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(Kazakhstan, Almaty), e-mail: auyel.yerzhan@mail.ru²PhD, Associate Professor, Hacettepe University
(Turkey, Ankara), e-mail: sirinyo@hacettepe.edu.tr**SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION:
SPEECH PERCEPTION AND PRODUCTION PROBLEMS**

Abstract. We carried out our research to identify the actual problems and difficulties of speech production and perception in simultaneous interpretation. For this purpose, we studied the recordings of the plenary session of the II International Online Congress “G-Global - 21st Century World”, and also surveyed 38 working students majoring in “Simultaneous Translation” at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and the Abylai Khan Kazakh University of International Relations and World Languages to explore their attitude to simultaneous interpretation.

The article defines the concepts of simultaneous interpretation, speech perception and production, highlights the pros and cons of interpretation and problems faced by synchronists, and also describes the main strategies of simultaneous interpretation. Having analyzed the excerpts of the session, we found out that qualified synchronists correctly use grammatical and lexical substitutions, integration and omissions in the interpretation process. The student survey data suggest that dissatisfaction with the work of a simultaneous interpreter is mostly due to: workload (72%), enormous responsibility (13%), irregular work schedule (8%), poor workplace equipment (7%). The study highlighted the main specifics of simultaneous interpretation; positive and negative aspects of working as a simultaneous interpreter; level of satisfaction with the profession; identified difficulties in work; and basic problems of speech perception and production. The research showed that simultaneous interpretation is one of the most complex types of translation, with certain problems that require the translator to have special psychological and linguistic training, highly focused attention and proficiency in the material being translated. However, this type of translation makes it possible to perceive the presenter’s speech without interruptions, which erases the language barriers between all the participants in the process, and the interpretation itself can be carried out simultaneously in several languages to reach a huge audience of listeners.

Keywords: source text, grammatical substitutions, oratory, cross-lingual communication, sound perception.

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Синхронды аударма жағдайында сөйлеуді қабылдау және өндіру мәселелері

Аңдатпа. Зерттеу синхронды аудармадағы сөйлеуді өндіру мен қабылдаудағы өзекті мәселелер мен қиындықтарды анықтау үшін жүргізілді. Осы мақсатта «G-Global – 21st Century World» II Халықаралық онлайн конгресінің пленарлық отырысының жазбаларының материалдары, сондай-ақ Әл-Фараби атындағы Қазақ ұлттық университеті және Абылай хан атындағы Қазақ халықаралық қатынастар және әлем тілдері университетінің «Синхронды аударма мамандығының 38 жұмыс істейтін студенттерінің ілеспе аударма идеясы зерттелді.

Мақалада ілеспе аударма, қабылдау, сөйлеу өндірісі ұғымдары айқындалып, аударманың оң және теріс жақтары, синхронды аудармашыларда кездесетін мәселелер айқындалып, ілеспе аударманың негізгі стратегиялары сипатталған. Жиналыс үзінділерін талдай отырып, аударма процесінде білікті синхронистер грамматикалық және лексикалық алмастыруларды, интеграция мен оққылықтарды сауатты қолданатыны анық. Студенттердің сауалнамасының деректері синхронды аудармашы жұмысының қанағаттанарлықсыз болуының себептері бар екенін көрсетеді: жүктеме (72%), үлкен жауапкершілік (13%), тұрақты емес жұмыс кестесі (8%), жұмыс орнының әлсіз жабдықтары (7%). Зерттеу ілеспе аударманың негізгі ерекшеліктерін анықтауға мүмкіндік берді; синхронды аудармашы жұмысының оң және теріс жақтары; мамандыққа қанағаттану деңгейін зерттеу, сонымен қатар жұмыстағы қиындықтарды анықтау; және сөйлеуді қабылдау мен өндірудің негізгі мәселелері. Зерттеу көрсеткендей, ілеспе аударма аудармашыдан арнайы психологиялық және тілдік дайындықты, аударылатын материалға үлкен көңіл бөлуді және меңгеруді талап ететін проблемалары бар аударманың күрделі түрлерінің бірі болып табылады. Дегенмен, аударманың бұл түрі сөйлеушінің сөзін үнемі қабылдауға мүмкіндік береді, мұнда процестің барлық қатысушылары арасындағы тілдік кедергілер жойылады, ал аударманың өзін бір уақытта бірнеше тілде жүргізуге болады.

Кілт сөздер: түпнұсқа мәтін, грамматикалық алмастырулар, шешендік өнер, тіларалық қарым-қатынас, дыбыстарды қабылдау.

