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### INVESTIGATION OF IRANIAN INTERPRETERS' ABILITY IN TRANSLATING CULTURAL BOUND TERMINOLOGIES IN A MULTI-CULTURAL AND SENSITIVE CONTEXT

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#### ABSTRACT

Nowadays, interpreting plays a very important role in communication, especially in political summits. Every single sentence uttered by political leaders might have a serious role in world peace. Moreover, these utterances could have effects on the lives of billions of people. This situation puts the interpreters under huge stress which can be seen in their performances. Research on this sort of interpreting which is called simultaneous interpreting is among rare works, which need more consideration. This study aimed to investigate political and cultural discourses as well as finding out the most frequent strategies adopted by a professional interpreter. The strategies adopted by the interpreter are applied to the speech of the president of the US, Donald Trump, who delivered at the United Nations on September 19th, 2017. The analysis of the speech showed the most frequent strategies are transcoding, omission, and message abandonment, which in some cases result in poor rendition. This study implies that interpreters become aware of the importance of cultural awareness in this task and how necessary it is to be ready to encounter cultural expressions and else.

#### INTRODUCTION

Communication in this multi-cultural world is an undeniable part of life. Inadequate or inappropriate interpreter performance in such highly sensitive contexts such as political and international crises might influence the lives of millions of people, causing more cultural misunderstandings and possibly blocking the cause of world peace. This study investigated the interpretation of English speeches which are done by an Iranian interpreter to ensure how he faces and overcomes cultural difficulties. It also focuses on the importance of acquiring cultural knowledge, to ensure a maximum level of understanding between people of different languages and cultures.

### **Statement of the problem**

Interpretation is done in one direction or bi-directional. It engages three individual parties: the speaker, interpreter, and hearer (Chaney & Martin, 2007, p.117). The first step in this job is to understand what is said. The interpreter should hear and understand the utterance first, then find the equivalence in the target language. There are three aspects relevant to translation and equivalence: semantic, pragmatic, and textual aspects (House, 2015, p.21). The problem becomes more serious while in political discourses the politician uses ambiguous expressions and in this case, the interpreter needs the pragmatic function of them. Moreover, finding appropriate equivalents in communicative situations need strong knowledge of cultural awareness. The ones performed speeches in multicultural contexts may directly have different interpretations in other cultures.

### **Research objectives**

This study aimed to investigate the Iranian interpreters' ability in translating culturally bound terminologies in multi-cultural and sensitive contexts.

The English language appears as a very effective communication tool for low-context cultures since it reflects a belief in objective reality and is structured in such a way as to identify agents and actions. Also, English is noted for the vast size of its vocabulary, and words with slightly different meanings enable the language to be used in a very flexible way to express fine variations or shades of thought with great precision and without the need to paraphrase too often. English speakers like messages that are direct, explicit, rational, concise, and informationally dense. Therefore, they might find it difficult to interact with a speaker using long, complex sentences and, in some cases, even regard such a communication style as reflecting a lack of commitment and interest on the part of their interlocutor.

### **Research Questions**

Based on the study purpose the following questions are proposed:

- 1- To what extent are the interpreters aware of cultural issues?
- 2- What are the most important factors in simultaneous interpreting?
- 3- What are the most common strategies to perform the interpretation efficiently?
- 4- What are the difficulties of interpreting political discourse?

### **Significance of the research**

As a great demand of officials and politicians to have an appropriate interpreter, this study will be very useful. This study can help the interpreters perform their job more effectively.

### **Interpreting Studies**

During the twentieth century, interpreting gained wide recognition as an important profession. At the end of World War II, advances in technology first made simultaneous interpreting possible, thus allowing a greater number of languages to be translated at the same time (Gentile, Ozolinis and Vasilakakos, 1996). In the 1990s, the term "Interpreting

Studies” came into being and establishing general theories and principles for the field. Moreover, Interpreting Studies have been developed in recent years, inspired by aspects from Translation Studies and other disciplines, especially psychology and linguistics.

### **Interpreting vs. Translation**

The main difference between the two professions is, “the modes of input and output (Christoffels and De Groot, 2005, P.456). These are visual and written modes in the case of translation and auditory and verbal modes in the interpreting”. In the media, the words ‘translate’ or ‘translator’ are often loosely used for the oral as well as the written function, but in the world of professional T&I, ‘translation’ is performed on written texts, while ‘interpreting’ is used for spoken or signed language (Setton and Dawrant 2016, p.6).

