

Research of Strategies of Chinese-to-English Simultaneous Interpreting

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Abstract. Simultaneous interpreting is a translating method with the high efficiency, whose average time interval is short between the source text and the target text. Therefore, this characteristic can fully ensure a coherent speech and does not interrupt the thinking of the speaker, which helps audiences understand the whole speech smoothly. Owing to expression differences between Chinese and English, the redundancy phenomenon is prone to appear in the process of simultaneous interpreting. The author of this paper studies the problem of redundancy by own participation into the translation practice. The aim of this paper is to unmask the redundancy problem in the translation that has traditionally been neglected by English learners, especially for bilingual interpreters. This paper resorts to information theory and redundancy theory of information theory as well as some persuasive examples to discuss the redundancy problem and affords feasible solutions for interpreters with a view to advance their interpreting skills. This practice report takes two speeches as research objects from the Fourth International Conference on the Development of China and Indian Ocean Economies. The author deeply analyses strategies of dealing with the redundancy in the Chinese-English simultaneous interpreting for the purpose of providing abundant examples to the redundancy research.

Keywords: Chinese-English Simultaneous Interpreting; Information Theory; Strategies.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the Task

Since the world entered the new century, China has regarded the Southeast Asia as the base point to add its weight to the eastern Indian Ocean on the political, economic, cultural, security and other fields of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, which ensures the maritime transport channels run favorably and maximize the mutual economic benefits and guarantee the safety of Indian Ocean Economies.

1.2 Requirements of the Task

This task is a simultaneous interpreting and the theme is mainly on politics and economy, which demand the sufficient preparation before the interpreting for interpreters. The interpreter works in a soundproofed booth with at least one colleague, the speaker in the meeting room speaks into a microphone, the interpreter receives the sound through a handset and renders the message into a microphone almost simultaneously. The purpose of this task is to convey the accurate and right information from the speaker to delegates of different languages and audiences. The seminar organizers required the interpreter to translate most of the speaker's speech to achieve the best effect of the simultaneous interpreting.

2. Process of Interpreting

In this part, the author will illustrate the process of this interpreting task, which includes preparation before the interpreting, problems and solutions of the interpreting and the interpreting assessment, this section shows the real practice scene of this interpreting to the simultaneous interpreting learners.

2.1 Preparation before the Interpreting

The speech's speed of the speaker is fast in this seminar and the speech content is professional ranges over politics, economy, military, religion. Therefore, the solid language foundation and interpreting skills are top priorities to the well-off simultaneous interpreting task. In addition, the interpreter needs the adequate preparation before the interpreting, which can guarantee the smooth of the simultaneous interpreting. Since the time is limited and the task preparation belongs to the short-term one, then the author's preparation terms contain information collection, glossary, interpreting strategies and emergency plans.

2.1.1 Information Collection

The information collection is a momentous step for interpreters, furthermore, the preparation period set out from the moment that the interpreter received the task from meeting organizers. When accepting this assignment, the author requested the meeting related information, which covers meeting agenda, meeting notes, name list, the theme, meeting content (speech draft, abstract and PPT) on the basis of the past practice. The author looked up a good deal of related information through the background of this seminar, such as the introduction of the Indian Ocean, participating countries, seminar organizer, speakers' brief introduction and relevant specialized vocabularies. The author also collected four countries' accent audios on account of foreign speakers who are from India, Thailand, Myanmar and Sri Lanka for the purpose of being familiar with their accents before the interpreting.

2.1.2 Glossary Preparation

Vocabulary is a groundwork of the smooth interpreting, since this interpreting task is an international seminar involving extensive domains, which demand the author to formulate the following glossary before the interpreting on the principle of the accurate expression. This glossary covers economy, politics and religion. A suitable and accurate glossary will definitely be conducive to the successful interpreting.

2.1.3 Interpreting Strategies

Simultaneous interpreting is a demanding work for interpreters, no matter how solid interpreting skills of interpreters are, they all should formulate the practical and effective interpreting strategies in advance for the smooth going during the interpreting. The author's interpreting strategies for this simultaneous interpreting are as follows: omission, amplification, usual interpreting sentence pattern, speculating opening remarks and complimentary close of the speaker. Before the interpreting, the author consulted and acquainted with these strategies for the sake of duplicating and interpreting long and difficult sentences successfully in the interpreting.