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Проблемы рецепции и продуцирования речи в условиях синхронного перевода

Аннотация. Исследование выполнено с целью выявления актуальных проблем и трудностей производства и восприятия речи в синхронном переводе. Для этого изучено материалы записей пленарного заседания II Международного онлайн-конгресса «G-Global – 21st Century World», а также представление о синхронном переводе у 38 работающих студентов специальности «Синхронный перевод» Казахского национального университета имени Аль-Фараби и Казахского университета международных отношений и мировых языков имени Абылай Хана. В статье определены понятия синхронного перевода, рецепции, продуцирования речи, выделены плюсы и минусы перевода, проблемы, с которыми

сталкиваются синхронисты, описаны основные стратегии синхронного перевода. Анализируя отрывки заседания, очевидно, то, что квалифицированные синхронисты грамотно применяют в процессе перевода грамматические и лексические замены, интеграцию и пропуски. Данные анкетирования студентов свидетельствуют о том, что причинами неудовлетворительности работой переводчика-синхрониста есть: нагрузка (72%), огромная ответственность (13%), ненормированный график работы (8%), слабое оборудование рабочего места (7%). Проведенное исследование дало возможность выделить основные особенности синхронного перевода; положительные и отрицательные стороны работы синхрониста; изучить уровень удовлетворенности профессией, а также выявить трудности в работе; и основные проблемы рецепции и продуцирования речи. Исследование показало, что синхронный перевод один из сложных видов перевода с существующими проблемами, который требует от переводчика особой психологической и языковой подготовки, огромного внимания и владения переводимого материала. Однако данный вид перевода дает возможность постоянного восприятия речи выступающего, где при этом стираются языковые барьеры между всеми участниками процесса, а сам перевод может вестись одновременно на нескольких языках для охвата огромной аудитории слушателей.

Ключевые слова: исходный текст, грамматические замены, ораторское искусство, межкультурная коммуникация, восприятие звуков.

Introduction

We carried out our research to identify the actual problems and difficulties of speech production and perception in simultaneous interpretation. For this purpose, we studied the audio recordings of the plenary session of the II International Online Congress “G-Global - 21st Century World”, and also interviewed 38 working students majoring in “Simultaneous Translation” at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and the Abylai Khan Kazakh University of International Relations and World Languages to explore their understanding of simultaneous interpretation. The article defines the concepts that are critically important for modern society. It plays major roles in the cross-cultural communication and information exchange processes. Informatization and the development of international business cooperation require the involvement of high-level interpreters and translators. Interpretation is becoming an independent field with its own unique system, features and difficulties. Interpreting is the most labor-intensive and, at the same time, interesting activity, as speaking in public arouses public interest.

Simultaneous interpretation has certain difficulties. The main problem is translating a word or phrase into more than two languages at the same time when the phrase is interpreted incorrectly. As indicated in the studies of A. Okoniewska (2022), simultaneous interpretation is a complex process (assessment and understanding of the target audience), which clearly reflects in the process the interpretation of a different historical value of the host culture. In the future, we have to study the issues of understanding the discourse and a compromise between creativity and fidelity to the text by exploring strategies for maintaining pace and correctness of interpretation.

The importance of simultaneous interpretation has grown significantly nowadays, as society is trying to break language barriers to the maximum. Aspects of reproducing voice activity, perception, storage and processing of incoming information, and components of the voice created in the original language, were also discussed in the studies of R.K. Batayeva, F.A. Shamuratova, (2022), Z. Almahasees (2023), X. Chen, K. Fan (2024). Synchronists, who are simultaneously listening to a speaker and interpreting the speech, have to develop high concentration and continuous speaking skills. In the future research, it would be important to study a specific set of interpreters' qualities to understand who will make a good simultaneous interpreter.

Another difficulty with simultaneous interpretation is that some public speeches are often not fully prepared or written in advance, and sometimes speakers improvise by deviating from the written text. Aspects of interpreting public speeches were discussed in the works of D.S. Ryspaeva, N.M. Borgul (2021), and M. Ahmed (2024). Interpreters face problems that have no universal solution but require the most individual approach to each text. It would be more efficient to translate a speech in advance to avoid loss of information and apply international and encyclopedic knowledge for the interpreter to clearly understand the speaker's text and translate it correctly. However, rendering nuances of translation that affect the quality of translation requires a detailed study.

Simultaneous interpreting is rather a complex area in translation studies, since for high-quality interpretation; a simultaneous interpreter must have unique skills and abilities, as well as extensive experience in this field. Aspects of speech perception and production under conditions of simultaneous interpretation were studied by A.G. Kalieva, A.J. Zhaparova (2023) and D.A. Karagoishiyeva, Zh.M. Umatova (2023). Difficulties in perception and translation of a source text can be resolved using translation strategies such as softening or compressing the source text, paraphrasing and self-correction, which help improve the quality of translation/interpretation. In the future, it is worth studying in more detail the theoretical and practical basics of simultaneous interpretation, at least its popular types, and aspects of the psychological and physical training of translators.

Compression and transformation are of great importance in simultaneous interpretation. These have been studied in the works of M.S. Almugambetova, A.Zh. Otetileuova (2020) and I.T. Ibrahim (2023). Compression is one of the strategies that translators choose, and it was confirmed by the researchers that the transformation strategy allows translators to achieve better results in simultaneous interpretation and reduce the level of mental stress. However, the strategies described are worth studying in detail to get a better idea of the main methods of simultaneous interpretation.

Though the aspects of simultaneous interpretation are relevant in modern research, the specifics and difficulties faced by interpreters in simultaneous interpretation have not been sufficiently studied. All of the above motivates researchers to find other ways to study problems of speech perception and production in conditions of simultaneous interpretation.