### **What is Interpreting?**

According to Jones (2002, p.3), interpreting is “immediate oral translation.” Interpreting is about communication. Linguistic obstacles are not the only difficulty that interpreters have to overcome. Cultural difficulties also can manifest themselves both explicitly and implicitly. (ibid).

Direct and explicit speeches would include a cultural reference that has no straight equivalent in the target language, while implicit speeches would include having to understand the intention of the speaker and what the speakers intend to say or what is hidden behind the words, such as idiomatic dialogues.

### **Types of Interpreting**

The field of interpreting can be subdivided according to the setting, into three categories in which the interpreting takes place: conference interpreting, court interpreting, and community interpreting. Interpreting could also be subdivided into two main types based on the mode of interpreting: Simultaneous and Consecutive interpreting.

### **Conference Interpreting**

According to Phelan (2001, p.6), “conference interpreting is the most prestigious form of interpreting and the most financially rewarding.” To Phelan, conference interpreting refers to the two main modes of interpreting: simultaneous and consecutive interpreting.

### **Simultaneous Interpreting**

Seleskovitch (1978) describes simultaneous interpretation as follows:

In simultaneous interpretation, the interpreter is isolated on a booth. He speaks at the same time as the speaker and therefore has no need to memorize or jot down what is said. Moreover, the processes of analysis-comprehension and reconstruction-expression are telescoped. The interpreter works on the message bit by bit, giving the portion he has understood while analyzing and assimilating the next idea. (p.125)

### **A. Sight Translation**

During a meeting otherwise interpreted in consecutive, principals may wish to present a written text, such as a letter, preliminary draft of a motion, press release; and in some cases, a speaker may have an entire written speech prepared for oral delivery (Setton and Dawrant 2016, p.18).

### **B. Telephone Interpreting**

Telephone interpreting is a type of interpreting done over the phone. It is used in certain situations in community interpreting and business meetings especially in emergencies and for first contacts. It is an example of expediency typically trumping concerns about quality and comfort, sometimes justifiably (Setton and Dawrant 2016, p.35).

### **C. Sign Language Interpreting**

Sign language is used by deaf or dumb people. It is recognized as a language in its own right that uses hands and body gestures. It even has different dialects. Deaf people do not understand the original speech of any language. Interpreters provide this type of interpreting simultaneously to help those people understand the speech.

### **D. Television Interpreting**

Television interpreting is a type of broadcast or media interpreting. The interpreter sets in a fully equipped booth where he/she can see the speakers. In this type, interpreters are hired by local media outlets and carry out the interpretation in the local studio, far from the actual event and without access to information, speakers, or scripts (Setton and Dawrant 2016, p.33).

### **E. Whispered Interpreting**

This is a form of improvised SI without equipment, in which the interpreter sits behind or to one side of one (or more) participant(s) and whispers the interpretation (Setton and Dawrant 2016, p.18). The interpreters in such settings render the interpretation to the listener or listeners simultaneously and in a very low voice and for the reasons of quality, this type is generally discouraged.

### **Consecutive Interpreting**

Unlike the simultaneous interpreter, the consecutive interpreter will be sitting next to the speaker and not in a booth. This could be an advantage of this type of interpreting because the interpreter will be able to ask the speaker in case there is unclear information or misunderstanding and about what exactly was meant by each part.

### **Liaison Interpreting**

This type of interpreting is used in informal situations and especially in community interpreting where interpreters interpret for two or more people such as site visits, guided tours, etc. Liaison interpreters are present and very visible and they are typically leaders in the situation. They can control how much speakers say and when to speak or even when to stop. They can also ask the speakers to explain any unknown information or raise their voices.

### **Court Interpreting**

Interpreting is used in courts while people engaged do not understand or speak the same language. In court interpreting, in particular, accuracy is a very important issue as based on the research judges significantly differ from each other and what they expect from interpreters is also different. Moreover, everything that is said will have a serious effect on the court process and become documented in the records. Court interpreters use different types of interpreting such as consecutive interpreting to interpret questions and answers, whispered simultaneous interpreting to interpret the whole testimony for the defendants, sight translation interpreters are asked to translate any documents that relate to the case and they may also need to take notes if the statements are long.