2.2 Problems and Solutions of the Interpreting

Interpreting process, an indispensable part for this paper, shows us problems in the interpreting and author's solutions. Although the author has made a self-thinking comprehensive preparation beforehand, some problems still occurred in the process of the interpreting.

2.2.1 Problems

During the interpreting, the author came across a few unfamiliar and specialized vocabularies that beyond own words level and do not know how to interpret. The author formulated the glossary before the interpreting, but due to the wide ranges of the interpreting content, the author meet some unfamiliar specialized words, such as quantitative analysis, trade dependency, N11 and Caliph.

The author missed some information by reason of the fast speed of the speaker. Before the interpreting, the author has communicated with the speaker and requested the speaker to slow down his or her speed with courtesy manner, but during the speech, the speaker still remain the original speed.

Physically tired. The simultaneous interpreting demands the great physical strength, due to the interpreting is a brain work that consumes large amounts of energy and serves for a great number of speakers, hence the author fell into the physical weaknesses in the later stage of the interpreting.

Redundancy problem. In virtue of influences of speaker's habits and the Chinese modern spoken language, the speaker output a mass of redundancy component, which made some inevitable troubles to interpreters when interpreting abide by the Chinese sentence structure and expression form.

2.2.2 Solutions

This report offers two solutions to deal with unfamiliar specialized vocabularies during the interpreting: ① Guessing the word meaning according to the context and applying simple words to replace those unfamiliar ones; ② Asking for partner's help, the interpreter can give a sign of the unfamiliar word to the simultaneous interpreting partner and the partner writes down the correct translation quickly by accessing to dictionary and data bank to ensure the correctness of the word in the rest part.

The speech's fast speed of the speaker brought about the difficulty to the interpreter who cannot immediately interpret the full information of the original meaning. This paper's solution: The interpreter should concentrate greatly on key words of the sentence and uses them to interpret, but the only condition is the authenticity of the sentence. The interpreter is not permitted to fabricate the content of the speech.

Considering the interpreting task is a brain power and time limited work, the interpreter appeared the physically tired in the final stage. The strategy will be: The simultaneous interpreting work usually could be completed by two interpreters, when one interpreter appears exhaustion, he or she should give a sign to his or her partner timely to ask the partner to interpret the rest of speech. The whole interpreting task should be done coordinately by two interpreters.

2.3 Theory Adopted

In this paper, the author mainly makes use of information theory and redundancy theory of information theory. From some authorities' traditional views about writing and translation, a piece of good writing or translation should be refrained from redundancy. Shannon's concept of redundancy was applied into translation by Eugene A. Nida firstly in 1964. Nida departed from such a minimalism on the subject and he realized that the function of redundancy can withstand noise and keep the communication channel. From the perspective of the traditional views, redundancy may be devoted to communication when linguists and translation theorists have discovered. So it is unnecessary to attempt to clear up the whole redundancy from writing and translation. Nida has made some researches that are the same with those in Shannon's works: The process of communication can be supported by the moderate redundancy rather than impeded. He also indicated: "theoretically, although redundancy might seem to be a waste of effort, it plays a key role in the efficiency of language, for by re-enforcing a communication by partially predictable signals one may overcome many of the barriers of 'noise'" [1].

Liao Qiyi, the Chinese well-known translator, holds that redundancy problem is an inevitable phenomenon in the Chinese-English simultaneous interpreting. Every translator should pay attention to the question that how to deal with the redundancy problem appropriately. Liao advocates the balanced redundancy of adding and reducing the content of information properly[2]. In the paper of *Analyzing the Redundancy Phenomenon from the Perspective of Information Theory*, Wang Jinbo and Wang Yan came up with the concept that translation is the interlingual communication. In information theory, one of translation tasks is to adjust and transform the redundancy composition of the source language to adapt to the target language and then ensure the success of the communication[3].

3. Summary

Although some unexpected situations occurred in the process of the task, such as unfamiliar and specialized vocabularies, failing to follow the speed of the speaker, physically tired. In general, the effect of translation is good and the author observed the problem of redundancy in Chinese-English simultaneous interpreting and provided some strategies about this problem in this practice paper. The author analyzes strategies of dealing with redundancy problem in accordance with amplification and omission, which can make version concise and smooth.

It should be noticed that omission and amplification are by no means cutting and adding words to the version optionally, the version should adhere to the principle of “faithfulness”, namely, be faithful to the original. The version takes out the redundancy information, which makes the version more expressive and close to the original.

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