

THE CIRIN BULLETIN

Conference Interpreting Research Information Network

An independent network for the dissemination of information on
conference interpreting research (CIR) and related research

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This Bulletin aims at contributing to the dissemination of information on conference interpreting research (CIR) and at providing useful information on CIR and related research worldwide. It is published twice a year, in January and July. For further information and electronic copies of early issues no longer posted on the [CIRIN site](#), please contact [D. Gile](#).

Notes:

1. The mini-abstracts may be followed by the initials of the contributor who sent in the information, but the text may also be written or adapted from the original text by DG, who takes responsibility for the comments and for any errors introduced by him.
2. The editor believes in the usefulness in CIR of a distinction between ‘tactics’ (decisions and actions aimed at achieving an immediate goal) and ‘strategies’ (decisions and actions with some planning) – see *CIRIN Bulletin* n°50, July 2015 – and therefore makes this distinction in abstracts and comments written by him. In quotes, the authors’ terminology prevails. The same applies to the distinction between ‘cognitive load’ and ‘cognitive effort’, ‘cognitive effort’ being the effortful response to cognitive load.

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EDITORIAL

New CIRIN Node

Welcome to **Piroska Szentirmay** from Budapest as the new Node for Hungary. She has already contributed two entries to this issue. This young colleague is working on her doctoral dissertation on interpreting in religious settings. No doubt she will be contributing new insights, to be added to those of a few other colleagues who have been working in the same area.

Franz Pöchhacker’s *Festschrift*

Zwischenberger et al. 2023, reviewed in this issue of the *Bulletin*, is a *Festschrift*, a collective volume prepared as a tribute to Franz Pöchhacker for his 60th birthday. I was asked to contribute, was happy to

participate, was reluctant to write one more review or summary with references to the personality being honored as is often done in *Festschriften* – and reflecting on Franz’s position and activity in Interpreting Studies over the years, thought of attempting an original socio-historical analysis of TIS focusing on the salient individual contributions of single personalities who have had a major role in its development. At the end of the paper there was a section presenting Franz Pöchhacker as a heir to this tradition, arguing that his dedicated work as an author, editor, supervisor and teacher over the years, his open mind and supportive personality exemplify what TIS can hope for in leading scholars to create the best conditions for the survival and further development of TIS as a distinct socio-academic entity. The editors were not happy with the paper (“not scientific”). The editors of *InContext* were and included it in its inaugural issue (see Gile, 2021 in *Bulletin* n°63). The paper has been read, cited and recommended – but unfortunately in a version without the final section on Franz, which would have been fine in a volume dedicated to him but out of place elsewhere. It was published more than a year before Franz’s birthday. Now that the *Festschrift* is out, I happily dedicate it to him.

Academic formalism

Thinking of what is “scientific” and what is not, setting aside substantial norms, some editors and peer reviewers seem to attach much importance to academic formalism such as certain types of text structure or writing style or a minimum number of citations. Basically, such formalism is a useful guiding tool which contributes to the conceptual and editorial quality of analyses and research reports. But sometimes messages can be delivered efficiently without this formalism. This is inter alia the case in interviews of researchers. A few are listed in this issue of the *Bulletin*, which colleagues may find interesting to listen to or perhaps read, in the case of transcripts.

In other cases, publications have all the academic formalism, but substance is lacking. I am not referring to flaws in genuine attempts to explore, develop or test, but to what amounts to citing authors and their ideas without a substantial analysis and/or prescribing advice which is neither documented nor new. For a long time, I was reluctant to select them out of the *Bulletin*, but will do so from now on. I do so with regret, because some of these publications come from countries and institutions which have no TIS tradition, which may explain their weaknesses. I will be looking forward to reporting on publications from the same countries and institutions once they have matured a bit.

Pointers to this issue

Before anything else, a reminder: the very small samples of texts reported in each issue of the *Bulletin* are clearly not representative of the literature in the statistical sense, and any trends observed in the editorials on the basis of the content of respective issues are provided as very tentative indications, to be checked against other available information.

This being said, out of the 45 entries on conference interpreting listed in this issue (besides other entries on signed language interpreting and other interpreting-related areas) , 12 (more than a quarter of them) are on training, which continues to be a very popular topic; 9 (20%) are on professional issues and 7 (16%) are on technology, which seems to be picking up in the literature. Five are on consecutive and note-taking, which, in contradiction to what is heard sometimes, are still a topical subject, perhaps related to the importance of training, but as stressed by Porlán-Moreno, consecutive has virtues of its own. There are also 4 entries related to quality expectations and assessment. In other words, as regards general areas of CIR investigation, core topics from the past seem to be very much alive.

Noteworthy entries: Arzik-Erzumlu and Yilmaz open up an interesting avenue for ecologically valid exploration of quality perception through the analysis of Tweet reactions. Donovan raises an interesting question about the effects of remote interpreting from home on the social fabric of the conference interpreting profession. Příbylová looks at what happens when circumstances force interpreters to work in language combinations which are unusual for them or for which they have not been trained. CUI and

LIU bravely broach the sensitive topic of less-than-ethical behavior associated with pressure to publish in academia.

Several chapters in Moratto and ZHANG's collective volume illustrate how Chinese scholars are bravely willing to engage in sensitive topics, publicly exposing doubts and weaknesses. The same applies to Bayraktar Özer's doctoral dissertation on interpreter training in Turkey. This may be painful but is likely to be helpful in the medium and long term.

A noteworthy development in research methodology is the spreading use of online surveys and online interviews. So is the increased use of inferential statistics, sometimes with advanced methods. But if the rationale underlying the design of the study is flawed, the contribution of advanced methods is nil. And even if the design is fine, if the sample is not representative, findings can be misleading, and if the sample is very small, the power of inferential statistics is generally poor.

Daniel Gile

CIR PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES

Andres, Dörte (Univ. of Mainz). 2023. 'The times they are a-changin'. Competency-based conference interpreter training and the role of situational intelligence and adaptive expertise. In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). 196-213.

** This paper focuses on preparation as an important component of situational intelligence and hence of adaptive expertise, and presents two training formats, the Freitagskonferenz in Germersheim and the SIMinar introduced by Pöchhacker at the University of Vienna.*

>>>**Arzik-Erzurumlu, Özüm & Yilmaz, Gamze** (Bahçeşehir University, University of Massachusetts Boston). 2023. From remote control to tweets. How viewers' use of Twitter shapes quality criteria in interpreting the Oscars. *Interpreting* 25:1. 27–60.

**The authors analyze Tweeter responses to Turkish TV interpretation of Oscar ceremonies from 2010 to 2020, and interview 5 Turkish Oscar ceremony interpreters as well as one TV executive in an endeavor to explore the effects of the tweets. A total of 401 tweets were analyzed, but besides 2015, when a seemingly unsatisfactory interpretation triggered 129 tweets, there were few tweets each year (5 years with less than 20, 2 years with 26 and 28 tweets respectively, and 2 years with 48 and 42 tweets respectively).*

**DG: A potentially valuable source of data on quality perception. To be tapped further.*

Bayraktar-Özer, Özge (Atılım Üniversitesi, Turkey). 2020. Knowledge complementarity in simultaneous interpreting. *Turkish Studies Language and Literature* 15:3. 1101-1113.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.47845/TurkishStudies.42689>

** A single group pretest-posttest research design was used in this study. Five graduate and 11 postgraduate interpreting students interpreted two different technical speeches, one on a familiar subject (a popular application) and containing unknown words unknown to them, and the other on an unfamiliar subject. Three weeks of training on the complementarity of linguistic and extralinguistic knowledge along with interpreting exercises were then offered to the participants at the rate of one session a week. At the end of the period, they were asked to interpret the same speeches again. Performance was improved, but it was better for the speech on a familiar topic and unknown terms*

than for the speech involving an unfamiliar topic. According to the author, the findings suggest that before the training, participants were able to compensate for lacking linguistic knowledge with the help of extralinguistic knowledge, but not the opposite.

