

INTERPRETING SKILLS FOR TRANSLATORS

*Scientific supervisor: Abduraxmonov To'raxon,
Shuxratova Muattaroy Muxammad qizi student of
Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages*

Abstract: This article discusses the interpreting skills necessary for translators, arguing that incorporating interpreting competencies can significantly improve translators' responsiveness, cognitive flexibility, and cultural adaptability. Key interpreting skills such as active listening, memory retention, real-time reformulation, and intercultural awareness are analyzed in the context of how they support the translator's role in both written and spoken communication. The study concludes with recommendations for translator training programs to integrate interpreting practice to prepare linguists for more dynamic professional settings.

Keywords: Interpreting, translation, linguistic mediation, memory skills, cross-cultural communication, language proficiency.

Translators and interpreters both facilitate communication across languages and cultures. However, their roles differ: translators work with written texts, while interpreters focus on oral language in real-time settings. Despite these differences, many translators find themselves in situations where interpreting skills are essential, particularly in community settings, liaison interpreting, or in situations where immediate oral translation is required [1].

Both translators and interpreters require a high level of bilingual proficiency, cultural literacy, and domain-specific knowledge. Interpreting, however, demands additional real-time cognitive skills, such as short-term memory, split attention, and rapid reformulation. Translators who develop interpreting abilities often report improved efficiency in reading comprehension, syntactic flexibility, and information processing.

Translators benefit from interpreting-style listening to understand deeper levels of discourse, such as implied meaning and speaker intent, which are crucial when translating idiomatic or culturally dense texts. Interpreters rely heavily on working memory to hold chunks of speech before rendering. Translators can adapt similar techniques for complex or lengthy documents, enhancing cohesion and consistency. Interpreters must paraphrase quickly and accurately. This skill can help translators approach texts with more natural and idiomatic expressions in the target language.

Interpreters often develop shorthand systems to capture essential information quickly. Translators can use similar techniques to organize and summarize source texts before beginning the translation process. Interpreting requires a deep understanding of

context, tone, and non-verbal cues. This interpretive lens helps translators better capture nuances and adapt content appropriately [2].

Incorporating interpreting modules into translator training can foster greater adaptability. Simulation-based exercises, sight translation, shadowing, and consecutive interpreting practice can build valuable cognitive and linguistic flexibility. Furthermore, as translation increasingly overlaps with multilingual communication tasks (e.g., video localization, live chats, diplomatic correspondence), such hybrid skills prepare professionals for broader career opportunities.

While translating and interpreting remain distinct disciplines, integrating interpreting skills into translation practice enhances overall linguistic mediation capabilities. Active listening, real-time processing, and cultural agility are crucial competencies for translators operating in today's fast-paced, multilingual environments. Curriculum designers, professional trainers, and language service providers should recognize the synergy between these two domains and promote comprehensive skill development [3].

Specializing in translating a particular type of communication can help translators succeed on the job. Specialization can help translators learn words' meanings in specific contexts. Most translators with specializations have degrees in their area of expertise. Here are some common specializations for translators:

- **Business and finance:** Many translators find successful careers translating between businesses whose executives speak different languages.
- **Medicine:** Medical translators can work for doctors or hospitals to communicate about symptoms and treatments between doctors and patients.
- **Law:** Legal translators might translate legal documents or communicate between lawyers who speak different languages.
- **Science and engineering:** Translators who specialize in technical topics like engineering have a deep knowledge of engineering processes that can help them translate documentation to another language.

Linguistic differences in idioms, slang and even dialects can be a challenge for translators. Creativity can help translators avoid literal translations that don't convey the correct meaning. For example, if a English speaker uses an idiomatic saying in a business document for a Mandarin speaker, the translator can use their creativity to either find a Mandarin saying that means the same thing or translate the meaning of the idiom [4].

Embarking on a journey to become a professional interpreter is both exciting and demanding. The role of an interpreter is to convert spoken or signed language from one language to another, ensuring clear and accurate communication between parties. Unlike translators who work with written text, interpreters must be adept at real-time language processing, which requires a unique set of skills and an extensive knowledge

of both the source and target languages. Additionally, it's important to understand the cultural nuances and idiomatic expressions that can influence meaning. This cultural competency will allow you to convey messages more accurately and effectively.

In conclusion, being a great interpreter requires more than just knowing two languages. It's a complex skill set that combines linguistic mastery, cultural awareness, quick thinking, and emotional intelligence. Whether they're facilitating international diplomacy or helping patients in hospitals, interpreters are vital to breaking down language barriers and building understanding.

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