The *purpose* of this study is to explore the difficulties faced by specialists during simultaneous interpretation. The purpose determines such *objectives* as to study the concept of "simultaneous interpretation"; identify problems of speech perception and speech production in simultaneous interpretation; use a sample of plenary session materials to analyze the specifics of and applicable strategies in interpretation, and also explore the difficulties in the work of a simultaneous interpreter.

Research methods and materials

The methodological basis for the study was formed by recordings of discourses at the plenary session of the II International Online Congress "G-Global" – 21st Century World". The participants in the Congress were represented by international organizations and institutions, such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the United Nations, the World Leaders Alliance "Club of Madrid", Nobel Prize laureates, and representatives of businesses and banks. The sessions were held on December 14-15, 2022. Three key examples from the speakers' speeches were used. That material was considered: to analyze the lexical and grammatical substitutions that were used in the process of simultaneous interpretation from English into Kazakh; to see how interpreters coped with their professional assignments in the process of interpretation activities. The research focuses on the phraseological units in English that were used by the speakers at the sessions and the ways they were translated into Kazakh. The study of this material will complement both the theory of

simultaneous interpretation and expand our understanding of quality communication between people with different aspects of culture, language and traditions.

Such aspects as satisfaction with the profession of simultaneous interpreter and specifics of working as a simultaneous interpreter were studied through a survey of master's students majoring in “Simultaneous Interpretation” at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and the Ablai Khan Kazakh University of International Relations and World Languages. The survey involved 38 students (Table 1).

Table 1 – Demographic Characteristics of Participants Surveyed

Participants	Al-Farabi Kazakh National University	Ablai Khan Kazakh University of International Relations and World Languages	Age	Gender		Interpretation/Translation Experience	
				M	F		
38	22	16	23-31	20	18	Up to 1 year	3
						1- 3 years	27
						Over 3 years	8

Source: compiled by the author

The main criteria for selecting these students was that they were all working students, who are studying full-time in the master's program, with a beginner's work experience. An objective of the survey was to measure the students’ degree of satisfaction with their work as simultaneous interpreters. Questionnaires were distributed using online links, emails and personal contacts of students.

The students were asked to answer the following questions:

1. Are you financially dependent on your parents?
2. Do you receive a scholarship?
3. Are you satisfied with your work as an interpreter? Do you intend to work outside your profession after graduation?
4. Does the profession of a synchronist help you to establish professional connections?
5. Which of the techniques in practice are the most acceptable?
6. Do you improve your knowledge, skills and abilities in addition to the educational material received at the University?
7. Are you satisfied with your fee as a simultaneous interpreter?
8. Are you satisfied with the equipment at your workplace?
9. Does your work interfere with your studies?

Evaluation of positive and negative features of working as a simultaneous interpreter was complicated, since each student had the right to use one or more answers to the question posed.

This research studied a significant amount of literature on the topic, including publications by researchers from around the world who have studied certain aspects of translation/interpretation, especially those of simultaneous interpretation.

Results and Discussion

Translation is a psychological process that involves mental and psycho-emotional stress. In most cases, interpretation/translation is of a particular importance. Even a minor inaccuracy in the translation process can have serious consequences. Understanding the meaning of interpretation/translation and problems and specifics arising in its process will make it possible to avoid making professional mistakes in the future. Literal translation is unacceptable, since there are differences in cultures, grammatical structures and the number of words in different languages.

Translation exists in its oral and written forms. In written translation, the original text and its translation represent a fixed record, to which the translator refers to correct the version of the target text; oral translation, on the contrary, cannot rely on any recorded text, i.e. the interpreter perceives the text only once with no other chance to change it after it has been pronounced [1, p. 38].

Oral translation (interpretation) can be consecutive, when it is done after the speaker has paused, and simultaneous, when the interpretation is carried out in real-time in parallel with another speaker. Simultaneous interpreting is very complex, with its own problems and distinctive features that require consideration and study.

Simultaneous interpretation is a type of translation where an interpreter translates simultaneously with the speaker. With this type of interpretation, the interpreter conveys the words and thoughts of the speaker while (s)he is talking, with a pause of approximately 30 seconds before the speaker speaks, for correct speech conveying. The interpreter stations himself/herself in a special soundproof booth, while the event participants listen to the interpreters through the headphones provided to them [2, p. 58].

Most interpreters provide both simultaneous and consecutive interpretation, and the term “conference interpreter” applies to simultaneous interpreters. It is often difficult and physically hard for an “accompanying interpreter” to work in an informal setting, in an office, at a table, in a restaurant, etc., because interpretation into a foreign language and back requires conversational fluency in such foreign language.

Thus, the main feature of simultaneous interpretation, unlike other types, is understanding the presenter’s speech in parallel to producing speech. Translation of a text is harmonious in the multifaceted and labor-intensive process of intercultural relations, which are represented by many factors. This manifests itself, firstly, in the reaction of the target audience. It is worth saying that a text acquires a clear meaning only within the limits of perception, i.e., through evaluation and understanding by the target audience [3, p. 68].