Bayraktar-Özer, Özge (Atılım University, Ankara, Turkey) & **Selmin Söylemez, Ayşe** (Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, Ankara, Turkey). 2022. Interpreter training during COVID-19: Emergency remote teaching experiences of trainers. *Across Languages and Cultures* 24 (2023) 1, 85-105. DOI: 10.1556/084.2022.00264

* *The COVID-19 pandemic has brought an unprecedented shift to the mode of delivery of educational programs, from face-to-face to online, all over the world. Interpreting courses, being no exception, had to face various challenges as well. This study aimed to investigate the impact of emergency remote teaching on interpreting courses from the trainers' perspectives. To this end, semi-structured interviews were conducted online with 16 interpreter trainers with at least three years of experience in teaching face-to-face at the undergraduate level, who had to move their courses online during the pandemic. Observation, another qualitative method, was used for the second stage of data collection to ensure triangulation. In all, four online interpreting courses held by three different trainers at separate universities in Turkey were observed by the authors. Data analysis in reflexive thematic form was conducted using the MaxQda software. The findings are discussed with specific emphasis on course design, student motivation, technical challenges, and the additional workload of trainers to inform both in-person and further online teaching practices.* (PS)

Further information (full article accessible): <https://akjournals.com/view/journals/084/24/1/article-p85.xml>

Bendazzoli, Claudio (Univ. of Turin, Univ. of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria). 2023. Breaching Protocol and Flouting Norms on the European Parliament Floor. Reactions from a Micro- and Macro-context Perspective in 22 Languages. *Contrastive Pragmatics* 4. 64-87.

* *When Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti made a statement in Italian before the European Parliament on 15 February 2012, he was interpreted into 21 languages either directly or via a relay. At one point, he switched from Italian to English to respond directly to criticism voiced offline by other Members of the European Parliament without permission to take the floor. Bendazzoli describes the way interpreters in the various booths (as well as authors of official reports) handled this part of Monti's statement, e.g., with respect to providing listeners with contextual information explaining what was happening (offline comments and spontaneous reaction by the speaker, language switching, self-correction, infelicity in the use of a collocation in English).*

DG: This study is one more interesting corroboration of the idea that even in prototypical conference interpreting situations, the interpreters' discourse has social implications beyond those the speaker's discourse would have had s/he spoken directly to the listeners in their native language, making them active social actors in the interpreter-mediated interaction. What is unclear is to what extent this effectively influences the principals' perception of each other or the outcome of the communication event. Can the interpreters have a major influence, as seems to have been the case in some high-level person-to-person political contacts, or are variations in the interpreters' signal drowned by the signal from direct offline contacts, general political considerations and strategies, etc.? The same question arises with respect to other aspects of the interpreters' behavior discussed by Monacelli, Bartłomiejczyk and others. See also GAO & Munday (2023), micro-reviewed in this issue of the Bulletin).

>>>**Chmiel, Agnieszka & Liojewska, Agnieszka** (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań). 2022. Reading patterns, reformulation and eye-voice span (IVS) in sight translation. *Translation and*

**Twenty-four professional conference interpreters sight-translated into English a Polish text with sentences that could be reformulated into English sentences with similar structures and others that required restructuring. The participants' output and eye movements were recorded and analyzed. Mean lag ("IVS" being used in reference to the pronunciation of "eye" to replace EVS which is used in interpreting proper) was more than 8 seconds, that is, more than values generally observed in voice-to-voice interpreting. Text viewing durations were similar, but restructuring generated larger lags than keeping the same sentence structure.*

The paper presents a clever overview of previous related studies, and makes the point that eye movement measures that only take on board text-viewing may miss processing that is conducted while looking away from the text being sight-translated. A strong point in this study is that it also looks at output quality (faithfulness, grammatical correctness and delivery) on 5 point scales on 10 short excerpts, always the first sentences on a screen in order to avoid the spillover effect and cognitive load exported from the previous part of the text – note that in this study, the imported load hypothesis is not even questioned, something which is missing in many studies of cognitive load and cognitive effort. In addition, problem triggers such as low frequency words and collocations were evaluated based on a modified propositional accuracy score with a separate 3-point scale. Another clever point made by the authors is that findings on sight-translating from logographically written languages (e.g. Chinese and Japanese) may be difficult to compare with studies on sight-translation from alphabetic languages. For readers familiar with these two languages, this makes much sense. When reading a Japanese text, with its combination of kanji ("Chinese characters") and kana (syllabary writing) at least general comprehension is significantly faster than when reading a text in alphabetic writing.

The lack of statistical significance in the relationship between output quality and IVS suggests that better performing interpreters did not tend to read ahead more. Somewhat counter-intuitively, input sentence types (mandatorily restructured when sight-translated or not) were not linked to different translation durations, but when restructuring did occur, IVS was longer. Looking more closely at potential relevant factors, the authors calculated mean dependency distance (MDD) as an indicator of syntactic complexity for selected sentences, and found a small difference between the two types of sentences. There may therefore be a floor effect, restructuring not being sufficiently substantial to affect translation durations. Another interesting finding: when structure was retained in the output, IVS was shorter but translation time was longer, which suggests that much of the restructuring is done mentally before uttered production actually starts, while non-restructuring sight-translation seems to have been done while uttering the output sentences.

According to the authors, these findings suggest that it is not source text complexity which determines IVS, but the reformulation of the output. This is important because it highlights the relevance of language-pair specificity. In all probability, syntactic issues are not the only relevant language-specific factors: morphological and phonological dis/similarity at the lexical level, and even graphic dis/similarity may well be a strong factor determining cross-language priming and therefore processing duration.

On another point, there was no clear association between interpreting quality on one hand, and more restructuring and a longer lag.

An interesting reference on sight-translation because of the extensive thinking and testing that went into the study – and of the findings, which provide food for thought.

>>>Donovan, Clare (ISIT, France). 2023. The Consequences of Fully Remote Interpretation on Interpreter Interaction and Cooperation? A threat to professional cohesion? *INContext* 3:1. 24-48.

**The author, an experienced interpreter and interpreter trainer and a former OECD Chief interpreter, looks at an interesting aspect of remote interpreting, namely the changes with which it seems to be*

associated as regards social interaction between conference interpreters. She observed interactions between interpreters in 7 meetings, comparing exchanges observed in vivo during onsite interpreting events and exchanges documented on WhatsApp in cases where interpreters were working alone from home (they used WhatsApp messaging to communicate during the meetings). As could be expected, the WhatsApp messages are shorter and tend to focus on immediate technical matters, while onsite interactions included much socializing, comments to let off steam after difficult turns in the booth and comforting reactions from colleagues, as well as exchanges on the wider context of the conference, on the subject matter, on the profession etc. In her conclusions, Donovan notes the almost total absence of online mutual assistance between interpreters working in “full remote mode”. Beyond these technical observations which she acknowledges as preliminary, what is particularly noteworthy in this study is that it announces a marked weakening of social interaction between colleagues in conference interpreting with the emergence of remote interpreting from home (as opposed to remote interpreting from hubs). Donovan points out that remote interpreting is one more step in the increasing distance between events mediated by interpreters and interpreters which started with the transition from consecutive to simultaneous – but with simultaneous, spoken-language interpreters arguably gained social cohesion as they now spent much time with each other. With what Donovan calls “full remote interpreting”, they lose this aspect of their working environment. Not only does this damage the attractiveness of the profession, but it may well change radically the features of conference interpreting as a social entity, with far-reaching consequences which deserve further investigation and reflection.

>>>**GAO, Fei** (Chongqing Univ. of Posts and Telecomm.) & **Munday, Jeremy** (Univ. of Leeds). 2023. Interpreter ideology. ‘Editing’ discourse in simultaneous interpreting. *Interpreting* 25:1. 1-26. **In a naturalistic corpus extracted from publicly available videos of unscripted panel discussions on sensitive issues during the 2016 Chinese World Economic Forum, the authors analyzed the way the Chinese interpreters ‘edited’ statements which contained positive or negative evaluative judgment towards China. This included additions, omissions and changes in wording which, according to the authors, reflect the interpreter’s ideology.*

**DG: Do they actually reflect the interpreters’ ideology, or do they reflect the ideology the interpreters believe they should serve or are expected to serve by their employers? In the latter case, the shifts observed might reflect a risk containment strategy rather than ideology. Another uncertain point is the cognitive cost of these shifts, in particular additions and the inhibition of formal equivalents in favor of verbal expressions adding or subtracting intensity to the original word or phrase. Are they really costly, as the authors seem to believe, and if so to what extent? Be it as it may, the evidence does suggest that editing speeches in conference interpreting situations in line with one party’s interests or ideology is not infrequent, at least in international political encounters. Where else does such editing occur, and how can and do training programs prepare students for such environments?*

Gieshoff, Anne Catherine & Hunziker Heeb, Andrea (Zurich Univ. of Applied Sciences). 2023. Cognitive load and cognitive effort. Probing the psychological reality of a conceptual difference. *Translation, Cognition & Behavior* ISSN 2542-5277 | E-ISSN 2542-5285 © 2023 John Benjamins. Published online: 14 March 2023.