### **Community Interpreting**

This type of interpreting is used with the people who are not fluently familiar with the language they are involved with, so community interpreting gives chance to them to communicate better and more efficiently with different kinds of public services such as medical, governmental, social, and educational services.

### **Interpreting Approaches**

Interpreting studies are formed by different methodological approaches as follows:

#### **Linguistic Approach**

This approach seems to be one of the most common approaches in this field and it is viewed as a logical source. Christoffels and De Groot (2005) explain the process between the source and target languages as follows:

Theoretically, two interpreting strategies have been distinguished: a *meaning-based* strategy and a *transcoding* strategy. interpreting involves full comprehension of the source language in a way similar to common comprehension of speech. From the representation of the inferred meaning, production takes place in the target language. The transcoding strategy involves the literal transposition of words or multiword units. The interpreter supposedly translates the smallest possible meaningful units of the source language that have an equivalent in the target language. (p.459)

#### **Cultural Approach**

In translation studies, approaches are from many different perspectives, such as gender, studies, ideological considerations, etc. Such perspectives view translation as a cultural practice and this approach has entered into interpreting studies as well.

Anderson argues that interpreting “occurs in social-situations amenable to sociological analysis” (p.209).

Cronin (2002) views interpreters as, “those that cross-linguistic and cultural boundaries; depending on the identity of the interpreter and the nature of the context, interpreters cross boundaries of gender, class, nationality, or ethnicity” (p.391).

### **Psychological Approach**

Among the disciplines which have some bearing on the study of interpreting, the most prominent is the field of psychology, whose conceptual and methodological approaches have shaped the study of simultaneous interpreting (Pochhacker, 2016, p.53). Cognitive science and the broad heading of cognitive psychology in this approach of interpreting are the main factors.

In simultaneous interpreting, various process models have been developed to study the mental processes of interpreting.

### **Sociological Approach**

Sociology as the study of human behavior and institutions had little impact on interpreting research until the 1990s (Pochhacker, 2016, p.55).

Research in this area has focused on various fields of potential sites and activities including the educational organizations in which studying is prepared; training pedagogies; the difference and relations between professional work condition and studying; the relationship between research and training; the social constitution of professional organizations; and the social and biological trajectories of translators and interpreters.

### **METHOD**

This study is about interpreting strategies of simultaneous interpreting in sensitive contexts. The researcher chose the official speech of President Trump at the UN. Strategies were divided into comprehension strategies, production strategies, overall strategies, and emergency strategies.

The analysis is according to an interpreter from the Islamic Republic of Iran News Network (IRNN).

The method adopted for the analysis is as follows:

- The source text is analyzed and the speaker's characteristics and some culture-bound interpreting units are identified and chosen for analysis.
- Two renditions of two different interpreters are transcribed and analyzed. The focus is placed on how the two interpreters who live in different countries dealt with the interpreting units chosen for analysis.
- The interpreters' strategies are identified. The focus is on finding the most frequently used interpreting strategies.
- The two interpreting were transcribed as heard, including grammatical mistakes in Persian or wrong forms.

### **What is Simultaneous Interpreting?**

In *Simultaneous Interpreting*, interpreters render speeches in real-time, with a lag of just a few seconds, from soundproof booths, using microphones, headphones, and a multi-channel SI installation and it is now the dominant mode in mainstream international conference interpreting (ibid, p.17).

### **Equipment in Simultaneous Interpreting**

Jones believes that simultaneous interpreters could be in a much better position if they follow the following rules:

- remember they are communicating;
- make the best possible use of the technical facilities;
- ensure that they can hear both the speaker and themselves clearly;
- never attempt to interpret something they have not heard or acoustically understood;
- maximize concentration;
- not be distracted by focusing attention on individual problematic words;
- cultivate split attention, with active, analytical listening to the speaker and critical monitoring of their own output;
- use, where possible, short, simple sentences;
- be grammatical;
- make sense in every single sentence; and
- always finish their sentence.

### **Directionality in Simultaneous Interpreting**

While the interpreting process as such always proceeds in one direction from source to target language, the issue of direction is more complex at the level of the communicative event (Pochhacker, 2016, p.21). This important typological parameter is defined as the direction of interpreting in which the interpreter works and moves back and forth between the two A and B languages engaged.

