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# ORAL POLITICAL DISCOURSE: FACTORS OF TRANSLATABILITY

# УСНИЙ ПОЛІТИЧНИЙ ДИСКУРС: ФАКТОРИ ПЕРЕКЛАДНОСТІ

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Practice, theory and didactics of simultaneous translation show that in the speeches of political figures there are elements and peculiarities that flow into the process of simultaneous translation: complexity and simplicity of its work. The relevance of these topics is due to the growing importance of political communication, as well as the need for the preparation of qualified translator personnel. The article develops an idea about the fact that the structure of a learned political language and the specificity for a learned translation lie among a large number of factors that are amenable to analysis. The conducted research allows us to make such a decision: speeches of politicians can easily contain specific parameters that influence the process and the result of the translation process. It can be said that the success and simplicity of translation in political discourse, as in other discourses, lies both in the translation itself (his competence and skills), and in the type of speaker (his individual characteristics). Knowing the peculiarities of speakers' speech, the peculiarities of intonation, pauses in speech and other parameters can significantly facilitate the activity of oral translation, speed up hundreds of transfers, and help achieve the most accurate transfer of content. However, it is important to keep in mind those factors that can be included in the translation, such as the circumstances in which the speech appears, the speaker's particular positioning of the problem that is being described, the quality of equipment, the preparation of the audience, etc. An important role is played by competence, skills and knowledge of the synchronist (linguistic and extralinguistic). At the same time, knowledge of the strategies and mechanisms that are used for political texts will facilitate the translation process and allow you to preserve the communicative effect of the original text as much as possible. The development of the individual manners of a political figure in these speeches plays an important role for translation and is a promising area for further research and for the didactics of oral translation. The relevance of the investigation is determined, first of all, by the growing importance of political, multilingual communication and the constant need for the preparation of oral translations; in other words, the sheer necessity of understanding the implementation of the process of oral simultaneous translation in order to inspire consistent models to begin on authentic material that sounds; thirdly, the presence of algorithms for the rational selection of initial material for starting oral translation is consistent with the dynamics of graduated initial assignments from simple to complex.

**Key words:** oral translation, synchronous translation, political discourse, portrait of a speaker, translatability.

Практика, теорія та дидактика усного перекладу показують, що в промовах політичних діячів містяться елементи та особливості, які впливають на процес усного синхронного перекладу: ускладнення чи спрощення його здійснення. Актуальність теми пов'язана зі зростаючою значимістю політичної комунікації, а також необхідністю у підготовці кваліфікованих перекладацьких кадрів. У статті розвивається думка про те, що структура усної політичної мови та її специфіка для усного перекладу залежать від багатьох факторів, які піддаються аналізу. Проведене дослідження дозволяє нам дійти такого висновку: у промовах політиків дійсно містяться певні параметри, які впливають на процес і результат усного перекладу. Можна сказати, що успішність і простота перекладу в політичному дискурсі, як і в інших дискурсах, залежать як і від самого перекладача (його компетенції та навичок), так і від оратора (його індивідуальних та мовних характеристик). Знання особливостей промов ораторів, особливостей інтонації, паузації мови та інших параметрів може значно полегшити діяльність усного перекладача, скоротити відсоток помилок та перепусток та допомогти досягти максимально точної передачі змісту. Однак варто пам'ятати про те, що вплив на переклад можуть вплинути і такі фактори, як обставини, в яких вимовляється мова, особисте ставлення оратора до проблематики, що описується, якість обладнання, підготовка аудиторії і т. д. Важливу роль відіграє компетенція, навички та знання синхроніста (лінгвістичні та екстралінгвістичні). Разом з цим, знання стратегій і механізмів, що використовуються для політичних текстів, полегшують процес перекладу і дозволяють максимально повно зберегти комунікативний ефект тексту оригіналу. Вивчення індивідуальних манер політичного діяча у поданні промов відіграє важливу роль для перекладу і є перспективною сферою для подальших досліджень і для

дидактики усного перекладу. Актуальність дослідження, таким чином, обумовлена, по-перше, зростаючою значи-містю політичної багатомовної комунікації та постійною затребуваністю в підготовці усних перекладачів; по-друге, нагальною необхідністю осмислення реалізації процесу усного синхронного перекладу для побудови відповідних моделей навчання на автентичному матеріалі, що звучить; по-третє, відсутністю алгоритмів раціонального відбору навчального матеріалу для навчання усному перекладу відповідно до динаміки виконання градуйованих навчаль-них завдань від простого до складного.