**The authors’ main question was whether translators and interpreters actually make the distinction between cognitive load and cognitive effort when they are asked to report how they experienced it after translating or interpreting. In their introduction, the authors explain that cognitive control is necessary whenever a task is not automated and requires deliberate attention, for instance when inhibiting an automated response, when updating information or when holding information in (working) memory. Twenty-eight professional interpreters and 24 professional translators with German A and English as a B or C language were asked to either translate or interpret two edited versions of authentic conference talks, one general and one technical. After the task, they were asked “How mentally demanding was*

the task?” (for cognitive load), and “How hard did you have to work to accomplish your level of performance?” (for cognitive effort). The quality of the product was also assessed. Interpreters tended to rate their effort higher than the load and translators reported higher load than effort, but the differences were small for most participants. The accuracy of interpreting decreased with higher load ratings, but only for the technical talk. Overall, participants did not seem to distinguish effort from load, and there were no clear-cut effects of self-reported effort or load on performance.

**DG: The findings may well have been affected by desirability bias (see the text in the Beginner’s corner at the end of this issue of the Bulletin). If the authors tried to ask professional conference interpreters and translators whether they devoted the same effort to solving translation and interpreting problems depending on their state of fatigue and on the attitude of their clients, would the answers suggest they could or could not distinguish between cognitive effort and cognitive load? Or perhaps the authors could set up an experiment with the same translation and interpreting tasks but different motivational conditions in terms of the stakes of successful completion of the tasks, measure the efforts and the quality of the output and ask the participants for retrospective comments?*

HAN, Lili; LU Jing; WEN, Zhisheng; TIAN, Yuan (Macao Polytechnic Univ., Hong-Kong Shue Yan Univ.). 2023. Momentary engagement in simultaneous versus consecutive interpreting: through the lens of translanguaging and CDST. *Front. Psychol.* 14:1180379. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1180379

**The title of the paper was intriguing, and so was the abstract, in spite of its pompous formulation. I was wondering what “momentary engagement” meant in operational terms, and how Complex Dynamic System Theory (CDST) came in. Beyond the jargon, the study reports on 8 second-year students who interpreted from Portuguese into Chinese two recorded video speeches, one in consecutive and one in simultaneous. Their output was analyzed, and so were video recordings of their interpreting performance, with a focus on excerpts of the source speech which contained syntactically complex sentences, “semantically enriched” or “semantically complex” sentences and sentence with at least two or three numbers; in a post-experiment questionnaire, the students were asked how they felt about the task. Pauses of more than 5 seconds were used as indicators of cognitive load. As could be expected because of the cognitive load on working memory which they must have generated, such pauses, which were numerous during simultaneous interpreting, were associated with errors and omissions. There were few such pauses in consecutive interpreting.*

“For the CI task, as note-taking was the nexus connecting the input and output stages, the translanguaging space of note-taking was analyzed to better understand the underlying non-linearity, emergence, and self-organization dynamics of listening comprehension and production.”?

“Momentary engagement”? “Time sensitivity”? “Translanguaging space”? What exactly did the authors find that is new? And did their pompous, unnatural language make the text clearer?

LIN, Yumeng & LIANG, Junyin (Zhejiang University). 2023. Informativeness across Interpreting Types: Implications for Language Shifts under Cognitive Load. *Entropy* 2023, 25, 243. <https://doi.org/10.3390/e25020243>

**The authors used the ‘entropy’ construct for a comparison of consecutive and simultaneous interpretations. They explain that ‘entropy’ refers to the largest amount of information that a communication channel transmits. It is measured against the statistical uncertainty associated with values of a variable: the higher the uncertainty of a value measured in the signal, the more it is informative. (Intuitively, if you are certain about something, finding it in a communication signal would add no information; the more uncertain it is, the more its presence is informative). In their paper, they measure what could be called linguistic entropy in consecutive English interpretations of authentic Chinese speeches given by Chinese Premiers and in simultaneous interpretations of speeches delivered by Chinese government leaders in international forums. More specifically, they measure “monotony” of the distribution of words in the interpretations. They find that consecutive interpreting outputs are*

more (linguistically) heterogeneous when the corresponding input speeches have a rather high level of complexity. They interpret this as a sign that in consecutive, interpreters “can achieve an equilibrium between production economy and comprehension sufficiency for their listeners”. In their discussion, they claim that they “employed a novel method of entropy to scientifically quantify the overall informativeness of texts in interpreting”, but offer no rationale or evidence that links this lexical statistical-distribution-based ‘informativeness’ to semantic informativeness, in other words to how much information on the content of the speech is present in the interpretations. This “production economy” in consecutive, they say, “derives from heavy pressure on memory in CI”. Strange: why would this be the case, if they have understood the source speech and have the notes they took to scaffold their memory? Further down, they write that “CI interpreters have to keep more chunks of information in the focus of attention before a long segment of speech is interpreted in one stretch, and the cognitive load may keep accumulating during the course”. This applies to sentence-by-sentence consecutive, but not to consecutive with notes, which was performed in the authentic corpus they analyzed. Moreover, the authors write that interpreters endeavor to maximize the communication impact of the speech, and “therefore the distribution pattern of words in CI outputs is more diverse and fruitful”, without explaining why the two should be related.

It is fine to attempt to test a theory or hypothesis formulated about interpreting by interpreters on the basis of introspection and/or observation using linguistic tools such as dependency distance, but starting with linguistic tools and making inferences on tactical and strategic interpreting behavior on that basis is tricky, and requires critical scrutiny by colleagues familiar with the interpreting processes from the inside. It seems no such scrutiny was available in this case, neither in the design stage nor in the peer-reviewing stage.

Liu, Minhua (Hong Kong Baptist Univ.). 2023. User expectations research revisited. Methodological considerations. In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). *Introducing New Hypertexts on Interpreting (Studies). A tribute to Franz Pöchhacker*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. 44-65.

**A critical review of user expectation studies, in which Liu points out a number of methodological weaknesses in the relevant literature. She cites Pöchhacker (2005) who warns about potential differences between expectations and actual perception. She recalls a number of fundamental points that should be clear to all trained researchers, such as the use of appropriate measures of central tendencies and appropriate sampling. A puzzling statement on page 57: a total population sample “greatly reduces the risk of bias in sampling”. By definition, a sample is a sub-group of the population, and sampling bias results from a possible systematic difference between the features of the sample and the features of the population. If the sample is the whole population, how can there be a sampling bias? Perhaps Liu is referring not to sample bias, but to bias in the subgroup of the population which responded?*

A missing elephant in Liu’s critique of user expectations is desirability bias: arguably, it makes respondents look better if they value substance over form and attribute lesser weight to form-related quality components, and the risk of over-estimating substance over form on the basis of the data collected is considerable. Desirability bias is well-known to researchers in the behavioral sciences, and is the reason why in my own research on quality, starting in 1990, I only conducted perception studies.

Pradas Macías, Macarena (Univ. of Granada, Spain). 2023. A review of the evolution of survey-based research on interpreting quality using two models by Franz Pöchhacker. In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). 68-89.

**An overview of research on quality, inter alia research conducted by members of the ECIS group. An interesting point is the (hopefully subconscious) gender-centered bias of evaluators, who seem to value men more highly than women as regards professionalism and other features traditionally attributed to*

men when reacting to two interpretations which were identical save for the fact that one of them was performed with a male voice and one with a female voice. Interestingly, most of the evaluators were women. We still have a long way to go.

WANG, Binhua (Univ. of Leeds). 2023. Exploring information processing as a new research orientation beyond cognitive operations and their management in interpreting studies: taking stock and looking forward, *Perspectives*, DOI: 10.1080/0907676X.2023.2200955

** A conceptual discussion. The author makes a distinction between the existing focus on cognitive operations and their management in TIS and the exploration of information processing as a “new” research orientation. The distinction and the innovation are not clear to this reviewer (DG).*

WANG, Chenning (Ms) (China Foreign Affairs Univ., Beijing). 2023. Strategies for Note-taking in Consecutive Interpreting: A Case Study Based on Effort Model. *Lecture Notes on Language and Literature* 6:2. 51-58.

XU, Shenyi, PAN, Hun (Hong Kong Baptist Univ.), **Carl, Michael** (Kent State Univ.). 2023. Economy and efficiency of note-taking in consecutive interpreting from English to Chinese. In Lacruz, Isabel (ed). *Translation in Transition*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. 157-182.