The key to success of a simultaneous interpreter is his/her knowledge of equivalent pairs of lexical units of the target language, owing to which translation is carried out through the prism of conditioned reflexes, and not through synthesis and analysis of the text. In this case, the interpreter should adhere to the pace of interpretation in accordance with the speaker’s pace of speech. There is also a segmental interpretation factor, when the interpreter interprets speech segments as they arrive, in contrast to consecutive interpretation, where the interpreter first listens to the entire text.

Sometimes translators lack some professional skills for high-quality understanding and translation of a text, especially if they have limited knowledge on the topic and have not developed emotional intelligence. Simultaneous interpretation is characterized by several modes of simultaneous perception of the presenter’s speech in parallel with translation. In some cases, interpretation goes slowly and with pauses made by the speaker, whereas in other cases it goes at an accelerated pace with few pauses. Understanding of speech can be facilitated by synchronous actions of certain mechanisms.

There is a psycholinguistic form of simultaneous interpreting, where interpreting is studied as an activity with sequential actions performed in three stages (Table 2).

Table 2 – Simultaneous Interpretation Stages

1	2
Orientation Stage	Orientation in the interpretation process. The interpreter imagines the presenter’s speech pattern, determines reference points, semantic meanings, and the linguistic form. This means that the interpreter collects information to accomplish the interpretation assignment. This completes the first stage of the action.

Continuation of Table 2

1	2
Implementation Stage	The interpreter creates an episode of utterance in the source language, which (s) he selected at the orientation stage of the action. These two stages are distinguished by their transience - literally in a split second.
Control (Final) Stage	The interpreter evaluates the interpretation for correctness. This stage takes the most time: the simultaneous interpreter is given the opportunity to make sure that his/her actions are correct and it is possible after the speaker has finished his speech.

Source: Compiled by the author based on source (Mohd, Zaidi, Indurthi, 2020)

In simultaneous interpretation, speaking and perception of a text are shown as two sides that constitute a unity, but still oppose and “interfere” with each other. Simultaneous perception and production of speech in simultaneous interpretation has a number of features: it is carried out through recognition of words by the invisible articulatory expression of speech signals; when speech is pronounced in the target language, involvement of the speech motor analyzer for identifying speech signals in the source language is extremely limited. This is what causes the main difficulties in perception and understanding of the presenter’s speech in interpretation of this type [4, p. 78].

There are six phases of speech production (Table 3).

Table 3 – Speech Production Phases

No.	Phase	Description
1	Identifying the speech apparatus	Phrasing the meaning being conveyed
2	Determining the syntactic meaning	Developing a syntactic model of the sentence.
3	Creating an intonation background	Placing stress in words
4	Using the meaningful phrases	Selecting necessary verbs, nouns and adjectives from the vocabulary to form them into lexical slots.
5	Using service phrases, affixes	Using prepositions, conjunctions, suffixes and prefixes
6	Defining phonetic segments	Translating a sentence into phonetic segments.

Source: compiled by the author based on the source (Peelle, Sommers, 2015)

The concept of speech perception is a kind of speech prediction. The speech perception stages are structured, as a rule, bottom-up, as the interpreter first transforms the information received by ear into certain phoneme elements, then these phonemes are built into certain blocks, between which a syntactic connection is formed to make the meaning of the utterance understandable. A feature of speech perception is that perception of a text by the listener should be current as the listener perceives a certain fragment of the text within a certain period of time, though it is the entire text that should be perceived. While listening to a speech, the interpreter makes assumptions as to which verbal or semantic development the speaker’s intentions will take. While interpreting, a synchronist is improving and putting forward his/her hypotheses as to the structure of the

presenter's speech, determining their lexical coloring, and being completely focused on the presenter's speech. It is extremely important for a simultaneous interpreter to become familiar with the topic of the speech to be interpreted in good time and study the relevant terms [5, p.75].

When speech in the source language is perceived and speech in the target language is produced synchronously, hearing decreases along with control of the speech apparatus operation. The role of the hearing organs in control of the articulatory organs varies among people. People who can phonetically control the clarity of their speech apparatus with minimal involvement of hearing have more opportunities to master the skill of simultaneous interpreting.

Speech production includes selecting information, arranging it for expression, and linking it with the previously produced material. Production requires constant concentration on the part of the speaker, as well as control of speech.

Further, speech compression is studied to improve the synchronization link. Speaking about the actual, rather than abstracted, process of speaking and listening at the same time, a simultaneous interpreter is tasked with deliberate shortening and simplifying the presenter's speech in the target language. This simplification or reduction is called speech compression. This is the process of reducing the syllabic structure of the text, without interfering with the meaning of the interpreted text by filtering excess information of speech. The compression process is based on the psychological and linguistic principles of conveying a source text by retelling its gist in the target text. Compressing the source text in simultaneous interpretation is not an exclusive tactic. It is determined by the psychological and linguistic principles of speech activity, such as the conveying speaker's messages. However, it is important to note that speech compression has certain limits [6, p.75].