**Ключові слова:** усний переклад, усний синхронний переклад, політичний дискурс, портрет оратора, перекладність.

**Introduction.** Oral simultaneous translation is the most complex type of cognitive-communicative activity, which is due to a number of reasons: the simultaneity of the processes of perception and analysis of source information with the process of generating statements in the target language, the continuous-discrete nature of the process, the high speed of translation actions, and the multi-channel nature of information received for processing. The process of oral simultaneous translation can be complicated by destabilizing factors of both an objective and subjective nature. An interdisciplinary approach to studying the characteristics of the activities of simultaneous interpreters from the positions of psychology, psycholinguistics, translation studies, cognitive sciences and discourse studies is of great importance for improving the theory, methodology and didactics of oral translation. Didactics of interpreting is actively developing against the backdrop of continued demand for the training of professional translation personnel.

One of the areas where the work of interpreters is most in demand is international politics. Its goals are determined both by national-state interests and the desire to establish an appropriate world order, form a network of relationships with numerous foreign political partners and opponents, which involves discussing most of the issues on the political agenda within the framework of conferences, summits, forums, etc. In addition, in the era of globalization, integration processes are becoming increasingly important, which are manifested in the creation of international institutions such as the UN, NATO, ILO, as well as confederations – the EU, EAEU, etc. In this regard, the number of international platforms for the exchange of opinions is constantly increasing. Simultaneous interpreters turn out to be the main actors of interlingual mediation, ensuring oral communication in the field of politics in a multilingual situation.

The relevance of the study is thus due, firstly, to the growing the importance of political multilingual communication and the constant demand for training of interpreters; secondly, the urgent need to comprehend implementation of the OST (oral simultaneous translation) process to build appropriate learning models for authentic sounding material;

thirdly, the lack of rational selection algorithms educational material for teaching interpreting in accordance with the dynamics of implementation graduated learning tasks from simple to complex.

The first works of a descriptive nature, dedicated to interpretation, were published in the middle of the 20th century. They studied difficult working conditions for interpreters, linguistic/extralinguistic knowledge; oratorical qualities, distribution of attention between perception and generation speeches: J. Sanz (Spain); J. Herbert, G. Ilg, J.-F. Rozan (Switzerland).

The range of lag between the translator and the speaker, the synchronicity of perception and production speech, pauses in oral speech, rate of speech of the speaker and other psychological aspects of oral translations were the subject of research by I. Pinter (Kurz), E. Paneth (Austria); D. Gerver, F. Goldman-Eisler, A.M. Treisman (Great Britain); H. Barik (USA); H. Nanpon, P. Oléron (France). Great contributions to construction of OST teaching methods through the study of psychological aspects in close connections with linguistics were made by the works of M. Lederer and D. Seleskovitch (France).

The **object** of the study is oral political discourse, realized during multilingual communication through simultaneous interpreters.

The **purpose** of the study is to identify and systematize the factors influencing

implementation of the OST process, based on the analysis of political discourse for optimization training translators for OST as a complex type of cognitive-communication activities.

**Interpretation: history and modernity.** The practice of interpretation began in the world of ancient civilizations, when translators acted as intermediaries in trade negotiations and military campaigns. At the beginning of the 20th century, after the end of the First World War (1914–1918), Paris Peace Conference, understanding of which was provided by translators with English and French. The conference used "consecutive" translation [1]. Later this type of translation practice was regularly used in the League of Nations and International Labor Organization (hereinafter referred to as ILO). Over time, the need to find a more advanced form of oral communication was realized. A new type of interpretation for service international meetings

became the OST, which began to be introduced as an experiment at ILO meetings and teach short courses. World War II (1939–1945) and the Nuremberg trials carried out after its completion changed the status of synchronous translators and led to the registration of OST classes into a professional activity.