**This study looks at 11 graduate students enrolled in a Translation Studies program at a British University performing consecutive from their Chinese A into their English B on a Wacom digital tablet and pen. The authors propose a clever classification of NTUs, Note Taking Units (Natural Language Elements, including full words and abbreviations in the source language, the target language or a third language), Numerical Elements and Symbolic Elements (symbols, including lines, and space). Ear-Pen spans (EPS) were measured as the time interval between the onset of an utterance and the beginning of a note-taking act, and Note-Taking Durations (NTDs) were measured as the duration of the note-taking act. Quality scores were also determined depending on whether NTUs were noted and interpreted correctly or not, with a score of 1 for each if they were and of 0 if they were not. Apparently the quality scoring was done on the basis of single NTUs, not propositions, which is problematic. If efficiency and economy come in, it would not necessarily be at individual NTU level, depending on the informational density of the source speech and the speed of its delivery, and depending on the type of word or idea that is being noted. For instance, compound names take longer to write, and economy and efficiency may well be found in the interpreters’ tactical behavior at this level, just as alphabetically long words or Chinese words written in rare characters, but for ideas expressing a rise or improvement or fall or equality or causality or existence or non-existence, there are generally very simple symbolic NTUs that are written very rapidly, and considerations of time and efficiency should not come in.*

A strange inaccuracy: the authors misinterpret the Listening and Analysis Effort in the Effort Models as meaning that the interpreters listen and then analyze the source speech. Actually, the Effort was called Listening and Analysis (now Reception) only to stress that the type of listening required was analytical.

YUAN, Lu & WANG, Binhua (Univers. of Leeds). 2023. Cognitive processing of the extra visual layer of live captioning in simultaneous interpreting. Triangulation of eye-tracking and performance data, *Ampersand* (2023), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amper.2023.100131>.

**This study investigates the cognitive processing of live captioning in interpreting in Zoom Meetings. Thirteen interpreting trainees in a postgraduate professional training program were recruited for an eye-tracking experiment of simultaneous interpreting under two conditions: with and without live captioning. Their eye movement data and interpreting performance data were collected during the experiment. Three questions were explored: 1) How do the interpreters process visual information from live captioning? 2) Which types of information segments tax more cognitive resources in interpreting*

with live captioning? 3) *Is there a significant difference in interpreting accuracy between interpreting with and without live captioning? The results showed the following findings: 1) Although participants were observed to constantly shift their attention between the live transcript area and the non-live transcript area, they tended to consciously keep their visual attention on the live captioning area when numbers and proper names appeared. 2) With live captioning on, more cognitive effort was spent when processing information containing a higher density of numbers and proper names. 3) There was a significant improvement in the number and proper name accuracy when interpreting with live captioning.*

* * *

The Polish open access journal ***Między Originalem a Przekładem*** (literally 'Between original and translation') published a special issue devoted to interpreting. It is issue 4 of volume 54 and was edited by Marzeny Chrobak & Marty Palecznej.

<https://journals.akademicka.pl/moap/issue/view/276>

The following papers on conference interpreting written in Polish are micro-described on the basis of the online abstract. Also note a paper on signed-language interpreting by **Kalata-Zawłocka**, which is reported in the sign language interpreting section.

Biernacka, Agnieszka (Warsaw Univ.). 2021. Tłumaczenie symultaniczne mowy noblowskiej w dydaktyce przekładu konferencyjnego (Simultaneous Interpreting of a Nobel Lecture in Conference Interpreter Training). *Między Originalem a Przekładem* 54:4. 13-31.

** This paper presents a longitudinal study of simultaneous interpreting of a Nobel lecture from Spanish into Polish. The results of the analysis show that during the preparation phase, it is not selective analysis of such lexical items as proper names, numbers or unknown words, but rather syntactic analysis which enables interpreters to render compound statements in a specific register, while in-depth cultural analysis contributes to knowledge acquisition across different fields necessary in conference interpreting.*

Hanusiak, Dariusz (Jagielloński Univ., Cracow). 2021. The Choice of Language for Note-Taking for the Purposes of Consecutive Interpreting. An English-Polish Case Study. *Między Originalem a Przekładem* 54:4. 51-61.

**The notes of 3 cohorts of a total of 52 graduate interpreting students in their second and final year in the program when interpreting the recording of an authentic European Parliament speech by a British politician were collected and scrutinized. Thirty one of the students (close to 60%) chose to take their notes either largely or exclusively in English (the source language), and only 8 (slightly above 15% chose to use mostly Polish – one of them used Polish exclusively. No third language was used. The majority of the students used a small number of symbols.*

Przepiórkowska, Danuta. 2021. Adapt or Perish: How Forced Transition to Remote Simultaneous Interpreting during the COVID-19 Pandemic Affected Interpreters' Professional Practices. *Między Oryginałem a Przekładem* 54:4. 137-159.

**This paper was micro-reviewed in Bulletin n°64 (2022).*

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In Moratto, Riccardo & ZHANG, Ailing/Irene (eds) (Shanghai Univ. of Foreign Studies). 2023. *Conference Interpreting in China. Practice, Training and Research*. Oxon and NY: Routledge.

Gile, Daniel (Université Paris Sorbonne Nouvelle). 2023. Western impressions about Chinese conference interpreting research. In Moratto, Riccardo & ZHANG Irene A. (eds). *Conference Interpreting in China. Practice, Training and Research*. New York and London: Routledge. viii-xiv.
** As a foreword to the collective volume, the author points out a few characteristics of Chinese CIR, including the fuzzy borderline between interpreting research in general and CIR, the evolution which brought it to its present status as the most productive in the field in two decades, innovative elements that it has already contributed and its demographic features which are likely to keep it in a very productive state and possibly a very influential status worldwide.*

ZHAN, Cheng & ZHANG, Han. (Sun Yat-sen Univ. Guangzhou). 2023. Professionalization of conference interpreting in China: implications from research and publications. In **Moratto & ZHANG** (eds). 11-26.

**An analysis of the literature on professionalization of conference interpreting in China. The authors look inter alia at sub-topics and at methodology (mostly survey-based so far). They also make suggestions for future development of research on this topic.*

ZHU, Yuben & REN, Wen. 2023. UNLTP as a forerunner of OBE model for conference interpreter training in China. In **Moratto & ZHANG** (eds). 27-48.

**Around the concept of Outcome-based education (OBE), the authors sketch the history of conference interpreter training in China from its very beginning, the United Nations Language Training Program for Translators and Interpreters (UNLTP) in Beijing which was launched in 1979, to present days, using archival data and published interviews of former trainers and trainees of UNLTP.*

MU, Lei & LIU, Xinyuan. 2023. The professionalization of interpreting and professional interpreter education in the Chinese mainland. In **Moratto & ZHANG** (eds). 49-65.

**The authors address the interactions between professionalization, interpreter training, and the establishment of Translation and Interpreting Studies as an independent discipline in China.*

GAO, Bin & ZHAO, Zhuxuan. 2023. Embarking upon careers with a diploma in conference interpreting: graduates' motivations and self-perceived employability. In **Moratto & ZHANG** (eds). 66-82.

**The authors express the opinion that institutionalized training of conference interpreters is essential to remedy the shortage of talent in this branch of interpreting. They look at motivations of 67 graduates of the UIBE-SCIC program as well as their self-perceived employability through a survey.*

ZHANG, Wei & GAO, YU. 2023. How are they invisibly present? Conference interpreters' role perception. In **Moratto & ZHANG** (eds). 83-107.

**Responses to a survey on the perception 150 Chinese conference interpreters have of their role suggest they see themselves as active participants rather than neutral conduits.*

LIU, Yi & LI, Dechao. 2023. Problem-based learning (PBL) in conference interpreting pedagogy: a holistic approach. In **Moratto & ZHANG** (eds). 108-124.

**The authors suggest that learning is facilitated by specific challenges ("problems") designed into the students' curriculum.*

DONG, Jiquing & CHEN, Yihui (Shanghai International Studies University). 2023. Exploring the identity and crisis of interpreting teachers in China: a case study of a private college in Zhejiang province. In **Moratto & ZHANG** (eds). 125-145.

**The authors study the case of 6 English-Chinese interpreting teachers at a private college which offer a BTI program alone (with about 100 students enrolling each year) who responded to a questionnaire. Two accepted a follow-up online interview. The data point to many fundamental challenges that create a big gap between their ideal operation as teachers of interpreting, practitioners of interpreting and researchers and reality. An honest and courageous report.*

SHANG, Xiaoqi. 2023. Investigating the differences between native and non-native English speakers in assessing Chinese-to-English interpretation. In **Moratto & ZHANG** (eds). 146-169.