Speech compression, or compression, is achieved in several ways, by eliminating: certain segments from the text compensated by extralinguistic ways of communication; duplicates and repetitions from the text; epithets, preambles, expressions of politeness, and digressions from the main topic. Compression is also required in interpreting when the speaker talks too fast. Such ability to condense texts is decisive in the art of simultaneous interpretation. However, while using short words as substitutes, the interpreter must be able to prioritize correctly to avoid distorting the speaker's ideas. The interpreter may shorten a text as long as it conveys the initial content and does not contradict the speaker's intention.

Also, the interpreter can exclude from the text certain dates, numerical data that are not significant for conveying the message, too complex numbers that are difficult to remember. For correct translation of numerical data, a recording of this data is required. Proper names and toponyms are also difficult to understand, so the translator in the process may not mention, for example, the patronymic name of the Minister of any country, simply calling his/her position or title, or if (s)he does not remember the name of the city or locality, (s)he may simply mention it as "one of the cities" [7, p. 85].

The grammatical features of simultaneous interpretation include the use of participial clauses and adverbial participial clauses in extended, simple and complex phrases and sentences, which involves the use of prepositions, conjunctions and certain constructions. Such transformations are achieved through syntactic assimilation, sentence division, combination and substitution. Lexical and grammatical rearrangements are realized in the text through conversion, autonomic translation, correct substitutions, interpretation and idiomatization.

Modern Kazakhstan is one of the leading states in the international arena. Kazakhstan is respected at meetings, sessions, symposiums, and conferences of a global scale. There are certain structural differences in simultaneous interpretation that regulate dissimilitude between words in English and Kazakh. Presented below are the studied materials of simultaneous interpretation from English into Kazakh provided at the plenary session of the II International Online Congress "G-Global – 21st Century World".

Example: *So, for me and for representing South Africa and representing Africa is – to ask for special countries to assist us not in terms of policy, in terms of real funding, to be able to emancipate these women, especially in terms of culture* [8, p. 28].

Literal translation: *Sonymen, men ushin zhane Ontystic African atynan kelgen okil retinde aitarym: wasps áielderdi asirese madeni zhagynan alga ilgeriletu ushin, arnai memlekötterden bizge sayasi tırғыda emes, shynaiy karzhy lai turde komek korsetuin suraimyn.*

Condensed translation: *Da-myǵan elderdiń tek saıası turǵyda emes, áielderdi alǵa ilgeriletýge is júzinde kómekte - syın qalar edi.*

This example shows that the condensed version of the translation differs significantly from the original text. To effectively convey the message, the interpreter uses occasional grammatical substitutions. Omitted text: the source text word “so” was translated into Kazakh as “sonymen”, since these words do not convey any significant semantics; “to be able to” was translated into Kazakh as “yjin” which also introduced no semantic transformations into the translation. For the part of the sentence “For me and for representing South Africa and representing Africa is” the interpreter most likely does not take into account the pace of the speaker and the fact that the moderator of the session has previously introduced the speaker. The interpreter skips the word “Especially” to keep up with the speaker’s pace, but, apparently, it is semantically incorrect, since the speaker wanted to attract attention with the help of “especially”. Therefore, it is worth saying that this transformation is important for all participants in the process. This example also shows lexical transformations. The phrase “special countries” is understood in the source text as “developed countries”, although the translator replaces “Arnays” (“special”) with “damkhan” (“developed”). The interpreter uses the function of generalization in “real funding” by replacing “is júzinde » with «qarjylai túrde”, which suggests not only financial assistance.

There are several types of simultaneous interpretation: classical, sight translation and whispering (chuchoutage).

Classic synchronous interpretation is synchronous verbal rendering of one spoken language into another while the presenter is speaking. The synchronist is provided with a sheet of paper and a pen. This type of verbal translation is the most difficult, as it requires the translator to be stress-resistant and skilled to predict the presenter’s speech [9, p. 55].

Interpreting written speeches is a sight translation of a message written in advance into a spoken message, but there is also the difficulty that the speaker can deviate from the printed text, which requires that the interpreter always stay alert and professional to take it up. Whispering (chuchoutage) means that the interpreter is interpreting close to (or behind) the speaker. Whispering is typical for meetings or conferences with a few people present. With this type of interpretation, there is no need to use special translation equipment [10, p. 88].

There are several varieties of simultaneous interpretation. Interpretation “by ear”, the most popular verbal translation, is carried out through headphones and bit by bit as information is received. Another popular type is “sight interpretation”. It can be with or without preparation before the event. The interpreter is provided with a written text of the speech in advance, where (s) he can correct the speech according to the materials provided. The interpreter needs to begin the translation process without panic or pauses, so that the source text does not prevail upon the translation, in order to avoid load translation (calquing) and literalisms. A rare and less popular type of simultaneous interpretation is reading a text that has been translated in advance. The simultaneous interpreter, listens to the presenter’s speech and reads out the pre-translated text. When the speaker deviates from the text, the translator makes his/her notes, if necessary [11, p. 75].