### **Simultaneous Interpreting as a Goal-Oriented Task**

Riccardi (2005, p.746) views conference interpreting as “a goal-oriented activity directed towards the faithful reproduction of the source text in the TL under given circumstances”.

According to Al-Salman and Al-Khanji, achievement strategies are strategies “in which speakers make an effort to retrieve the target expressions, and thus achieve a solution to a communicative problem they face” (p.618).

### **Knowledge-based vs. Skill-based Strategies**

Riccardi (2005) pointed to two different categories of simultaneous interpreting strategies: knowledge-based strategies and skill-based strategies. She defines the skill-based strategies as, “all those strategies governed by stored patterns of automatic responses whose application triggered by the recognition of a well-known stimulus within the communicative event” (p.760).

Knowledge-based strategies, Riccardi explains, “differ from skill-based strategies because their activation is the result of conscious analytical processes. They come into play when actions must be planned on-line, because no automatic response is found or because something has caused a momentary memory overload.” (p.762).

### **Strategies of Simultaneous Interpreting**

Strategies are divided into comprehension, production, overall, and emergency strategies (Riccardi, 2002 and 2005).

Jones (2002) discusses several techniques of simultaneous interpreting, some of which are reformulation, the salami technique, simplification, generalization, omission, summarizing, anticipation, error correction techniques, and metaphors and sayings techniques.

### **Anticipation**

Weber (1984) remarks as 'talent of the interpreters to predict how the speech is going to start and how it is going to end' (cited in Dastyar, 2016, p.4). Pochhacker (2016) explains 'the fact that prior knowledge serves to generate expectations which guide to comprehension process' helps the interpreter perform the task more effectively.

### **Reformulation**

Reformulation is the overall strategy in simultaneous interpreting. It is a discourse function by which the speaker re-elaborates an idea to be more specific and "facilitate the hearer's understanding of the original" (Blakemore, 1993: 107). There is a huge difference between languages, so it is impossible to interpret word for word. Reformulation can help the interpreter to reorganize the original information according to the convention of the target language. The main purpose of interpreting is to transmit the speakers' messages efficiently and faithfully. Briefly, the interpreter should deliver the meaning, not the language.

### **Transcoding**

According to Mahmoodzadeh (2009), in linguistics, whenever we talk about code, it means language (cited in Dastyar, 2016, p.137). Seleskovitch and Lederer observed that some items in discourse— like names, numbers, or technical terms – are often 'transcodable', i.e. can be reliably translated with a standard, context-independent, equivalent term in the target language. In their words, the linguistic meaning of a statement is one thing, but the sense that the statement takes on in a given context for a given individual is something entirely different; there are nevertheless certain words that need to be taken at face value" (Seleskovitch and Lederer 1989: 8, our translation).

### **Summarizing**

Summarizing is a technique used by interpreters to "clarify what is unclear because of the speaker." (Jones, 2002, p.104). This is different from summary interpreting so, the speaker may express his ideas unclearly or incoherently, which requires further explanation from the interpreter's side to make the speaker's message clear to the audience. Summarizing is not a summary of what the speaker has said, but rather something which is added to it to make it clearer.

### **The Salami Technique**

The salami technique also referred to as chunking or segmentation is at the core of interpreting skills and is a technique by which long, complicated sentences and phrases are divided into several shorter sentences. Yagi (2000, p.523) considers chunking "a coping strategy that interpreters use to divide up TL [target language] long stretches of



discourse into chunks of manageable size.” Gile 1995, on the other hand, sees this strategy in a way that “can save short-term memory capacity requirement by unloading information from memory faster.” (as cited in Yagi, 2000, p.523).

### **Omission**

Omission along with generalization is a type of text-editing strategy. According to Jones

(2002, p.102), interpreters are occasionally faced with situations where neither simplification nor generalization will help them to keep up with their speakers. In these situations, they will have to omit some parts of the speech.

Skipping is another omission strategy that is used for difficulty of speech delivery discussed by

### **Simplification**

Simplification is a technique to deal with highly technical materials. It is not a linguistic exercise, and is easier in a way than finding a short ‘exact synonym’ since all you need is a short word (or abbreviation or symbol) that cues the original meaning in the context (Setton and Dawrant 2016, p.161). This technique can be used by interpreters in consecutive interpreting as a note-taking technique.