**Eight Chinese A and 2 English A raters evaluated 50 1st year interpreting students' Chinese-into-English consecutive interpreting test on fidelity, language quality and fluency. After the formal ratings, semi-structured retrospective interviews were conducted with the raters. The results were submitted to statistical analysis, and some trends were observed.*

DG: A detailed inferential statistics analysis comparing a sample of 8 and a sample of 2 people?

XING, Jie & HE, Yinghua. 2023. Exploring standards of interpreting services in China (2006-2021): history and prospects. In **Moratto & ZHANG** (eds). 173-188.

**A report on the development of Chinese interpreting service standards, an area where extensive work is being done, much more than in any other country to this reviewer's knowledge. These standards extend over more than conference interpreting.*

CHEN, Yiqiang; LEI, Victoria Lai Cheng ; LI, Defeng. (Univ. of Macao). 2023. Interpreting in Macao: practice, training and research. In **Moratto & ZHANG** (eds). 189-204.

**An overview. Includes a presentation of the Centre for Studies of Translation, Interpretation and Cognition (CSTIC) set up in 2014 and headed by LI Defeng, which has become a major center for neurocognitive research on interpreting.*

ZOU, Bin & LI, Xiaoyan. 2023. Interpreter training in Xinjiang: challenges and solutions. In **Moratto & ZHANG** (eds). 205-216.

**On interpreter and translator training in Xinjiang in general.*

BAI, Xuejie (Lanzhou Univ.). Problems in MTI conference interpreting education in Gansu, Qinghai, and Ningxia and suggested solution. In **Moratto & ZHANG** (eds). 217-231.

**An overview of the situation and challenges, and the author's personal ideas for improvement.*

WANG, Huashu; LI, Zhi; YANG, Chengshu. 2023. Interpreting technologies in the artificial intelligence era. In **Moratto & ZHANG** (eds). 232-250.

**A historical overview of technologies from early times on, classifications, and a presentation of technology offered by Cymo. This reads like an advertisement.*

LU, Jie & ZHANG, Xiaojun. 2023. Multimodal videoconference interpreting: technical challenges and opportunities. In **Moratto & ZHANG** (eds). 251-267.

**The authors present a prototype computer-aided conference interpreting system (CAICS).*

JIANG, Yu & JIA, Hui. 2023. Interpreter training and related research in virtual reality: the Chinese experience. In **Moratto & ZHANG** (eds). 268-280.

**An interesting overview, with reports on some empirical studies that suggest the use of virtual reality in training environments can effectively boost the students' performance.*

M.A. AND GRADUATION THESES

From Prague, contributed by Ivana Čeňková

Kasík, Jan. 2023. *Nové technologie v tlumočení a budoucí vývoj tlumočnické profese (New technologies in interpreting and the future developments in the interpreting profession)*, MA thesis, in Czech, Institute of Translation Studies, Charles University, June 2023, supervisor: Mgr. Kateřina Ešnerová.

**This master's thesis deals with new technologies in interpreting. It describes technologies that are breaking through (or will be in the near future) to help predict how the interpreting profession will change. The thesis focuses on remote interpreting, computer assisted interpreting, and machine interpreting. The empirical part consists of two parts: interviews and questionnaires. The goal of the interviews is to find out how the technologies in question are approached by not only professional interpreters but also experts and researchers who take part in developing them. The questionnaires survey the attitude of interpreters on the Czech market towards these technologies. The research showed that interpreters see technology mostly as offering new possibilities; however, for many, it still poses a threat. Despite the fast technological development, technology does not seem to be on its way to replace professional interpreters in the near future.*

Lišková, Martina. 2023. *Vzdělávání profesionálních tlumočnicků v České republice (Training of professional interpreters in the Czech Republic)*, MA thesis, in Czech, Institute of Translation Studies, Charles University, June 2023, supervisor: PhDr. Jana Pokojová.

**This master's thesis deals with the training of professional interpreters in the Czech Republic, their association in Czech professional organizations and their further self-development. It focuses on the further (self-)education of interpreters after graduation. It explores how they maintain their linguistic knowledge and interpreting competences and how they continue their education in business skills, which are often necessary for their professional career. It provides a comprehensive overview of electronic resources and speech databases that can be used for train interpreting and language skills, as well as events, lectures, courses, and professional groups that can be attended. It also gives an overview of blogs and podcasts that can be used to improve not only interpreting skills but also business skills, regardless of language combination. The empirical part is a questionnaire survey of Czech professional interpreters, focusing on whether they are members of Czech professional organizations, how they maintain their interpreting skills and language proficiency, and to what extent they are trained in other (business) areas related to interpreting work.*

Purchartová, Petra. 2023. *Vybrané aspekty lingvistické analýzy výchozího textu z pohledu simultánního tlumočení a strojového překladu mluvené řeči z angličtiny do češtiny (Selected Aspects of Linguistic Analysis of the Source Text from the Perspective of Human Simultaneous Interpreting and Automated Simultaneous Translation from English into Czech)*, MA thesis, in Czech, Institute of Translation Studies, Charles University, June 2023, supervisor: Mgr. Věra Kloudová, PhD.

**This interdisciplinary thesis focuses on linguistic features that might potentially cause problems both for human simultaneous interpreting and spoken language translation. The thesis also compares these features with actual human interpreting. The empirical part uses a corpus of European Parliament speeches that were segmented into minimal translation units and translated during a student research project at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics at Charles University. The author performs a*

qualitative analysis of the annotated English source texts and actual interpreting into Czech and tries to identify the most problematic linguistic features. The findings of the analysis together with the theory of translation offer possible solutions for spoken language translation technology.

Tumová, Eva. 2023. *Materiály zaměřené na rozvoj tlumočnických dovedností (Materials for developing interpreting skills)*, MA thesis, in Czech, Institute of Translation Studies, Charles University, June 2023, supervisor: Prof. PhDr. Ivana Čeňková, CSc.

**This thesis focuses on materials for developing interpreting skills, mostly Czech but also Slovak. with qualitative and quantitative methods. An overview of currently available materials, mainly Czech, and partly also Slovak, is compiled. This is followed by an in-depth analysis based on the investigated parameters (trained competence, activity, possibility to perform the exercise independently, possibility of variation, only one correct solution, role of speed). This section traces what is characteristic of the exercises from three selected publications. The results of the analysis suggest which exercise books are likely to be more suitable for self-study and which for use in the classroom. This thesis can serve as a practical resource for authors of new publications, and for people interested in interpreting who are looking for appropriate resources for practicing interpreting skills.*

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ISSA, Shareef. 2018. *Challenges Facing Conference and Television Interpreters*. MA thesis, Auckland University of Technology.

**In this thesis, the author reviews the literature as regards major challenges encountered while interpreting by conference and television interpreters and analyzes the 41 responses received to an online survey about the topic as well as the responses collected during 4 onsite and 4 Skype interviews. The findings do not innovate, but confirm and document for 2018 the salient status of accents and speed of delivery as the most frequently mentioned challenges, as well as the use of tactics mentioned by other authors in the literature when facing such challenges, including telling listeners about difficulties that make it difficult to interpret and even switching off the microphone at times.*

DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS

>>>Bayraktar Özer, Özge. 2022. *Current pedagogical tendencies and practices in interpreter training: a study on Turkey*. Doctoral dissertation, Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University.

** This is a descriptive exploration of how interpreting is taught in undergraduate Turkish programs. This particular environment is associated with obvious constraints which are well explained in the text through the interviewees' reported words: insufficient mastery of the relevant foreign languages, insufficient extralinguistic knowledge, overcrowded classes, a certain proportion of trainers without training of experience in interpreting, insufficient motivation among students and so on. And yet, in the second part of the undergraduate curriculum, conference interpreting techniques are taught. Twenty-six trainers were interviewed in depth, and 4 online courses were "observed" by the investigator. From the material thus collected, it seems that in these unfavorable environmental conditions, many trainers sincerely endeavor to do their best, with adaptation to the students' needs and baseline knowledge and sensitivity to human aspects.*

Also noteworthy is the systematic review of learning theories and their variations around what the author calls "behaviorist" and "constructivist" approaches.

