb on the contrary is mostly at the beginning of a sentence. This fact creates challenges when translating into Kazakh, because the verb comes at the end of a sentence in Kazakh. Therefore natural peculiarities in the lexical, syntactic systems of languages lie in the basis of translation transformation. Barkhudarov defined translation process as “interlingual transforming or reforming a text in one language into another” [8, 240]. In accordance with this viewpoint compression mechanism can also be defined as reforming or transforming a text in one language into another reducing number of syllables. It means using wide-range methods and approaches of lexical-semantic and grammatical transformation enables compression to be performed more effectively.

Thus, the fact that using the strategy of compression is conditioned by topical situation and linguistic excess assures a speaker conveys his communicative intentions briefly and exactly and provides stylistically appropriate formation of a translation text.

Consequently, we come to the conclusion that in terms of implementing compression used in the process of translation from Arabic into Kazakh can be conditionally divided into syntactical, lexical and semantic.

- Syntactical compression – conveying a translation text in shorter and simpler syntactic structure than that of a source text.

«أتحدث إليكم في أوقات صعبة تمتحن مصر وشعبها وتكاد أن تنجرف بها وبهم إلى المجهول»

“A’taḥaddathu l’aykum fī a’wqatin ṣa ’batin tamtaḥīnu miṣra was sha ‘baha wa takadu a’n tanjarifa biha wa bihim i’la al-majhūl”

«I am making a statement at the period when our country is being tested hard».

The verbatim translation of the source text: «I am making a statement at the times which are testing Egypt and its nation and nearly have led its nation to uncertainty» can be compressed, in which synonymic words like “Egypt and its nation” can be replaced by the word “el” in Kazakh which covers both country and nation in its meaning, the word in plural form “times” can be replaced with the word “period”, the verb “which is testing” that is used as active participle of the nominal “times” can be changed as passive “which is being tested” and the phrase “and nearly have led its nation to uncertainty” can be replaced with the word hard, thus it can be translated easy and briefly.

- Lexical compression – transferring the speaker’s thought with the least words.

“إن أحداث الأيام القليلة الماضية تفرض علينا جميعا شعبا وقيادة الاختيار ما بين الفوضى والاستقرار”

“I’нна a’hdath al-ayyāmi al-qalīlāti al-maḍyati tafriḍu ‘alayna jami’an sha ‘aban wa qiyadatan al-i’khtiāra ma bayna al-fawḍā wa al-i’sṭiqrar”

“These events force us all to make a choice between stability and chaos».

Here *“I’нна a’hdath al-ayyāmi al-qalīlāti al-maḍyati”*- word combination «events which have taken place in recent days» that does not have any semantic load can be compressed and instead just “these events” can be used, *“jami’an sha ‘aban wa qiyadatan”*- in the word combination “to all of us, nation and authority” words as “nation and authority” can be omitted in interpretation.

- Semantic compression – translation by reducing semantic components which are repetitive in utterances and messages.

“لقد كانت لي مناقشات جيّدة مع الأمين العام لمنظمة التجارة العالمية سيد باسكال لامي”

“Laqad kānat lī munāqashatun jayyīdatun ma ‘a al-A‘mīni al- ‘Ami limunazzamati at-tijārati al-‘alamiyati Sayyid Bāskāl lāmī”

“I have discussed this issue with Mr. Pascal Lami thoroughly”.

Here we can drop the word *“al-A‘mīni al- ‘Ami limunazzamati at-tijārati al-‘alamiyati”* General Secretary of the World Trade Organization.

Summing up, we would like to state that simultaneous interpretation is a type of translation that is performed in a special situation. Its distinctive features can cover non-compliance of word formation conditions in a source language and translation language, time deficiency, psychological pressure. Simultaneous interpretation the most acceptable duration is 20-30 minutes. After this time lapse an interpreter’s cognitive activeness tends to slow down and he/she gets tired. Talking about compression size G.V.Chernov shared his opinion that 30-37 % could be compressed by comparing compressed simultaneous interpretation and uncompressed written translation.

CONCLUSIONS

However, we favour the principle of adapting oneself to speed of the speaker’s speech as far as compression is concerned, because if the speaker’s speech speed is low, but the message is too much compressed, unnecessary pauses might occur in interpreters’ performance. Moreover if one listener accepts the compressed information as clear and close to the original text, another listener might find it too hard to comprehend or lacking relevance. It can occur when linguistic

and extra linguistic capabilities of listeners are not taken into account during the text compression process. It means certain recipients of information cannot understand the translation transformation owing to their national customs and world views, interests, level of knowledge, social restrictions, etc. Therefore the interpreter must be highly qualified professional with full knowledge of not only two languages, but also two concerned cultures. As for using the method of compression, special attention must be paid to the speaker's speech speed, that is one must not forget the negative sides of making unnecessary compressions either.

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