From the first years, the following questions were included in the description and research of OST: simultaneity of the processes of perception and generation of speech, pauses in the speaker's speech; role memory, speech rate and intonation of the speaker; range of lag between the interpreter and the speaker, role linguistic and non-linguistic knowledge.

The history describes and compares two periodizations of development of scientific knowledge about interpretation. First periodization proposed by French translator D. Gilles in 1992. Second periodization was developed by Austrian specialist F. Pechhacker in 2004 [5].

The provisions of D. Gilles' periodization are reflected in the article Opening up in Interpretation Studies ("Discovery in the Science of Interpreting"). In periodization, the emphasis is on the short review of key works that appeared in Western Europe, Great Britain, USA and Japan. The first work devoted to interpretation was not covered by D. Gilles. Besides, since the publication of the article, there have been significant developments in the field of interpretation, great changes that were caused by the development of international cooperation and introduction of an interdisciplinary approach in the science of translation.

F. Pechhaker proposes a periodization of the evolution of scientific knowledge about interpreting in the "Evolution" section of "Introducing Interpreting Studies" [5]. The researcher gives an overview of the main works on the theory of oral translation, presents the results of experiments and achievements in this area of scientists from Denmark, Italy, Canada, China, South Korea and Japan. F. Pechhaker begins the selection stages of development of scientific knowledge about interpretation since the descriptive period.

The advantage of a scientist's periodization is that it pays special attention to the work of translation schools that laid the scientific foundations of the theory of oral translation.

The final periods cover scientific and experimental activities during "Trieste era", the opening of the theory of interpretation to other sciences and the emergence of OST as a framework of political discourse.

**Theoretical ideas about simultaneous interpretation.** We pay special attention to the differences between written translation and oral.

As a result of systematization of the material, the following characteristics of OST were identified [3]:

1) simultaneous perception of speech in the original language and generation of speech in the language translation using the attention switching mechanism;

2) high rate of conversion of the original message;

3) dependence of the rate of information processing and the rate of translation on the speed of speech of the speaker;

4) segment-by-segment nature of translation;

5) extreme conditions for translation: lack of time, stress, one-time presentation of the original, increased load on memory;

6) lack of direct contact between the interpreter and the speaker and the audience;

7) use of equipment that isolates the interpreter from the environment;

8) the success of translation depends not only on one's own skills, linguistic and non-linguistic knowledge, but also the features of the oratorical portrait.

The basis of OST is the simultaneity of perception of a message in one language and generating a statement in another. Most of the research is devoted to studying synchronicity of activities, and many OST teaching methods are aimed at developing relevant skills through the use of mechanisms such as memory training, distribution and concentration of attention, speech compression and prediction.

Simultaneous translation was studied in parallel with experiments in the field of psychology. Psychologists proposed the first models of OST, trying to understand principles of its functioning, identify mechanisms relevant to it and understand limits of capabilities of simultaneous interpreters. OST modeling began in the 70s. XX century in Western Europe and the USSR.

The first OST model was proposed by the British psychologist D. Gerver is based on the idea that the translator is always in control of his activities. The translator constantly checks compliance of messages at the output with what was received earlier at the input. The main disadvantage of the model of D. Gerver is that it does not describe the stages of information processing in OST.

Swiss translator B. Moser-Mercer proposed her OST model in the form of diagrams of sequential operations [2]. Simultaneous translation is considered from the point of view of gradual enlargement of perceived information through continuous use of data stored in long-term memory and the cyclical nature of decision-making processes. In this model, more attention is paid to the semantic component of translation.

The multichannel nature of perception, processing and transformation of information is revealed. D. Gilles developed a cognitive model of effort. It is based on the idea that the success of OST depends on the translator's ability to distribute attention between incoming data.

There are three types of efforts: perception and analysis of original speech; generation of speech; memory. Every effort involves the use of attentional resources.

