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A Practice Report on C-E Simulated Consecutive Interpreting of the Record of Mayor Huang Qifan's Meeting with the President of Kering Group

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Abstract: In this practice of English-Chinese consecutive interpreting, the interpreter selected the conversations between the former Mayor (of Chongqing) Huang Qifan and the president of Kering Group as the material to practice interpreting. The source information was mainly formed by the on-site communication, and the language was not organized logically--- most information was expressed verbally. So the content was complicated and the logic was not clear enough. Chapter 4 is the key part of this report, focusing on the main problems during the practice, such as the duplication, unclear logic, too Fragmented Sentences and rigid interpreting. To solve these problems, strategies like omission, integration, reorganization of sentence patterns, and emphasis on logical relationships were used respectively. It is hoped that this report can help make the interpreting strategies be used in future practices flexibly to improve the quality of interpreting.

Keywords: Consecutive Interpreting; On-site Communication; Interpreting Problems; Interpreting Strategies

1. Introduction

In the wake of globalization, commercial interactions and cultural exchanges have grown increasingly intertwined. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, shining as a brilliant jewel in South China's economy, not only serves as a robust driving force in China's high-quality economic growth, but has also caught the attention from all over the world. This report primarily details the consecutive interpretation conducted during the meeting between Mayor Huang Qifan and the CEO of France's Kering Group, outlining typical challenges encountered by interpreters during this cultural exchange, and proposing corresponding resolutions. It aims to provide invaluable insights for interpreters in the Greater Bay Area or even more areas when facing similar cross-cultural challenges, ensuring that meetings proceed smoothly, thereby contributing to vigorous development of regional economy and promoting win-win of China-foreign cooperation.

2. Interpreting Task Description.

This practical report used the transcript of Mayor Huang Qifan's meeting with the CEO of Kering Group as material for interpretation practice. The interview, conducted in the form of an on-site meeting, documented how Mayor Huang leveraged the geographical and administrative advantages of Chongqing to attract foreign investors to the largest extent. The text was featured with distinctive terminologies such as "the convergence of two rivers" and "the golden waterway of the Yangtze River", as well as the expression of the "municipality system". Therefore, how to accurately and swiftly convey the speakers' messages to the audience and thus facilitate the cooperation between the two sides, constitutes a crucial aspect of this interview.

3. Interpreting Process

The task process was mainly divided into three parts: pre-interpreting, while-interpreting, and post-interpreting. The preparation made for the practice contained consulting relevant materials; analyzing linguistic features of the text, learning relevant theories, equipping computers, recording equipment.; as well as handling unexpected situations.

3.1 Pre-interpreting

In the earlier stage of the practice, interpreters can make reasonable predictions of the following content based on the pre-interpreting preparation and relevant knowledge. Secondly, before the interpreting, the interpreter should search and sort out the previous interviews to be better equipped for this interpreting.

To ensure the simulated Chinese-English interpreting proceeds smoothly, the interpreter need to check the instruments and equipment many times before practice to ensure that they can operate normally. In addition, pens, recording equipment, and notebooks are also prepared

for the interpreting.

3.2 While-interpreting

The practice was hosted in the multimedia laboratory at school. Once all equipment was confirmed to be functioning properly, the simulated interpreting officially began. A student was invited to simulate the speech and paused at appropriate moments, and then the interpreter provided consecutive interpreting. The student imitated the accent of the source speaker, making the interview more authentic and nervous. Meanwhile, one student kept the recording of the practice for later review and self-correction.

3.3 Post-interpreting

The interpreter still encountered many problems in this practice. First, some words with Chinese characteristics were omitted, mistranslated or ambiguous when interpreting. Second, the number appeared in the interview very often, so the interpreter could not react immediately. Third, the on-site meeting was a bit noisy compared with professional recording studios. Besides, the speakers were not logical and rigorous enough, and due to the time limit, the interpreter could only make literal interpreting.

Luckily, although the interpreter was a little nervous in the early stage of the practice, attempts were quickly made later---- adjusting mentality, reorganizing the language and translating the speech accurately. In the next chapter, the author will give a further analysis.

4. Difficulties and Corresponding Solutions

This chapter will discuss three key challenges faced during this practice: redundant expression of source text, unclear logic of original text and too many colloquial and fragmented sentences. The following case analysis will offer and discuss potential solutions to these issues.

