

SHORT-TERM MEMORY SHARPENING STRATEGY IN SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION

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Annottatsiya

Sinxron yoki ketma-ket tarjimani amalga oshirish uchun tarjimon o'rganishi kerak bo'lgan ko'p narsalar qatorida xotira ta'limga muhtoj bo'lgan muhim elementdir. Mening maqsadim - xotirani yaxshilashning ba'zi usullarini, qisqa va uzoq muddatli xotiraning xususiyatlarini va ularning tarjimon faoliyatiga ta'sir qilish usullarini muhokama qilishdir.

Kalit so'zlar: tarjima, qisqa muddatli va uzoq muddatli xotira, sinxron tarjima, ketma-ket tarjima, mnemonika

Аннотация

Среди множества вещей, которым переводчик должен научиться, чтобы осуществлять синхронный или последовательный перевод, память является важным элементом, который нуждается в тренировке. Моя цель — обсудить некоторые методы улучшения памяти, характеристики кратковременной и долговременной памяти и то, как они влияют на работу переводчика.

Ключевые слова: устный перевод, кратковременная и долговременная память, синхронный перевод, последовательный перевод, мнемотехника.

Abstract

Among the many things an interpreter should learn in order to perform simultaneous or consecutive interpretation, memory is an important element that needs training. My aim is to discuss some techniques of improving one's memory, the characteristics of short and long term memory, and the way in which they influence the interpreter's performances.

Keywords: interpretation, short-term and long-term memory, simultaneous interpretation, consecutive interpretation, mnemonics.

Interpreting denotes facilitating communication from one language into another language. The conference interpreter translates the message orally, which is quite different from written translation. In order to perform the task professionally an interpreter has to master who is working upon, and to undergo special training as the job requires not only to perform this task correctly, but also to perform it in real time, which means fast.

Psychological studies of human memory agree that it can be of two types: short-term memory (STM) and long-term memory (LTM). Carolyn Hopper draws our attention to the name of LTM, which is only long-term, never permanent.. According to its name, STM is able to retain and recall the information for just a brief period of time because it does not create the neural mechanisms that would be needed for a subsequent storage. On the contrary, LTM occurs once you have created the neural pathways for storing, so the information that you hear can be stored from minutes to months or even years' span. "In actuality long-term memory is the neural pathways and synaptic connections that have stabilized through repeated use"

Short-term memory: acoustic, visual and semantic coding. It is believed that information enters STM as a result of attention to a stimulus, in our case, the attention to the speaker. Studies show that the encoding of information is mainly done through three modalities: acoustic, visual and semantic. The acoustic coding relates closely to what we hear (words, sentences, sounds), without placing the emphasis on the meaning of sentences/words. A source of evidence "for separating long and short-term memory comes from experiments which suggest that material in our short-term memory is processed largely in terms of speech sounds, whereas our long-term memory depends primarily on meaning".¹ Alan Baddeley states that STM depends mainly on acoustic coding (1966). This means that the interpreter relies a lot on what he hears, while he tries to carry the task properly.

In interpretation, the mnemonic tool may prove helpful, but unfortunately, if the information is totally new, we do not have the _____

¹Baddeley, A. 1999. Essentials of Human Memory, East Sussex: Psychology Press Ltd. 104p

necessary time to find an easy alternative to remember. Memory, though, can be trained and improved. Specialists declare that just like you can train your body, or work out your muscles, you can achieve better performances with your memory. Vivid and colorful images are well received by your brain, so any time you hear something, try to turn it into a pleasant image for the brain.

In order to improve your consecutive interpretation in a conference, when you hear in a row a large number of things or objects with no apparent link to you, you should train your memory by using link method. Memory has very little to do with intelligence, but a lot to do with practice and technique. As we have already mentioned, images that you create are one of your best partner during a workshop. So, do not be afraid to experiment. The more ridiculous the images you create in your mind, the better chances of remembering them you will have. For instance, we have some rules that every person may find helpful:

1. Picture items out of proportion, that is gigantic or of memorable size

2. Picture your items in action whenever possible. Besides, we unfortunately tend to remember negative things or feelings that we had to face. So, violent or shocking images in action make the whole scene more memorable.

3. Exaggerate the number of items. You can easily imagine “thousands” or “millions” belts using moisturizer, just as “hundreds” of buses sipping tea from a glass.²

Interpretation is a complex task that requires the association of many factors. No matter whether simultaneous or consecutive interpretation is performed, the role of the memory is extremely important. Short-term memory is based especially on the actual hearing of sounds, without always filtering the information, that is why the interpreter has to be careful with the message he conveys further. Due to the fact that long-term memory involves neural pathways and synaptic connections, it is better established in the interpreter’s brain. Therefore, long-term memory has the advantage that the interpreter is better acquainted with the field to which the translation belongs; consequently, the interpretation happens very precisely, due to the correct placement in context.

As interpreter, I make good use of both types of memory, as their training has proved important for the quality of subject message rendering.

In this article, the aim was to discuss techniques for memory improvement, as mastering the languages and the general background of the conference are not sufficient. Therefore, we have to encourage memory training through all of its aspects - acoustic, visual, or semantic, which together with the other tools is crucial in the interpreter’s work.

References

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