### **Generalization**

According to Jones (2002, p.101), to save time while faced with fast speaks, “some specific items mentioned can be expressed in one generic term.” Generalization should not be used when each specific item mentioned in the speech is significant. Also, it needs to be noticed that this technique as it might dilute the messages with too many empty words, should not be used without caution.

### **Error correction**

According to Jones (2002, p.107), if an interpreter makes a mistake there are different possible scenarios. First, Jones believes that if the mistake is insignificant and makes no material difference, it is not worth it that the interpreter wastes time trying to fix it. Second, if the mistake is made on a significant point of the speech that seems to be noticed by the audience, then it is not necessary to correct. However, Jones believes that correcting the mistake is recommended only if the interpreter can fix it rapidly. Finally, if the mistake is made on a very important point of the speech and the audience does not realize, the interpreter must fix it as promptly and as clearly as possible.

### **Incomplete Sentence Strategy**

This strategy results in unfinished messages based on unfinished interpretation that is cut short in the middle of the sentence.

Al-Salman and Al-Khanji (2002) explain that “this strategy occurs when the interpreter takes too much time trying to find equivalent expressions but fails to do so before additional input must be interpreted” (p.617).

The simultaneous interpreters' goal is producing a text that is possibly faithful to the source language as well as the target language. To overcome the difficulties, which the interpreters encounter, they should develop a strategic behavior that ensures achieving their main goal. The interpreters' choice of strategies has a direct effect on the performance and quality of their work.

### **Metaphors and Sayings Techniques**

Analytic investigation of the use of the metaphor was first given impetus by Freeman Sharpe (1950 (cited in Caruth and Ekstein, p.35)).

Jones (2002, p.113) suggests the following techniques for rendition of metaphors and sayings:

- using a word-for-word equivalent in the target language;
- using a rendition that is equivalent in meaning but has different wording;
- reduce the statement to sense by explaining its meaning;
- if the interpreter does not understand its meaning and yet believes that the saying or the metaphor is significant and important, s/he should render it as literally as possible;
- If the interpreter does not understand its meaning and yet believes that the saying or the metaphor is not important, s/he can drop it.

### **Code-switching**

Mahmoodzadeh (2009, p.46) defines this strategy as passing from one language to another while speaking to a bilingual person.

According to Al-Salman and Al-Khanji (2002), code-switching is a strategy that, "refers to style shift from standard to informal colloquial Arabic" (p.617). Al-Salman and Al-Khanji (ibid) believe that interpreters resort to this strategy when faced with time pressure especially in the case of fast speakers.

### **Speech of President Trump**

#### **Discourse**

Discourse is any form of written or spoken communication. Discourse can also be described as the expression of thought through languages. While discourse can refer to the smallest act of communication, the analysis can be quite complex. Several scholars in many different disciplines have theorized about the different types and functions of discourse.

#### **Political Discourse**

##### **Definition**

Discourse stands for public and organized ways of speaking about constituted subjects (i.e., politics, medicine, science, society) in a specific historical period (Wilson, 1995 as cited in Ihalainen, 1999). Political discourse is a way politicians use to impose certain moral or ethical values on people.

#### **Features of American Political Discourse**

Chilton believes that language is the universal capacity of humans in all societies to communicate, while the concept of politics is mostly defined as the art of governance (1998: 668). Schäffner (1997:1) notices that such expressions as political language, political discourse, and political text are all vague terms. Prime (2008, p.1) identified some of the common linguistic features of American political discourse, particularly speeches.

### **Interpreting Political Discourse**

According to the important role of politicians in the modern world and the way they influence the world population, political discourse has become increasingly important. The development of technology as well as advanced technology in mass media made it possible for politicians to approach a huge number of people. So, expressing their political messages in a variety of forms is much easier. However, research on the translation/interpreting of political discourse is among the rarest works.

### **Cultural Issues in Interpreting**

Successful intercultural communication is difficult to achieve, as it involves a great number of factors, e.g. language, body gesture, the use of time, space and silence, etc., which differ from culture to culture. Newmark (2000, p.94) defines culture as “the way of life and its manifestations that are peculiar to a community that uses a particular language as its means of expression.” Thus culture is a system of habits, traditions, beliefs, morals, law, religion, customs, behavior, and etiquette.