Simultaneous interpreters should be capable of interpreting uninterrupted and with high concentration. This splits attention, because of constant switching from one language to another and correlating them simultaneously. For the translator as a receptor, it is very important to achieve a level of knowledge and aesthetic sensitivity that would allow him to perceive objectively the entire

volume of semantic and emotional content of the text. An interpreter who is a maximalist with thoughtful and pedantic attitude to work, and love to editing the material being translated, will always be a success as a professional. If an interpreter speaks out loud the translated text with errors and then immediately corrects them, this is perceived by the audience without enthusiasm. The difficulty of simultaneous interpretation is also in the interpreter's reaction speed. This type of interpretation is not interactive. Interpreters have to respond every second to phrases and words perceived by ear. Consequently, a slow person with maximum knowledge of a foreign language will not become a professional simultaneous interpreter. Successful professional activity of an interpreter will depend on his/her knowledge of equivalent pairs of lexical units required for interpretation through the prism of conditioned reflexes, rather than thinking. It is worth saying that simultaneous interpreters should be trained in this particular direction of learning and using lexical unit equivalents in translation [12, p. 85].

A simultaneous interpreter is not responsible for the quality of the text being translated, but etiquette requires that (s)he must correct the speaker's mistakes. The main difficulty for interpreters is the need to be concentrated all the time. (S) he does not have to be perfect in a foreign language, just competent pronunciation is enough. Simultaneous interpreters should be capable of great endurance and high speech reactivity. Simultaneous interpreters have congenital psychophysiological anomalies, qualities and character traits, without which they cannot work as interpreters (Table 4).

Table 4 – Traits of Character of a Simultaneous Interpreter

Psychophysiological Features	Focused attention, concentration, ability to “disconnect” from external interference.
	Skills of using attention in several directions simultaneously.
	Reaction rate.
	Fast speech.
	Mental and physical endurance.
Acquired skills	Broadened horizons, encyclopedic knowledge.
	Impeccable command of the native language, rich vocabulary
	Fluent perception of speech in a foreign language.
	Impeccable command of a working spoken foreign language.
	Inventiveness skills, flexible thinking.

Source: Compiled by author based on source (Gambrell, 2021)

It may be said that very few people can have these features, this is why high-class simultaneous interpreting professionals are rare. Only constant practice and accumulated experience, training and self-education allow a simultaneous interpreter to grow in a high professional. A simultaneous interpreter must carefully prepare for his/her translation assignments, since (s)he will have to face an unknown and unpredictable lexical material. Simultaneous interpreters hear the presenters' speeches through headphones, but some interpreters wear one headphone to monitor their own voice and interpreting. The interpreter needs to be able to listen simultaneously to his/her translation and presenter's speech. The interpreter has the right to turn his/her microphone off and on, which gives him the opportunity to talk or discuss something with colleagues while working. Also, the interpreter should not turn on the microphone loudly in his/her booth to make the speaker's voice to be constantly heard. The conditions in the interpreter's booth

are extremely stressful [13, p. 85]. It is important that the air temperature is regulated, as cold and heat will distract the interpreter's attention from work. Simultaneous interpreters always have written materials on the session at hand, namely: a list of speakers, the agenda, certain acceptable abbreviations from the text, as well as hand-outs printed in all languages of the event and made available in advance. The errors made by the interpreters during the interpretation process are corrected by stenographers. If an interpreter is aware of his/her error, at the end of his/her work, (s)he clearly tells the stenographer what specifically requires correction. A challenge for an interpreter is the high-speed or uncertain sources of the text (for example, video materials, which are often used at international conferences). For effective and high-quality work, synchronists first look through and make themselves familiar with additional material. As a result, the entire interpretation process requires the skills of instant response to the word, text, phrase being interpreted and of simultaneous processing of the thoughts and concepts of the speaker. The interpreter must be constantly in a good, professional form.

Such aspect as satisfaction with the profession of simultaneous interpreter was studied through a survey of master's students majoring in "Simultaneous Interpretation" at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University and the Ablai Khan Kazakh University of International Relations and World Languages. A total of 38 students were involved in the survey.