Pataky, Éva (Eötvös Loránd University Budapest, Hungary). 2023. *The Prestige of Interpreters in Hungary* (in Hungarian) Doctoral dissertation. Eötvös Loránd University Budapest, Hungary
* *In Hungary, in the framework of Microcensus 2016 (a so-called “small census” where the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO) collects information from a 10% sample of the households in Hungary, Vukovich 2018) the Hungarian Central Statistical Office performed a supplementary survey where the population had to evaluate the prestige of 173 occupations. Respondents evaluated the occupations on five so-called “explanatory dimensions”: how much one can earn with the occupation (income), how much power and influence it involves, how much one has to study for it, how useful it is for society, how attractive or fashionable it is (Csányi & Giczi 2018: 7). Among the occupations evaluated there are no language mediation professions (interpreter, translator, conference interpreter, etc.) at all. The goal of my research was to raise awareness of the occupation of conference interpreters: in the framework of a qualitative study I wanted to explore those aspects which play a role in the occupational prestige of conference interpreters and also to give an estimation of the rank of conference interpreter (and also that of other language mediation professions), had it been evaluated among the occupational titles measured by HCSO. (PS)*
Further information: https://edit.elte.hu/xmlui/static/pdf-viewer-master/external/pdfjs-2.1.266-dist/web/viewer.html?file=https://edit.elte.hu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10831/85766/tezis2_pataky_eva_forditastud.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y

>>>**Příbylová, Marie Hana**. 2023. *Tlumočení z českého znakového jazyka do mluvené angličtiny v mezinárodním konferenčním prostředí (Interpreting from Czech Sign Language into Spoken English in International Conference Settings)*, PhD dissertation, in Czech, Institute of Translation Studies, Charles University, June 2023, supervisor: Prof. PhDr. Ivana Čenková, CSc.

**This qualitative exploratory study investigates interpreting between Czech Sign Language (ČZJ) and spoken English (EN) as a lingua franca at international meetings. Considering the constantly increasing international exchanges between Deaf and hearing experts, the demand for interpreting in this language combination is expected to grow; however, relevant training opportunities are scarce. Direct interpreting between ČZJ and EN is compared to and contrasted with relay interpreting via spoken Czech (CS).*

A comparative analysis of the renderings of a lecture delivered by a Deaf expert paired with stimulated recall interviews revealed that interpreting between two B-languages in a combination for which interpreters have not been trained is possible despite the assumedly increased cognitive load, and in this particular case its quality wasn't significantly lower than that of relay interpreting in terms of content completeness and accuracy and the speaker's communicative intent, provided that the interpreters had sufficient source and target language skills as well as general interpreting competence. The linguistic quality of the English output is lower in ČZJ-EN interpreters than in CS-EN interpreters (taking over from ČZJ-CS; these interpreters have been trained for this combination). Not only does this impact the product, but the process is also affected – in addition to synonymic and stylistic variation, a limited and insufficiently automated repertoire of linguistic means in the target language hinders the flexibility of reactions and linguistic economy, making cognitive load management more difficult. These are the principal areas that potential training of sign language interpreters (SL Is) for the ČZJ-EN combination and the enhancement of their proficiency in English should be targeted at.

The study also examines the strategies used by interpreters to cope with the time constraints of simultaneous interpreting, the artificial experimental conditions (interpreting of a 2D video), the culture-specific content and the linguistics factors (interpreting between two B languages of different modalities). In addition to general strategies, the interviews revealed specific strategic behaviour relevant in particular to SLIs; this behaviour is linked to the nature of Czech Sign Language, to the sociocultural context, to professional norms and to the interpreters' understanding of their role and

*their feeling of responsibility for the success of the interaction, and relates to preparation, interaction and cooperation with the presenter and active interaction management. While most of this strategic behaviour and its motivations are inherent to simultaneous interpreting and cannot be claimed to be unique to SLI, differences were observed in the type of problems SLIs face, in their attitude towards these problems and to the interpreting task in general in comparison to spoken language interpreters; it cannot be ruled out, however, that some of these differences are due to the data collection method. *DG: Output quality assessments in direct vs relay interpreting, plus interpreting in language combinations in which interpreters were not trained, are rare in the interpreting studies landscape. A detailed report in English would be welcome.*

BOOKS

Moratto, Riccardo & ZHANG, Ailing/Irene (eds) (Shanghai Univ. of Foreign Studies). 2023. *Conference Interpreting in China. Practice, Training and Research*. Oxon and NY: Routledge.
* See the articles section

OTHER

Troublesome terps <https://www.troubleterps.com>

**A roundtable-style podcast covering interpreting topics and beyond. The hosts are Jonathan Downie, Alexander Drechsel, Alexander Gansmeier, and Sarah Hickey. The podcast includes discussions in an informal radio-talk style, and occasionally interviews of personalities from the world of interpreting practice and research. Not only are the podcasts pleasant to listen to, but for researchers, they offer material for ethnographic exploration – to be used with caution and after checking in more authentic settings, as the material is produced for the purpose of podcast dissemination. But this is a good opportunity to listen to opinions and anecdotes that are not necessarily available in one's immediate environment.*

Gieshoff, Anne Catherine & Gile, Daniel. 2022. Effort in interpreting: A framework and its implications for empirical research. Edited transcript of an interview. DOI 10.113140/RG.2.2.35160.26887

**In the framework of a series of 'Mind between Languages' interviews posted on YouTube on Adolfo García's Channel, Anne Catherine Gieshoff asked Gile a series of fundamental questions which gave him the opportunity to clarify his views on matters related to the Effort Models and associated models and hypotheses, but also on interpreting studies in general, on cognitive load and cognitive effort, on some methodological issues and on the role of 'practisearchers' in interpreting studies. When viewing his answers on YouTube (the video was produced with the help of Nataša Pavlović), Gile was not happy with them and decided to post an edited version of the transcript which he believes is clearer than what he said on the spur of the moment. An opportunity to provide straightforward answers, unencumbered by the formalism of academic writing. In the same YouTube channel, there are other (interesting) interviews of personalities from Translation and Interpreting Studies (Laura Babcock, Maureen Ehrensberger Dow, Arnt Lykke Jakobsen, Minhua LIU, Chris Mellinger, Boguslawa Whyatt) and others.*

... AND BEYOND CONFERENCE INTERPRETING

SIGNED LANGUAGE INTERPRETING

Articles

Kalata-Zawłocka, Aleksandra (Warsaw Univ.). 2021. Głusi i tłumacze PJM o tłumaczeniu języka migowego w Polsce kiedyś i dziś (Sign Language Interpreting in the Opinions of Deaf Persons and Polish Sign Language Interpreters). *Między Oryginałem a Przekładem* 54:4. 63-84.

**The article presents the results of an interview-based study conducted among 12 Deaf people and 11 Polish sign language interpreters, aimed at depicting the state-of-the-art situation of sign language interpreting in Poland and reflecting upon the past. The interviewees reported on the changes that occurred over the last twenty-five years. According to them, the situation in Poland has improved significantly with regard to language, interpreting as such, legal-administrative and social issues. Still, in many respects, sign language interpreting needs further improvement in order to attain full accessibility for Deaf persons and full professionalization for signed language interpreting. (MC)*

Doctoral dissertations

Příbylová, Marie Hana. 2023. *Tlumočení z českého znakového jazyka do mluvené angličtiny v mezinárodním konferenčním prostředí (Interpreting from Czech Sign Language into Spoken English in International Conference Settings)*, PhD dissertation, in Czech, Institute of Translation Studies, Charles University, June 2023, supervisor: Prof. PhDr. Ivana Čeňková, CSc.

**See Doctoral dissertations in the Conference Interpreting section (IC)*

Books

Grbić, Nadja (Graz University, Austria). 2023. *Gebärdensprachdolmetschen als Beruf. Professionalisierung als Grenzziehungsarbeit. Eine historische Fallstudie in Österreich*. Bielefeld [transkript].(available on Google Play)

**An updated version of Grbić's Habilitationsschrift, the postdoctoral dissertation that qualifies scholars for full professorships in some countries, on the history of signed language interpreting in Austria.*

OTHER INTERPRETING RELATED PUBLICATIONS

>>>**CUI, Ying & LIU, Xiao** (Guangdong Foreign Studies Univ. & Shandong Univ. resp.). 2023. A Questionnaire Survey on Chinese Translation and Interpreting Scholars' Publication Pressure and its Impact on Research Quality and Publishing Ethics. *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics* Mar 17:15562646231164112. doi: 10.1177/15562646231164112. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36927279.