### **Data Analysis**

#### **Data**

The source text used for this analysis is a political speech by the president of the US delivered at the UN in a general assembly on September 19th, 2017. The speech according to the characteristics of Donald Trump, seems to be problematic for interpreters. For this study, segments with cultural references, which are assessed to cause difficulties for interpreters, are identified and chosen for analysis.

The data analysis is interpreted by IRNN. The audio recording was transcribed and analyzed to identify the strategies employed by the interpreter. The concentration is posited on how the interpreter dealt with the interpreting chosen segments.

#### **Steps of Analysis**

- The source text is analyzed and the speaker's characteristics and some culture-bound interpreting units are chosen for analysis.
- Two renditions of two different interpreters are transcribed and analyzed. The focus is placed on how the two interpreters who live in different countries dealt with the interpreting units chosen for analysis.
- The interpreters' strategies are identified. The focus is on finding the most frequently used interpreting strategies.
- The two interpreting were transcribed as heard, including grammatical mistakes in Persian such as wrong grammatical form.

### **Constructing the Transcripts in this study**

According to Diriker (2004, p.81), “transcribing oral language ... involves representing oral language and its features such as hesitation, intonation, false starts, blends, semi- and non-verbal behavior in a form of writing that makes use of punctuation marks, layout, and symbols for representation.”

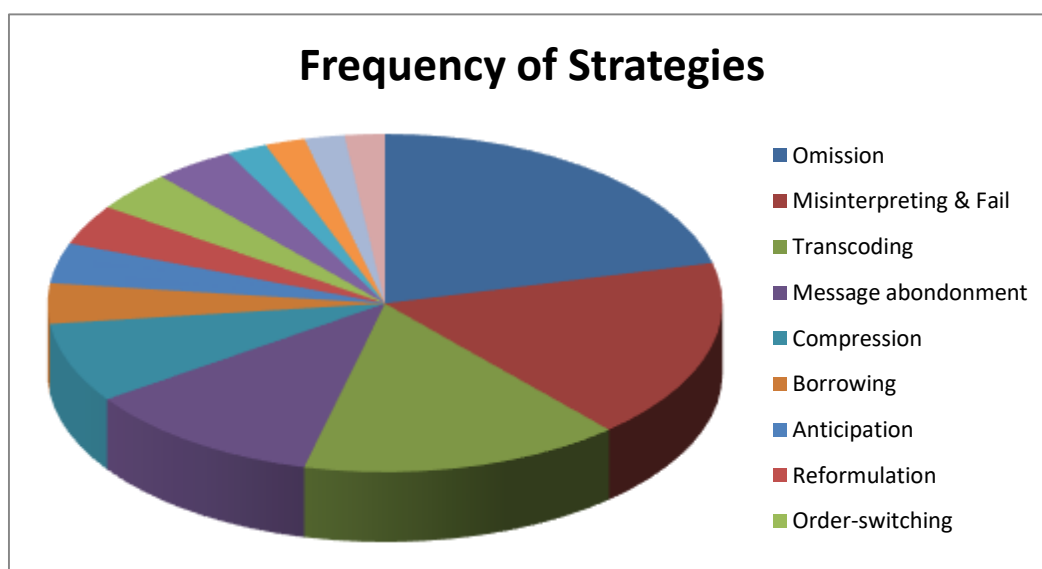
The collected data is the same original speech and the transcriptions are recorded based on what could be heard by the interpreters with no changes at all. The selected sentences for analysis are in the following chart and table (Table 1). The frequency of strategies used by INT is shown in Chart 1 & Table 2.

