



**KEEP CALM
AND
CARRY ON**

Coping with Challenges of Simultaneous Interpretation

Presented by Irina Jesionowski

What is Conference Interpreting?



AIIC Code of Professional Ethics, Article 7.d.

Members of the Association shall not agree to undertake either simultaneous interpretation without a booth or whispered interpretation unless the circumstances are exceptional and the quality of interpretation work is not thereby impaired.



The photos are posted on the AIIC Facebook page
Irina Jesionowski_MiTiN_2011_www.InterpreterEducationOnline.com

What is Conference Interpreting?

Office of Language Services, the U.S. Department of State

Conference vs. Seminar Interpreting

The conference interpreter works in formal settings and cannot seek clarification or influence the pace of the discussion. The conference interpreter must express each concept in the way it would be normally expressed by a good public speaker of the target language.



What is Conference Interpreting?

Interpret America

<http://www.interpretamerica.net/sectors#conference>

Conference interpretation is the faithful, accurate and objective transmission of a spoken message at a conference or similar event in another language and cultural context. The message may be transmitted by either simultaneous or consecutive interpretation. Conference interpreters are trained in "long consecutive" and consecutive note-taking techniques.

Conference Interpretation Settings

“Conference or similar event” is meant to include meetings of all sizes no matter what the name (seminar, colloquium, symposium, congress, etc.), as well as press conferences, negotiations, television broadcasts, videoconferences, diplomatic meetings and the like.

Interpret America

<http://www.interpretamerica.net/sectors#conference>

Conference Interpreting Markets

- **National market:** companies, government agencies (DoS and DHS are among the largest employers of interpreters and translators in the U.S.)
- **Private international market:** international trade associations, multinational companies, television, international sporting events
- **Institutional international market:** international organizations, such as UN, EU, IMF, WHO, WTO, OSCE, multiple NGOs, and many more

Conference Interpreter: Core Competences

- Command of two or more languages (A, B, and C)
- An ability to communicate the speaker's intended messages as accurately, faithfully, and completely as possible
- Excellent command of the three modes of interpretation
- Public speaking skills
- Subject-matter proficiency
- An ability to work efficiently with partners and clients

Resources

- **AIIC** (International Association of Conference Interpreters)

Practical Guide for Professional Conference Interpreters

<http://www.aiic.net/ViewPage.cfm/article21.htm#33>

- **AIIC Code of Professional Ethics**

<http://www.aiic.net/ViewPage.cfm/article24.htm>

Practical Considerations: Booth



Know your equipment!

- ✓ Mike:
on/off/mute/volume
- ✓ Input: floor/relay
- ✓ Maintain a consistent distance between you and the microphone (don't jump, don't swallow a mike)
- ✓ Headphones
- ✓ Power outlets

Practical Considerations: Booth

You are a team member!

- ✓ Do not leave your partner alone
- ✓ Help your partner
- ✓ Learn to write quickly and legibly!
- ✓ Ensure a seamless switchover

Booth hygiene

- ✓ Sanitizer
- ✓ Odor control
- ✓ Turn off the sound on your laptop and silence your phone

What you Need in a Booth

- ✓ Multi-outlet plug for your [small]computer
- ✓ Glossaries
- ✓ Adhesive tape
- ✓ Note paper
- ✓ Several pens
- ✓ Highlighters
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Lozenges
- ✓ Portable hooks and hangers



Practical Considerations: Chuchotage and Portable Equipment



- Do not whisper!
- A set of portable SI equipment is a life-saver
- Main challenge:
you cannot adjust the input volume > lower your own voice so you can hear the speaker

Challenges of Simultaneous Interpretation



Split Attention

An ability to

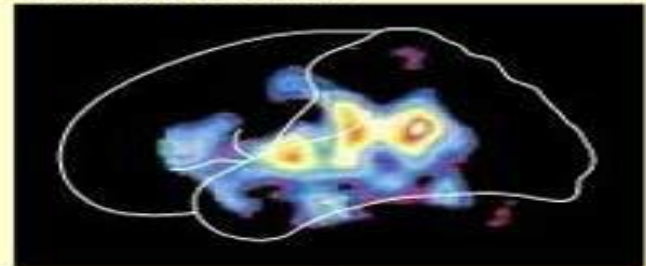
- ✓ listen and understand the source speech
- ✓ convert it into your TL
- ✓ generate it in the TL
- ✓ monitor the quality of your delivery

all at the same time

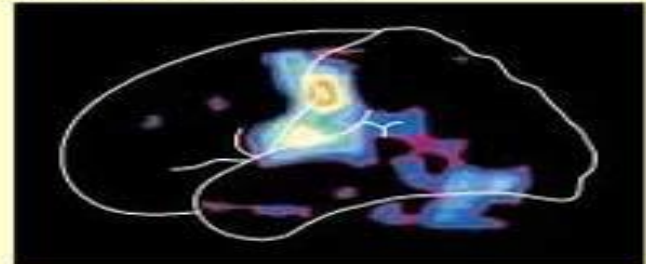
Seeing words passively



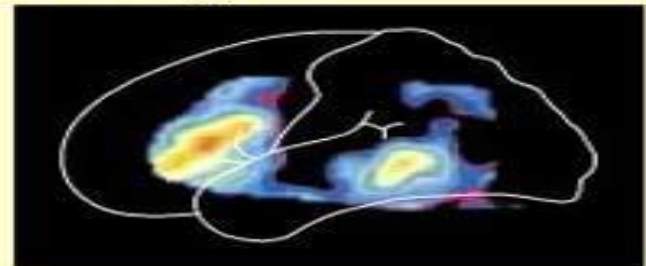
Listening to words



Pronouncing words



Generating words



In a Nutshell...