**Against the background of the importance of publications for academic promotion in Chinese universities and the small size of prestigious publication space (according to the authors, there are currently only 14 T&I journals in indexes such as SSCI and A&HCI, only 18 Chinese journals*

specializing in foreign language studies in CSSCI, not all of which publish T&I papers), this study explores four types of “relatively minor misconducts” among Chinese T&I scholars; selective citing (to please editors or reviewers), guest authorship (including as co-authors people who have not really contributed), the use of social networks (to get in touch with editors), and intermediary agencies (that sell language-editing and submission services, but also interfere with the reviewing process). A questionnaire was circulated via WeChat groups and elicited 124 responses from 52 cities in mainland China. Seventeen of the respondents agreed to participate in a follow-up telephone interview. In the questionnaire, 9 items asked respondents to assess the pressure caused by: academic requirements for publications, academic requirements for high-ranking journals, promotion criteria, competition by colleagues, publications by colleagues, journal rankings, the small number of T&I journals, peer reviewing. The next 3 items asked about the impact of such pressure the respondents’ solidity in research, the depth in their research, the originality in their research. The final 4 items asked directly about “relatively minor misconducts”: How often do you consider using intermediary agencies, social relations, guest authorship, citation of the editors’ publications? For all of the questions, a 1 to 5 Likert scale was used. Inter alia, the authors found that overall, pressure was felt to be high, with the highest source of pressure being the small number of T&I journals. Thirteen out of the 17 respondents who were then interviewed said that making use of one’s social networks was pervasive, and 9 said that selective citing was also common. For 8 of them, “academic monopoly” was a serious problem in domestic journals.

**DG: An interesting topic. The authors can be commended for achieving cooperation from more than one hundred respondents to the questionnaire and from 17 of them who agreed to be interviewed on such a sensitive issue. Some comments are thought-provoking: do the interviewees believe that editors of good peer-reviewed journals make their decisions on the basis of personal relations rather than on the basis of peer reviews? This may be the case to some extent against the background of rivalries between schools of thought and between well-known scholars and their challengers, but how plausible is that in the case of young researchers submitting their manuscript? Is it true that agencies specialized in proofreading and (presumably) in editorial counselling can interfere in the decisions of publishers to publish or not to publish, or is their “interference” limited to help with the writing up of the research reports? If so, is the situation the same in all countries or are there large differences? Regarding the measurement of the relative forces of various sources/types of pressure, the authors’ finding that the strongest pressure comes from the limited number of journals is intriguing.*

Porlán-Moreno, Rafael (Univ. de Granada, Spain). 2022. *Interpretación consecutiva. Metodología, autoevaluación y práctica en preparación de intérpretes*. Madrid: Editorial Sínderesis.

**A rather idiosyncratic didactic book on consecutive interpreting for trainers and first or second year undergraduate students who still have listening comprehension problems in their foreign language and are being introduced to consecutive. Over close to 70 pages, the author explains his views on the usefulness of consecutive, and inter alia the benefits training in consecutive has even for students who will have a career other than interpreting (this was corroborated by testimonies from his former students). He believes students should benefit from the availability of exercises outside classroom hours, perhaps to foster a more active approach to studies than the rather passive attitude that the pedagogic approach in Spain generates (personal communication from the author) and proposes materials organized in 7 modules, with short speeches in English about various topics going all the way from climatic change to the fight against smoking through European politics, renewable energies, natural disasters, artists and shows and human trafficking. Each speech is actually a transcript of about 350 words, and the corresponding audio recording can be downloaded with the help of a QR code. After each transcript, the author provides lists of primary and secondary ideas from its contents, so that students are free to use them for active listening and consecutive at their leisure and then assess*

themselves, essentially by checking which primary ideas and secondary ideas are present in their reformulation.

**DG: This is clearly not about conference interpreting per se. It is a general didactic initiative, but besides merits which should be evaluated by second-language teachers, it points out once again that the type of listening conducted for the purpose of ('true') consecutive interpreting helps develop skills that come in handy whether one becomes an interpreter or not. Moreover, as was suggested several times in the past in this Bulletin, I believe from experience and on the basis of some studies, including Hande Ersöz Demirdağ's 2013 doctoral dissertation (see Bulletin n°46), that provided materials are adapted to the students' level of comprehension of the foreign language, they can usefully prepare for conference interpreting even at the undergraduate level, with some advantage over newcomers when they eventually enroll in a conference interpreting program proper.*

XU, Ziyun (Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Spain) & **Pekelis, Leonidas** (Stanford Univ., dept of statistics). 2015. Chinese Interpreting Studies: a data-driven analysis of a dynamic field of enquiry. *PeerJ* 3:e1249; DOI 10.7717/peerj.1249

**This citation analysis of "Chinese Interpreting Studies" (CIS) texts was performed on a "near-comprehensive database" of 59,303 citations from the 1,289 Chinese MA theses, 32 doctoral dissertations and 2,909 research papers from 3,500 Chinese authors they collected from multiple databases, field trips to university libraries and book purchases. Essentially, there were three research questions, to be answered by statistical processing of citations and the associated dates of publications of citing texts and cited texts:*

- Do CIS authors tend to cite repeatedly 'classic' texts, or do they tend to cite the latest research? The answer was that CIS research is "moving forward". In addition, the numbers revealed that recent texts were regularly cited within a year or two from the date of their publication, especially in the years 2009 to 2012. They also revealed that there were many citations of texts from the year 1990, but no further details are provided as to what these texts were. MA theses were not cited often in more recent MA theses. As to doctoral dissertations, GONG Longshen's 2008 doctoral dissertation on adaptation theory and its application in interpreting was consistently cited in later dissertations.

- What are the most frequent citation types? Do they differ as a function of the language in which the cited texts were written and as a function of the text type (paper, MA, PhD)? Citations were labeled as prescriptive opinion, claim, assessment, concept, rules/standards, theory/model, theoretical analysis and so on. One pattern specific to the Chinese academic community is inclusion in the list of references of works not cited in the body of the text. This indeed was the case of 45% of cited works (though the question of whether they were cited or not remains open, since they were not cited in the body of the texts). Also noteworthy is the fact that many citations referred to interpreting textbooks; can these be considered research texts? A strange statement is found on p. 20: Chinese authors turn to Chinese textbooks for "well-established facts". Theoretical analysis was the second most popular type of citations in theses, with English texts far more often cited than Chinese texts.

- How does the choice of theoretical vs. empirical research affect the use of citations in the three categories of CIOS texts? The authors note that in their citing texts, 80% of the dissertations were empirical, whereas only 50 of the theses and 20% of the papers were. Doctoral dissertations cited more empirical studies than theses of papers did.

**DG: The main merit of this study was an attempt to classify citation types, something which I repeatedly suggested doctoral students interested in citation analysis do (XU was a doctoral student of mine for a while) – without much success. I believe there is much to be gained from such analysis to assess the real impact of individual authors on a discipline when it is feasible (some types of citations, e.g. opinions, terms, theories, findings, research methods are rather easy to classify, but others are more difficult, if the context in which they appear is vague or ambiguous).*

Zwischenberger, Cornelia; Reithofer, Karin, Rennert, Silvi (eds). *Introducing New Hypertexts on Interpreting (Studies). A tribute to Franz Pöchhacker*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
**A Festschrift offered as a tribute to Franz Pöchhacker on the occasion of his 60th birthday. See the articles section for articles on conference interpreting in this volume.*

Napier, Jemina and Hale, Sandra (Heriot-Watt Univ. & Univ. of New South Wales resp.). 2023. Exploring mixed methods in interpreting research. An example from a series of studies on court interpreting. In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). 22-43.
**An overview of a small set of published studies related to legal interpreting using different methods.*

Liu, Minhua (Hong Kong Baptist Univ.). 2023. User expectations research revisited. Methodological considerations. In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). 44-65.
**See the conference interpreting section.*

Pradas Macías, Macarena (Univ. of Granada, Spain). 2023. A review of the evolution of survey-based research on interpreting quality using two models by Franz Pöchhacker. In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). 68-89.
**See the conference interpreting section*

Ahamer, Vera & Dabić, Mascha (Univ. of Vienna). 2023. Is there anybody out there? – “It’s happening, it’s out there. A lot is going on”. Franz Pöchhacker’s contribution to increasing the visibility of community interpreting in theory and practice. In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). 92-107.
**The second part of the title of the paper gives a good idea of its content.*

Pym, Anthony; Raigal-Aran, Judith; Bestué Salinas, Carmen (Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona). 2023. Non-standard court interpreting as risk management. In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). 108-125
**The authors take video-recordings of court proceedings in Barcelona which show deviations from standard behavior rules on the part of the interpreter and of the judge in one case and the interpreter’s clearly deficient mastery of English, the language in which he addressed the defendant in the other, to advance Pym’s ideas on using risk management for the analysis of translation and interpreting behavior.*

What the paper illustrates is that in real life, court interpreting does not necessarily unfold in compliance with professional standards. This is not the first time authors have shown examples of the lack of compliance of real-life court interpreting with codes of professional conduct (see for instance Zubaida Ibrahim’s 2002 doctoral dissertation on court interpreting in Malaysia). What does the authors’ risk management-based analysis contribute? Are the risks thoroughly investigated? Do the authors mention risks such as loss of business for the interpreter (more than loss of trust in a single interpreted event) and a potential appeal on the grounds of failure to comply with applicable laws and other rules for the judge? Are risks assessed in terms of probabilities? Is evidence provided that any of the parties base their actions on risk analysis? The paper might have been more convincing as regards the relevance of risk management if interpreters and judges had been shown the recordings and asked for comments about them, and if the comments had mentioned or suggested that risk analysis was involved. The analysis here is far too superficial.