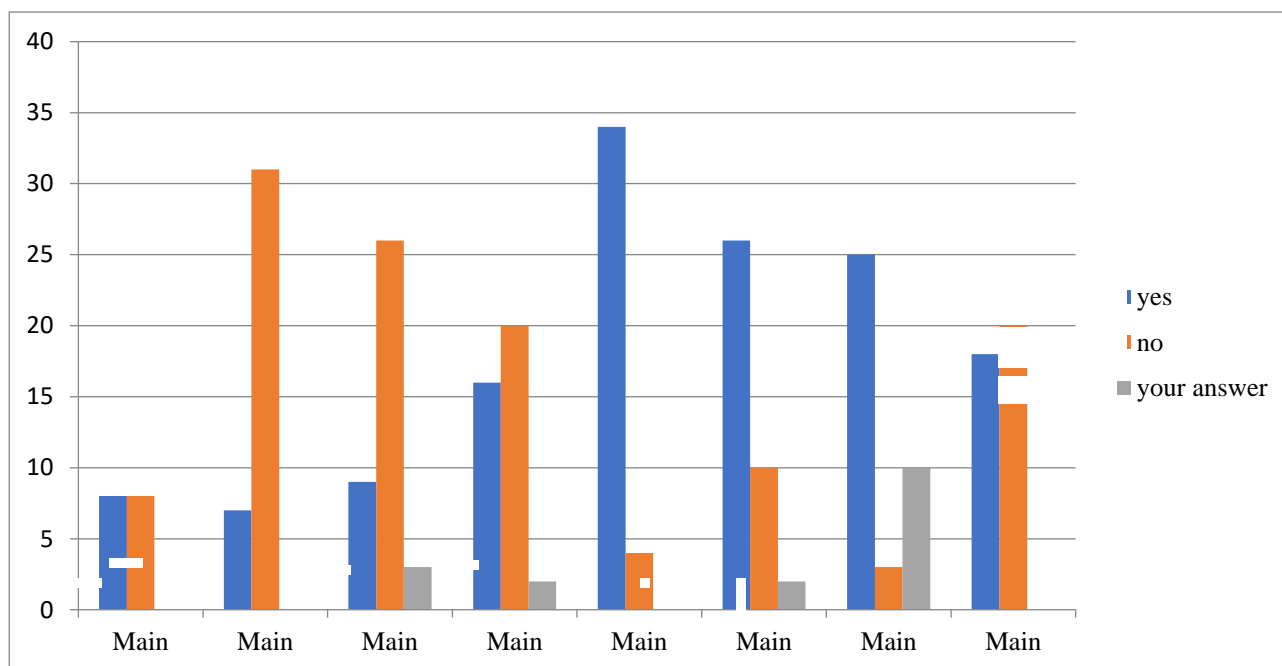


Figure 1 – Survey of the students working in their profession

*the point of the matter is indicated above in the methodology description

The survey results (Figure 1) show that 78% of students are financially independent of their parents, but want to work and gain experience in their profession. 17% of those surveyed have a scholarship, 8% will be able to leave their jobs if they have favorable offers. Most of them believe that working as a simultaneous interpreter makes it possible to establish international relations. More than 80% of students use the compression strategy when interpreting. Almost 70% of them study additional information about their profession and undergo training. More than 65% of the students are satisfied with the fees, but there are also those who believe that this is a labor-intensive process and demand a higher pay. Work is an obstacle to studying for 47% of the students. And Figure 2 highlights the reasons for dissatisfaction with the work of a simultaneous interpreter.

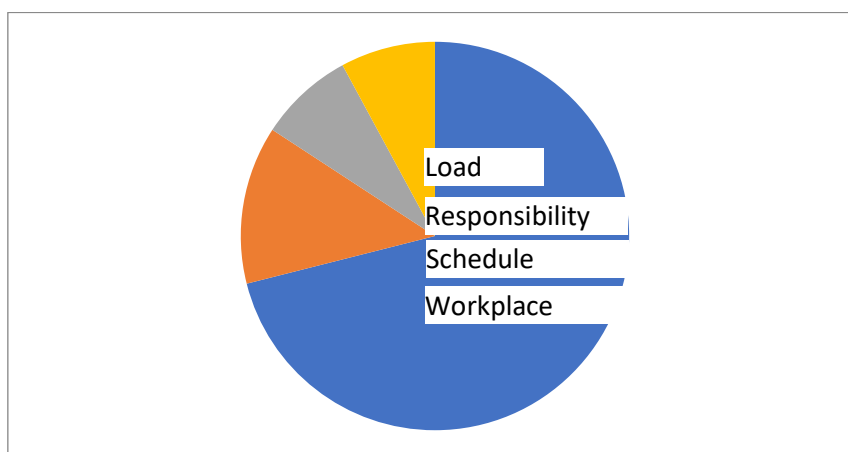


Figure 2 – Reasons for Dissatisfaction with the Work as a Simultaneous Interpreter

The main reasons for job dissatisfaction are: workload (72%), enormous responsibility (13%), irregular work schedule (8%), poor workplace equipment (7%). The translator needs to have a perfect understanding of the multichannel functions of sound distribution, the skills to regulate simultaneous interpretation mechanisms and competently carry out interpretation at the workplace and in the interpreter's booth. The profession of a simultaneous interpreter is something more significant than usual translation of a text and interpretation of speech. Consequently, theoretical and fundamental knowledge obtained by simultaneous interpreters through education is an important component of their becoming professionals.

The above discussion gives an idea of the difficulties and distinctive features of simultaneous interpretation, and of preparing the students for their future professional activity as simultaneous interpreters. The study contributes to the definition of simultaneous interpretation, reveals the problems of speech perception and production, reveals and deepens the importance of using certain skills and abilities in the process of simultaneous interpretation. The findings of the research are of value and insight for practitioners and researchers [14, p. 35].

The results obtained by the research suggest that translation activity is a labor-intensive process, and simultaneous interpretation is one of the most difficult types of translation. To effectively develop the skills of perception and articulation with the use of speech organs, techniques of simultaneous perception and reproduction of speech need to be mastered and applied. Being a simultaneous interpreter involves improvement of professional skills and self-education, use of modern technologies, without which modern translation activities would be impossible to imagine.

