

HOW TO BE A GOOD INTERPRETER ?

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At the end of this lesson, you are going to know:

- What are the needed skills to be a good interpreter?
- What are the main difficulties and barriers interpreters may face?

The Important Skills for Interpreting

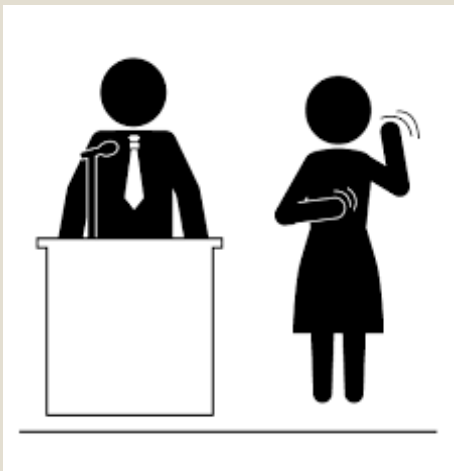
- **Public speaking**
- **Good Listening**
- **Good understanding**
- **Content Analysis**



It's your turn **to speak**



**To be a great interpreter,
you need to be a great public
speaker**



You are not a storyteller !

**As an interpreter, it isn't your job to be
funny or a storyteller ,
It's your job to relay the messages of
someone else who is a great public
speaker.**

Benefits of Public Speaking



- To increase self-confidence
- To enhance persuasion ability
- To increase communication skills
- To get greater social influence
- To gain greater control over emotions and body language

What makes a great interpreter?

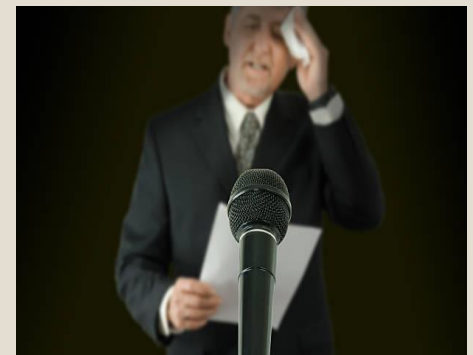
Have you ever encountered a speaker that was fidgety?

Did s/he bother you? If you said yes, you are part of the majority.

Generally, the audience feels less engaged and more distracted when the speaker nervously fidgets.

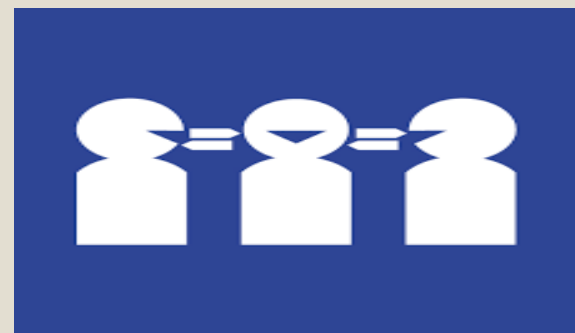
- Before starting to interpret, make sure you are comfortable and organized.
- Adjust your clothing and arrange your materials prior to beginning your interpretation.
- Relax, put your hands at your sides, and start interpreting.

Fidgety means someone who is constantly moving, shuffling papers, or adjusting his/her clothes.



Good Listening

- The first step in the quality of interpreting relates to listening and analysing the source language speech, so that one can transfer the message as accurately as possible.
- Having a high level of focus, listening skill, and powerful short-term memory are the main factors to conduct interpreting perfectly.
- Listening is particularly important in simultaneous interpreting where the interpreter has to concurrently listen and speak during a large portion of the time.



Techniques for improving listening

- ❑ Improving language knowledge,
- ❑ Ear adaptation – the interpreter trying to find his/her “comfortable ear”,
- ❑ Schedule for daily practice,
- ❑ Creating an image of the message,
- ❑ Comprehensive listening,
- ❑ and intensive listening.



Good Understanding



- ❑ To understand a word is to interpret it correctly, the correct interpretation being the one that correlates it with the right referent.
- ❑ Language learning involves more than just learning what various terms apply to. We also learn the community's criteria of application,
- ❑ The interpreters must have a thorough mastery of the target language, as well as a very good passive understanding of the source language or languages with which they work.
- ❑ Among conference interpreters, the usual practice is to obtain background materials from the conference organizer prior to the meeting and study the materials to gain a basic understanding of the subject and the specialized vocabulary.

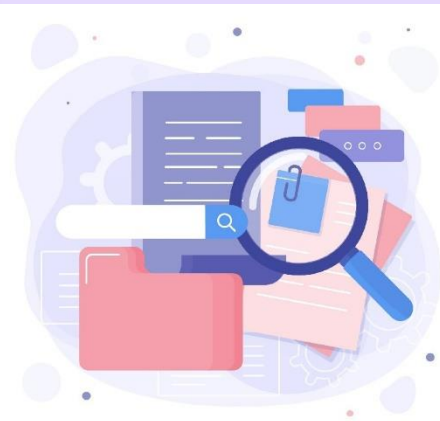
Content Analysis

It is a research tool used to determine the presence of certain words, themes, or concepts within the text. Using content analysis, the interpreter can quantify and analyze the presence, meanings and relationships of such certain words, themes, or concepts,