Kolb, Waltraud & Pöllabauer, Sonja (Univ. of Vienna). 2023. Women as interpreters in colonial New Netherland. A microhistorical study of Sara Kierstede. In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). 126-146.

**An interesting historical account of some aspects of the life of a 17th Century Dutch-born woman who served as an interpreter between Dutch settlers and Native Americans, who had a high social status and “is mentioned in general-knowledge publications such as the Online Dictionary of Dutch Women, or Global Americans. A History of the United States.”*

Grbić, Nadja (University of Graz). 2023. Who is an interpreter? Introducing a flexible map of translation and interpreting phenomena. In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). 148-167

**An interesting paper. The author starts by pointing out a salient tendency in Pöchhacker’s work, namely conceptual categorization. A unitary view as well, with overlapping categories, and a resistance to binary oppositions. She proposes a categorization scheme which is more flexible than traditional categorization, and hinges on conventionalized vs unconventional vs informal translation and interpreting, with two subcategories in each.*

DG: There is value in Grbic’s (and Pöchhacker’s) approach when considering translation and interpreting in a sociological mindset, especially (but not exclusively) when one is driven by ideological considerations. But it is unwise to reject binary classifications, which, in research, are often the starting point for more detailed investigations of reality, which can lead to more flexible categorizations on the basis of data rather than ideology.

Kadrić, Mira & Iacono, Katia (University of Vienna). 2023. Interpreting in a project network. Dependencies and interpreters’ multidimensional alignment. In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). 168-193

**The description of the interpreter’s work in a case study where she went to Sicily with a TV team to work on a documentary and interpreted various experts in consecutive.*

Andres, Dörte (Univ. of Mainz). 2023. ‘The times they are a-changin’ . Competency-based conference interpreter training and the role of situational intelligence and adaptive expertise. In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). 196-213.

** See the conference interpreting section*

Behr, Martina (Univ. of Innsbruck). 2023. Systemic modelling. A new approach to Interpreting Studies teaching and research. In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). 214-233

**On the use of a modelling software in a seminar to raise awareness of the complexity of interactions between variables in interpreting.*

>>>Romero-Fresco, Pablo (Univ. de Vigo). 2023. Interpreting for access. The long road to recognition. In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). 236-253

**Romero-Fresco points out that prototypical conceptions of translation and interpreting as two separate entities have been upheld in many universities and standardization committees, but the dichotomy in professional reality is less clear cut. He introduces speech-to-text human/automatic/translation/interpreting techniques which aim to provide written access to live events or shows – mostly but not exclusively – to people with hearing loss. He mentions various ways in which speech is turned live into text with various degrees of human intervention and automation. He underlines that even when the service is intralingual, there is some editing and even addition of information for viewers with hearing loss.*

Romero-Fresco then addresses research on STTI (Speech-To-Text-Interpreting) quality, with some comparisons of accuracy and lag time depending on the method, and reports on evaluation methodologies, errors and lag times.

He also reports that a committee in charge of the official standard on simultaneous interpreting delivery platforms refused to include STTI in their document, arguing that respeaking is not

interpreting and that there are no examples of good quality output of STTI – a claim which Romero-Fresco challenges. He believes that STTI may have been rejected because it is perceived as a threat to interpreters, but points out that interpreters are ideally positioned to become respeakers, because they already have many of the skills required for respeaking.

The final section of the paper is perhaps the best statement of acknowledgment of Pöchhacker's contribution to Interpreting Studies in this book. When Romero-Fresco met him at a conference in 2017, Pöchhacker had not really ventured into audiovisual translation and media accessibility, but readily accepted to work on respeaking, and set out to actively help in improving Romero-Fresco's NER model of accuracy assessment (the proportion of words in the subtitles which do not suffer from edition or recognition errors) explained in the paper. The final paragraph in the paper says it all:

“That is, in my view, the key to Franz's contribution – not only his works, but also his great ability to light the spark in fellow researchers, who will keep up the work and inspire others. I cannot think of a better contribution to this discipline and to society.” Hear Hear!

Salaets, Heidi & Balogh, Katalin (KU Leuven). 2023. Are interpreters and interpreting technology ready for the post-Covid era? In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). 254-276.

**An overview of technology used in different interpreting settings, starting with Terminology Management Systems and including Remote Interpreting Technology and technology used in remote training. In their conclusion, the authors note a lack of interest in the profession and call for a change of attitude.*

Snell-Hornby, Mary (Univ. of Vienna). 2023. Hidden scenes behind a meteoric career. In Zwischenberger et al. (eds). 278-282.

**A well-deserved acknowledgment by Pöchhacker's doctoral supervisor of his merits and contributions to the most productive of Snell-Hornby's international initiatives, and of his role as secretary-general of the European Society for Translation Studies during its first two terms of existence, over 6 years. In this afterword, Snell-Hornby also recalls the path that led her from her appointment as a professor at the University of Vienna with the aspiration to contribute to the development of the new discipline of Translation Studies, to the setting up of the “Wiener Translationsgipfel”, the word Gipfel being an ironic reference to the numerous political “summit meetings”, and to the founding of EST. Snell-Hornby also mentions the internal fight in Vienna between traditionalists who saw translator and interpreter training as essentially vocational and the aspiration of the new generation to a research-based training philosophy.*

* * *

Beginner's corner

Social desirability bias: self-image interference in interviews and questionnaires

Daniel Gile

Desirability bias is a well-known challenge in behavioral research (Krumpal 2013): in questionnaires and interviews, there is ample evidence to show that people tend, deliberately or not, to overreport attitudes and behavior that society approves and to underreport those that society disapproves. This extends to attitudes and behavior that make them look ‘good’ or ‘bad’ in their own eyes. In interpreting research, this bias, which can jeopardize the validity of questionnaires and interviews, has not been taken on board sufficiently.

For instance, for a number of years, research on quality was predominantly focused on user expectations, with measurement of users' reported priorities (weights) regarding quality components. These studies invariably reported that respondents attributed markedly higher weights to substance (e.g. informational fidelity) than to form (e.g. voice, prosody, accent, linguistic correctness), and none of the investigators seems to have questioned the validity of such results. And yet, would it not make sense to consider that for users of interpreting services, the image of someone who focuses on substance and is not bothered by weaknesses in form is more socially desirable than the image of someone who gives equal weight or more weight to form? I am not claiming that this is the case, but methodologically speaking, the possibility should have been considered and taken on board in the design of the studies. One way to avoid this trap would be to do ethnographic studies, listen to comments by users of interpreting services without asking them leading questions and analyze them. Another would be to manipulate target texts so as to be able to compare reactions to speeches that have the same content but different features of form, which was done on several parameters of form by the ECIS group in Granada under the leadership of Ángela Collados Aís and by Andrew Cheung in a series of clever experiments. Findings from such studies, from Spain and elsewhere, suggest that actually, the relative importance of form is often underrated.

When asking interpreters how hard they had to work to accomplish their level of performance in an interpreting task (Gieshoff and Hunziker Heeb, 2023, micro-summarized in this issue of the *Bulletin*), an underlying and potentially threatening question is how skilled and perhaps how professional they are, especially if this follows another question on how mentally demanding the task was. If the interpreting task was relatively easy, saying they worked hard to accomplish their level of performance is tantamount to saying their competence is not very good. If the interpreting task was difficult, saying they did not have to work very hard to accomplish their level of performance is tantamount to saying they are very skilled. In other words, answers are difficult to dissociate from self-image issues, and drawing conclusions on the ability to distinguish between cognitive load and cognitive effort is tricky.

There are ways to bypass social desirability bias and its effects to at least some extent, *inter alia* through experimental manipulation and indirect or impersonal questions. But the main point in this short text is to underline the existence of a risk of such bias when investigating human behavior.

Krumpal, Ivar. 2013. Determinants of social desirability bias in sensitive surveys: a literature review. *Qual Quant* (2013) 47:2025–2047 DOI 10.1007/s11135-011-9640-9

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