**Table 1:** The selected sentences of Donald Trump for analysis and its interpretation by the IRNN interpreter

| Donald Trump   | IRNN   |
|--|--|
| Mr. Secretary General, Mr. President, world leaders, and distinguished delegates.  | رئیس جمهور، رهبرای بزرگو همه افرادی که در اینجا حضور دارید.  |
| Welcome to New York. It is a profound honor to stand here in my home city, as a representative of the American people, to address the people of the world. As millions of our citizens continue to suffer the effects of the devastating hurricanes that have struck our country | به نیویورک خوش آمدید. این افتخار بزرگیه که من در شهر خودم به عنوان نماینده مردم آمریکا اینجا بایستم و شمارو خوش آمد گویی کنم. و همینطور شهروندان ما از طوفانهای مهیبی رنج بردند خواستم اینو اینجا عنوان کنم. |
| The stock market is at an all-time high - a record. Unemployment is at its lowest level in 16 years.   | پس از رکورد خوبی داشتیم و الان 16 سال به پایین ترین حد بیکاری رسیدیم   |
| International criminal networks traffic drugs, weapons, people   | قاچاق مردم، قاچاق دارو، قاچاق اسلحه  |
| As President Truman said in his message to Congress at that time, “Our support of European recovery is in full accord with our support of the United Nations.  | وقتی که رئیس جمهور ترومن اون موقع زمان خودشو داد و صحبت کردش راجع به اینکه اروپا میتونه از این مشکلات بیرون بیاد.  |
| This week gives our country a special reason to take pride in that example. We are celebrating the 230th anniversary of our beloved Constitution -the oldest constitution still in use in the world today.   | قانون اساسی کشورمون داریم جشن میگیریم و تمام چیزهایی که برای ملت آمریکا به ارمغان آورده میتونه احترامی رو که برای بشریت و قانون داره به همه نشون بدیم  |
| to ensure their safety, to preserve their rights,  | برای اینکه بیمه بکنیم حقوق اونها رو  |
| Rocket Man is on a suicide mission for himself and for his regime.   | راکت من اسمیه که برای رهبر کره شمالی دونالد ترامپ گذاشته و میگه وقتی این راکت من دنبال اینه که بخواد این کارهارو بکنه.   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>It is time for all nations to work together to isolate the Kim regime until it ceases its hostile behavior.</p>  | <p>الان وقتشه که ما رژیم کیم رو ما در انزوا قرار بدیم.</p>  |
| <p>It is far past time for the nations of the world to confront another reckless regime</p>   | <p>ما با کشورهای دیگه هم مشکل داریم</p>   |
| <p>It has turned a wealthy country with a rich history and culture into an economically depleted rogue state whose chief exports are violence, bloodshed, and chaos.</p>  | <p>ایرانی ها به تعبیر ما میتونه زندگی بهتر باشه</p>   |
| <p>other than the vast military power of the United States, that Iran's people are what their leaders fear the most.</p>  | <p>ارتش آمریکا قوی است. مردم ایران هم قوی هستند</p>   |
| <p>This is what causes the regime to restrict Internet access, tear down satellite dishes, shoot unarmed student protestors, and imprison political reformers.</p>  | <p>بسیاری اتفاقات توی ایران می افته که از نظر ما غیر قابل قبوله</p>   |
| <p>It is time for the regime to free all Americans and citizens of other nations that they have unjustly detained. And above all, Iran's government must stop supporting terrorists, begin serving its own people, and respect the sovereign rights of its neighbors.</p>   | <p>هنوز آخرش رو نشنیدید. وقت آن فرار سیده که دنیا با ما همراه بشن و بخوان از راهی که ایران در پیش گرفته جلوگیری بکنند و کنار آمریکا باشند. از همه مهمتر اینه که ایران به تعبیر ما باید از حمایت از تروریست ها دست برداره و همینطور نسبت به همسایه هاش</p> |
| <p>I have also totally changed the rules of engagement in our fight against the Taliban and other terrorist groups. In Syria and Iraq, we have made big gains toward lasting defeat of ISIS. In fact, our country has achieved more against ISIS in the last eight months than it has in many, many years combined.</p>   | <p>ما در جنگمون با طالبان کاملا مصمم هستیم و همچنین کشورهای گروهبانتروریستی. در سوریه و عراق ما شاهد این بودیم که داعش داره از بین میره که کشور ما در 8 سال گذشته در 8 ماه گذشته شاهد پیروزیهایی بوده پیشرفتهایی بوده که تو کل این سالها نبوده</p>        |
| <p>We have invested in better health and opportunity all over the world through programs like PEPFAR, which funds AIDS relief; the President's Malaria Initiative; the Global Health Security Agenda; the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery; and the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, part of our commitment to empowering women all across the globe.</p> | <p>ما در هر جایی در جهان مثل پیفار وقتی که به ایدزیها کمک میکنه. به مالاریا و بسیاری از سازمانهای دیگه که از برده داری نوین جلوگیری میکنه. اینها همه از مسایلی هستش که ما میخوایم زنها رو در سرتاسر جهان قدرتمند بکنیم.</p>                               |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>If this organization is to have any hope of successfully confronting the challenges before us, it will depend, as President Truman said some 70 years ago, on the "independent strength of its members."</p> | <p>اگر این سازمان امیدی داره که بخواد هر چالشی که پیش رو داره بر داره همونطور که ترومن گفته 70 سال پیش استقلال قدرتش از افرادش میاد.</p>           |
| <p>One of the greatest American patriots, John Adams, wrote that the American Revolution was "effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people."</p>                 | <p>یکی از بهترین، جان آدمز یکی از بهترین میهن پرستای آمریکا بود که در انقلاب آمریکا بود تحت تاثیر قرار داد قبل جنگ حتی بخواد جمع بشه شروع بشه.</p> |
| <p>Thank you. God bless you. God bless the nations of the world. And God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.</p>   | <p>خدا پشت و پناه شما باشه خدا پشت و پناه تمام ملتها باشه و همچنین پشت و پناه آمریکا باشه. از شما ممنونم.</p>                                      |