It is important that the interpreter quickly and effectively distributes and switches attention during translation. The study of OST from the perspective of cognitive science reflects a paradigm shift and shows the opening of the field of interpretation to the achievements of other scientific fields. Oral political discourse: the nature of the speaker's speech and the success of communication in oral simultaneous translation "political discourse" is understood not only as a type of communication, defined by its participants and recipients, and a class of genres limited by politics and

adjacent discourses, but also a set of written political texts and implemented orally political speeches. Politics has its own language – the aggregate semiotic space and rhetoric of political activity.

"Internal speeches" include speeches whose recipients are native speakers of the speaker's language. For example, the speaker is French and the audience is French-speaking. This block of speeches include addresses to parliament, people, interviews with national channels, inaugural speeches and other speeches of this type. "Internal speeches", as a rule, are not assume oral translation, with the exception of a number of cases [4]:

1. OST when broadcasting excerpts of foreign language interviews to foreigners in other country agencies or foreign news broadcasts.

2. OST through whispering when present at major events guests who do not speak the working language of the event.

3. OST during competitive examinations for filling vacant positions in international organizations in order to assess translation skills in high rate of speech of the speaker.

4. OST when preparing intensive training sessions at universities or specialized courses to develop simultaneous interpretation skills.

"External speeches" include speeches that involve their broadcast into OST mode and the recipients of which are native speakers of a language other than the speaker's language.

"Internal speech" differs from "external speech" in a number of ways that influence the quality and completeness of the translation. The tempo of playback of "internal speeches" is higher than "external speeches". In addition, these speeches are distinguished by broad construction content forecasts. Here you can find many unfinished structures and prosodic elements indicating that the audience and speaker understand the elements understatement. In "external speeches" the degree of predictability is high, the rate of speech is low, and the number of metaphors used is minimal.

In connection with the distinction between "external speeches" and "internal speeches" we can talk about factors that influence the translatability/untranslatability of speeches.

At the same time, the problem of untranslatability in the case of oral translation does not exist in real practice. The following features are analyzed in the work that are inherent in the speeches of speakers and determining factors of translatability:

1) number of words in a sentence;
2) syntax;
3) rate of speech, i. e. number of words spoken per minute;
4) pause;
5) lexical and stylistic features.

The first four became priority points of analysis, since with their help it is possible to identify the main features of speech portraits of politicians and establish the influence of features in their speeches at OST. The fifth point is necessary to create a complete oratorical portrait.

Thus, "inner speech" and "external speech" differ from each other in terms of metaphoricality, fullness of realities, facts and conversational evaluative vocabulary. "External speech" contains less difficult to convey words, metaphors, as opposed to "internal speeches". Accurate and complete transfer of imagery practically impossible under conditions of spontaneous perception and speech production.

**Conclusions.** 1. The history of OST research has come a long way since the middle of the 20th century. Big psychologists, linguists and translators contributed to revealing the essence of its mechanisms. At approximately the same time, OST began to be studied by specialists in Western European countries and the USA, while pursuing different goals. In Western Europe and the USA at the initial stages of OST have been studied by psychologists to better understand its mechanisms or contribute to studying specialty.

2. Political discourse is not only a type of communication and a class of genres, limited to politics, but also a body of written political texts and implemented orally political speeches. The language of politics influences the time and circumstances of

the speech, speech and individual characteristics of the speaker; the presence or absence of a need for OST, such as an audience. The latter determines the importance of introducing the concepts of "internal speech" and "external speech" into the theory of oral translation.

Not all speeches need OST: recipients can be either those who understand speakers without the services of an interpreter, or those who need translation. Inherent in speeches prosodic, syntactic and lexical-stylistic features determine the ability to provide complete and high-quality translation. To the features that distinguish "internal speeches" from "external speeches" include: the number of words from point to point; the syntax of the speaker's oral speech, its speed and the nature of pauses; lexico-stylistic features of speech. We designate these features as translatability factors, i. e. factors influencing the degree of completeness, accuracy and quality of translation.

3. As a result of the analysis of speeches, the variability of prosodic, syntactic and lexical-stylistic features in speeches depending on the context, their utterances by politicians and the audiences they are aimed at.

The study of the strategies and mechanisms inherent in political speech is a promising area for research and improvement of OST didactics and practice.

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