Content Analysis

- It is clear when we are talking about interpreting or translation, the translator/ interpreter can handle it while he/she starts the process of translation,
- It can be seen also when we talk about consecutive interpreting, because the interpreter has time to take notes and think about them thoroughly to analyse them for better interpretation,
- But for the simultaneous interpreting, the content analysis is a mental process that is done intellectually, and it needs trainings and practice ,
- The consecutive interpreter, who has different skills , can analyse the content to be interpreted easily whenever he/she improves his /her skills,



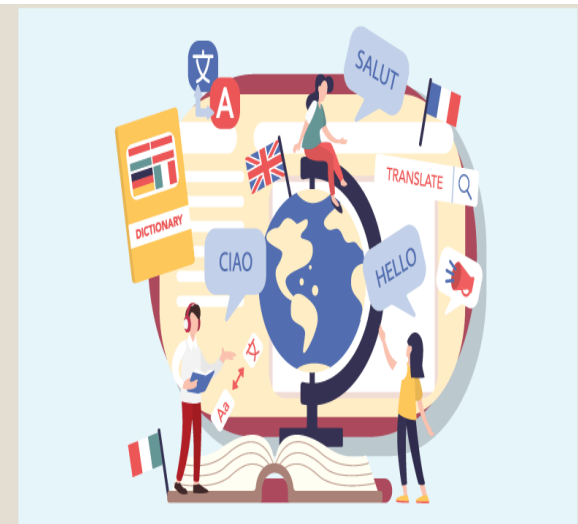
Skills and Competencies

1- Linguistic Competence

- The interpreter's linguistic competence includes the ability to comprehend the source language and apply this knowledge to render the message as accurately as possible in the target language.

The interpreter shall:

- have in-depth knowledge and understanding of his/her working languages and the required range of language registers,
- have knowledge of subject areas and relevant terminology



Skills and Competencies



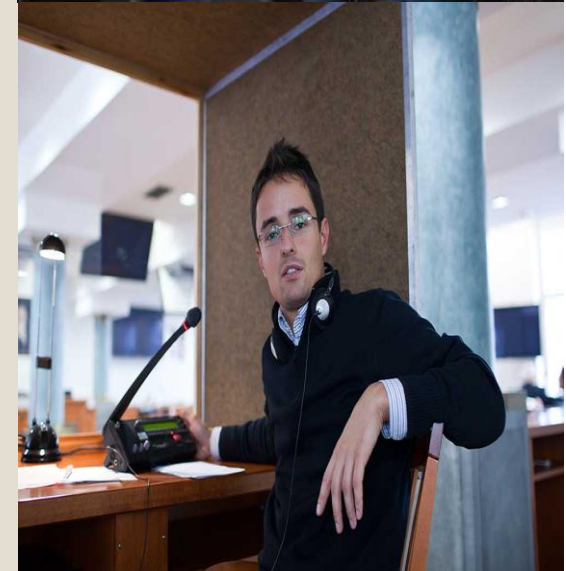
Skills and Competencies

02- Interpreting Competence

- It comprises the ability to interpret a message from one language to the other in the applicable mode. It includes the ability to assess and comprehend the original message and render it in the target language without omissions, additions or distortions.

The interpreter shall:

- have active listening skills and strive to improve them through self-training,
- have good memory retention skills,
- be able to take notes during the interpretation assignment to ensure accuracy of the given information,
- and be able to mentally transpose and verbalize into the target language,



Skills and Competencies

03- Interpersonal skills

- **The Interpreter shall:**
 - Have strong communication skills,
 - Be polite, respectful and tactful,
 - Be able to relate well to people,
 - Have good judgment.

The Interpreter :

- Must be punctual
- Must be able to work with limited supervision
- Must be able to remain neutral before, during and after every interpretation assignment
- Must be organized, assertive in his/her work without being overconfident
- Must be able to cope with stress during and after the assignment



Skills and Competencies

4- Research and Technical Competence

It includes the ability to efficiently acquire the additional linguistic and specialized knowledge necessary to interpret in specialized cases. Research competence also requires experience in the use of research tools and the ability to develop suitable strategies for the efficient use of the information sources available.



The Most Difficult Things in Interpreting



The Most Difficult Things in Interpreting

- **Remembering what the speaker said and not omitting anything from the translation;**
- **Comprehending various regional accents and words used only in a specific locale;**
- **Relaying personal names, names of organisations, street names...**
- **Deficiency in the hearing system; interpreters can't interpret what they can't hear;**
- **Background noise, sound distortion, people's voice quality can diminish the ability to hear and understand;**
- **Audio equipment might fail, or someone may say something softly that the interpreter might not have heard;**
- **Humour, jokes and sarcasm become a challenge when used liberally throughout a conversation, and the interpreter must accurately interpret the joke or line of humour while keeping the integrity of the message intact,**

The Most Difficult Things in Interpreting

- ❑ The ability to take in a message, decode that message for meaning then encode that message in another language in a timely fashion is no easy task.
- ❑ The interpreter cannot take a long time to interpret the language otherwise it would be difficult for listeners to understand the points.
- ❑ The hardest part is the nature of the work itself, Interpreter has to be well prepared for it.
- ❑ When a speaker uses an idiom, the interpreter has to understand what it means and the nuances involved to accurately translate the message.
- ❑ It's easy to misunderstand someone speaking clearly in your native tongue. Imagine how easy it is to misunderstand someone speaking while simultaneously having to translate the message,

Thank
you