With the rapid development of devices and technologies for simultaneous interpretation, the researchers now study the functions and improvements in the work of modern simultaneous interpreters. For example, in their article American researchers R. Zhang, M. Ma, H. Zhang et al. (2020) explored pauses during simultaneous interpreting. The researchers proposed a self-adaptive method for interpretation, which makes it possible to flexibly regulate the interpretation process itself, given the different pace and speech of the speaker. R. Zhang, M. Ma, H. Zhang believe that their derived method generates more fluent source speech with a less lag than the target speech, avoiding unnatural pauses in interpretation. It is important to note that these research findings enable interpreters to use new methods to improve their professional activities.

To be a simultaneous interpreter means to have a skill of not just to speak different languages. To become a professional simultaneous interpreter, one needs to get a highly specialized education and have appropriate training, and what is especially important - be talented. It is important for an

interpreter to listen to one language and at the same time to speak another language, to learn the terminology for different fields of activity [15, p. 84].

For example, Japanese translation researchers A. Imankulov, M. Kaneko, T. Hirasawa and M. Komachi (2020) proposed in their report a multimodal method for simultaneous neural machine interpretation, which uses visual information as an additional means of compensating for the lack of input information during simultaneous neural machine interpretation, thereby showing how important is the information being read for simultaneous interpretation. The method proposed by researchers suits for solving various tasks and for data sets during interpretation. But, it is worth saying, that the value of the study does not correspond to realistic data if the speech is not comparable to the image, which is perceived during a conversation, or if the given context can not be identified based on the shown image.

Based on the theoretical results of the work, we can say that listening in difficult conditions is a difficult task for a simultaneous interpreter. During the process, the interpreter listens to the text in the source language. The resulting speech signal cannot always be recognized well as the information is received in a language not native to the interpreter, and target speech production during perception can limit prediction. Consequently, a simultaneous interpreter often pronounces the same statement with a noticeable delay, which ultimately contributes to incorrect production and prediction. Another difficulty in interpretation is that interpreters perceive the presenter's speech under conditions of high cognitive load, since the text has to be memorized, paraphrased and pronounced simultaneously with listening. Therefore, predicting a presenter's speech during simultaneous interpretation is often difficult or limited. Taking into account the work of R.M. Amos, K.G. Seeber and M.J. Pickering (2022), who examined the progress of predicting in the process of simultaneous interpretation, found significant differences in the forms and types of predicting between translators and interpreters. In the performance of the experiment, the researchers explored tracking movements of professional simultaneous interpreters at international symposiums and those of non-simultaneous interpreters, that were observed during the visual action and simultaneous interpretation from English into French [16, p. 56]. The results of their work make it clear that both interpreters and translators can predict upcoming nouns, but cannot not predict their word forms. However, it should be said that there is no significant evidence that the interpreters' professional training and experience have an impact on prediction in simultaneous interpreting [17, p. 66].

Therefore, the results, not only obtained by this work, but also by researchers from different countries, helped to consider simultaneous interpreting as one of the types of translation activities, study the problems of perception and production of speech in interpretation, as well as the main features of the work of simultaneous interpreters.

Conclusion

This study explores the definition of simultaneous interpretation; discusses the main features of simultaneous interpretation and problems faced by simultaneous interpreters in the process of work; it described the types of interpretation and basic strategies; explores the recordings of the plenary session of the II International Online Congress "G-Global" were studied – 21st Century World"; and the understanding of simultaneous interpretation among students of two leading universities in Kazakhstan majoring in "Simultaneous Interpretation".

The results of this work showed that simultaneous interpretation is one of the complex types of translation that requires increased concentration and exceptional mental effort, the main feature of which, unlike other types, is simultaneous listening to the speaker, understanding and interpreting. The study also draws attention to the fact that for high-quality and effective translation, an interpreter must have certain skills and use certain translation strategies. In addition, the study showed that it is important for an interpreter to have a perfect understanding of the multichannel

functions of sound distribution, to have the skills to regulate simultaneous interpretation mechanisms and to provide competent interpretation at the workplace. The analysis of the materials of the plenary session made it possible to study the main strategies of, and highlight the problems arising in, simultaneous interpretation. The survey of students made it possible to study the degree of satisfaction with the work of a simultaneous interpreter.

The research article has limitations that need to be carefully studied in the future. Since we studied a limited sample of materials from the recordings of the plenary session, this exposes us to a risk of instability of the analysis results. The number of working students surveyed for their attitude towards simultaneous interpretation was limited to 38 people from two universities. An important mechanism for the study in the future could also be a study to show whether the results obtained are true for other universities and institutes where simultaneous interpreting is taught. Therefore, in the future we shall have to study issues of translation/interpretation education at other universities in Kazakhstan and analyze larger samples of materials from other events. Despite the limitations, the study gives us a preliminary understanding of how the speech apparatus is involved in interpreting the presenter's speech, shows interpreters how to look for other ways in recognizing speech signals and temporarily store the received information in memory, and other ways to solve problems of speech production and perception in conditions of simultaneous interpretation.

Future research should focus on studying in detail of: linguistic skills, which have a potentially positive effect on other cognitive skills of translators; the influence which the tempo and speed of the presenter's speech have on simultaneous interpretation. Future directions for study may also include educational issues in the training of simultaneous interpreters.

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