- ✓ Cultivate split attention
- ✓ Make a conscious effort to monitor the output
- ✓ Do not get distracted by individual problematic words
- ✓ Use short simple sentences
- ✓ Be grammatical
- ✓ Make sense in every single sentence, and always finish the sentences.

Typical Interpretation Errors and Performance Deficiencies

Accuracy

- ✓ Omissions
- ✓ Mistranslations
- ✓ Change of meaning/shift of meaning
- ✓ Additions

Typical Interpretation Errors and Performance Deficiencies

Command of the target language

- ✓ Grammatical errors
- ✓ Syntactical errores
- ✓ Style
- ✓ Pronunciation
- ✓ Inadequate language proficiency

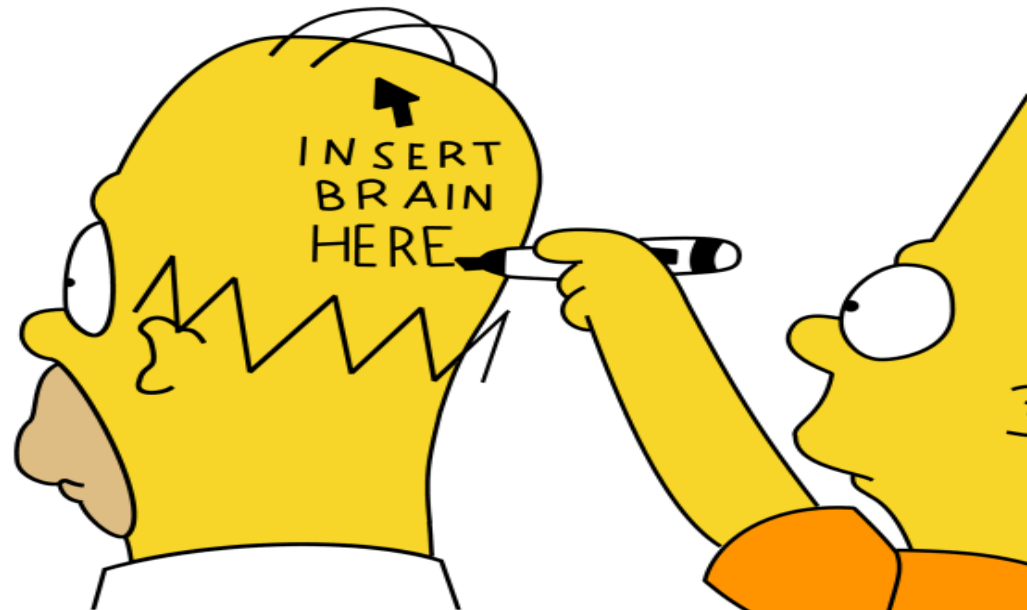
Typical Interpretation Errors and Performance Deficiencies

Presentation and delivery

- ✓ Long pauses, hesitations, filler words, and prolonged vowels
- ✓ False starts
- ✓ Delivery sounds rushed and choppy
- ✓ Poor enunciation
- ✓ Unpleasant tone of voice
- ✓ Monotonous delivery

Interpretation Practice

Get your recording devices ready!

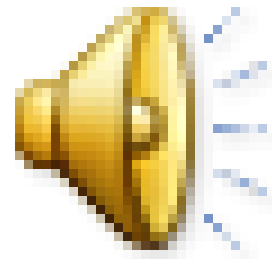


Inspirational Speech

733 words

6 minutes

122 wpm



Challenges and Coping Strategies

Challenges	Skills/Strategies
Reformulation: un-translatability	Abstraction and code-switching
	If it can be said, it can be interpreted

Challenges and Coping Strategies

Challenge	Skills/Strategies
Keeping up with the speaker	Anticipation and prediction
	Decalage increase
	Chunking
	Compression
	Calculated omission

Challenges and Coping Strategies

Challenges	Strategies
✓ Quality of delivery ✓ Monitoring your output	Dramatic reading
	Self-recording
	Memorization and reciting (poetry, famous speeches, subject-matter presentations)

Training

- ✓ Systematic practice
- ✓ Deliberate practice
- ✓ Mentored Practice





Experts are made, not born.

Talent is overrated.

**Success is 10 percent
inspiration and 90 percent
*perspiration.***



**NOW PANIC AND
FREAK OUT**

Thank you!

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