**Chart 1:** The frequency of strategies by INT

**Table 2.** Frequency of strategies adopted by the interpreter

| NO. | Strategies          | INT |
|-----|---------------------|-----|
| 1   | Omission            | 11  |
| 2   | Misinterpreting     | 9   |
| 3   | Transcoding         | 8   |
| 4   | Message abandonment | 6   |
| 5   | Compression         | 4   |
| 6   | Borrowing           | 2   |
| 7   | Anticipation        | 2   |
| 8   | Reformulation       | 2   |
| 9   | Order-switching     | 2   |
| 10  | Incomplete sentence | 2   |
| 11  | Message repair      | 2   |
| 12  | Summarizing         | 1   |

|    |              |   |
|----|--------------|---|
| 13 | Addition     | 0 |
| 14 | Paraphrasing | 0 |
| 15 | Repetition   | 0 |

### DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS

To answer the first question, being aware of the cultural issues has a direct relationship with the final result. Culture is beyond the sentences and the ones who are weak at this point might miss very important parts in the rendition, so the final product could be poor. This explanation can be seen in the rendition of INT, who misinterpreted speeches related to culture.

In the second question, many key factors play important role in this task. These factors could begin with the knowledge of the interpreters to the equipment, subject of the speech, and the person whom the interpreting is going to take place.

The analysis of renditions showed that transcoding and omission were the most common strategies adopted by the interpreter.

The final question is about interpreting political discourse. Apart from the broad strands for the concept of politics which were introduced by Chilton (2004), the specific characteristics of president Trump might make the interpreting of his speech difficult. Politicians try to influence a large number of people or other political leaders. So, being aware of its features is greatly important.

Also, interpreters should be aware of historical and cultural matters in the SL, but the interpreter seemed to lack this knowledge, especially when Trump mentioned president Truman, PEPFAR, European recovery.

### CONCLUSION

Simultaneous interpreting is the act of moments. In this task, every single act counts, especially if the context is political and delivered by world leaders in sensitive contexts, which should have more attention.

At this time of modern world in which there is obvious conflict between some nations, political speeches play an important role in the mutual understanding and clarify the issues between them. The speech, delivered by Trump was perhaps the most aggressive one ever delivered by a U.S. president at the U.N. As the conflict between the US and Iran has become worse since Trump came to power, speeches and communications between these opposing cultures might be problematic for the interpreters. These problems are cultural rather than linguistic.

This study aimed to find out the popular strategies by the interpreters, and the role of discourse and cultural awareness of highly sensitive context in their performance. For this aim, Donald Trump's speech was analyzed and nineteen examples were chosen.

The analysis finds omission and transcoding for the interpreter that are the most common strategies for the interpreters. The results expressed that the rendition of the messages adopting the above-mentioned strategies in that context may lead the audience to misunderstanding conditions. Moreover, the analysis showed the importance of the need to ensure what sort of context they were going to participate especially if that was a political discourse. The interpreter had a varying degree lack of enough

knowledge, poor word choice, and inaccurate rendition. As culture and language are intertwined, the interpreters need to be well educated in the languages and cultures. As the interpreter lives in Iran, shows poor awareness. Besides, this study finds that political speech is an important genre, which needs special consideration.

### **Suggestions for Further Studies**

This study could have wider areas of research that can be further studied. Suggested areas are political features, interpreter training, time management, interpreter's background, patriotism in interpreting and the effect of the interpreter's birthplace in his task.

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