4.1 Redundant Expression of Source Text

Compared with simultaneous interpreting (SI), consecutive interpreting (CI) has a great advantage: interpreters can analyze, integrate and reorganize the information before interpreting^[1]. In this interpreting practice, speakers were prone to be influenced by subjective factors in a live interview, and they may repeat words when answering a question. Repeating in Chinese mainly has two functions. One is to be emphatic, and the other is to draw attention from others^[2]. Therefore, if the author interpreted what the speaker said literally, much unnecessary information would be conveyed to the audience.

4.1.1 Moderate integration and omission of information

The interpreter extracted the most crucial information from the sentences with high repetition integrates them, and then conveyed the source text in another language. To this end, the interpreter not only need to take a good command of Chinese, but also be equipped with more theories and practical experience, so that he or she can analyze, integrate, delete and reorganize what he or she hears, and then complete the interpreting^[3].

Eg: 那么商业零售, 我们也连续几年商业零售额增长全国第一。我们五年前商业零售额是3000亿, 人民币。今年到6000多亿。这五年, 翻了一番。每年增长, 平均增长15%左右。

Version 1: As for commercial retail, we have also ranked first in the country in terms of growth of retail sales for consecutive years. Five years ago, our retail sales were 300 billion RMB. This year it has reached more than 600 billion yuan. In the past five years, it has doubled. Increasing every year, with an average increase of about 15%.

Analysis: The word “commercial retailing” appeared three times in the original text. Although the second and the third one added the concept of “amount”, the meaning of them was essentially the same. In order to reduce repetition, the interpreter deleted them appropriately and reorganized the sentence to save more time to interpret.

Version 2: As for retailing sales, we have also ranked first in the country for consecutive years. Five years ago, it was 300 billion RMB. This year, it's more than 600 billion yuan. In the past five years, it has doubled with an average growth of about 15% every year.

4.2 Unclear Logic of Source Text

The practice was an on-site interview, so the source text was formed by oral expression and illogical sentences. The literal interpretation will not only cause incoherence between the source and interpreted text, but also create an obstacle to the audience for their comprehension.

4.2.1 Emphasis of Logical Words

English emphasizes “form”, while Chinese emphasizes “meaning”. Chinese often relies on context to form logical relationships among sentences^[4]. This requires the interpreter to consider the cultural background of the target audience, re-understand the content and conform to the language habits of the target audience so as to strengthen the logic of sentences and interpret accurately in practice.

Eg: 重庆还有一个特点, 那就是重庆人比较时髦。贵族用品, 奢侈品消费量增长得比较快, 那么也包括珠宝、钻石、其它金首饰消费量也增长得比较快, 那么我讲这些话的意思呢, 就是重庆这样的城市是最适合我们与开云集团适合皮诺先生掌管的这个公司

到重庆来投资。

Version 1: Another feature of Chongqing is that people in Chongqing are more fashionable. The consumption of luxury goods has grown relatively fast, including that of jewelry, diamonds, and other gold jewelry. Then what I mean by these words is that a city like Chongqing is the most suitable place for Kering Group's investment.

Analysis: All the preceding was stating facts and giving examples to pave the way for the following conclusions, so there was a cause and effect relationship between the sentences: It is precisely because of the rapid growth in the consumption of luxury goods in Chongqing that it is the right choice for Kering to invest in.

Version 2:..... and other gold jewelry. Therefore, Chongqing is the most suitable place for Kering Group's investment.

4.3 Too Many Colloquial and Fragmented Sentences

Chinese speakers tend to use short and simple sentences, and the structure of them is more fragmented. Besides, colloquial speech is used in this interview, so literal interpreting can't be applied in this practice, or too fragmented information is not conducive to conveying the real meaning of original speakers to audience.

4.3.1 Reorganization of the Sentences

The interpreter integrated the fragmented sentences to make them more concise and then these sentences became more logical and coherent. So it is very crucial to reorganize the sentences for the fragmented information in the interview.

Eg: 这三个地块呢，有两座桥把它围起来，是我们重庆的CBD，类似于上海陆家嘴和黄浦区的外滩，这样的一个地块，那么这样的一个地块呢，现在就是作为重庆的中央商务区，也是商业最繁华的地区。

Version 1: These three districts, connected by two bridges, are our CBD in Chongqing. They are like the Bund in Lujiazui and Huangpu District in Shanghai. Such a district, the districts are now the CBDs in Chongqing and are also the most prosperous business district.

Analysis: This text was expressed in a very fragmented manner, and in order to minimize the omission of information, the interpreter turned it out literally in the initial practice. After reorganizing, the content can be interpreted like this: This area is now the most prosperous CBD in Chongqing.

Version 2:..... Huangpu District in Shanghai. This area is now the most prosperous CBD in Chongqing.

5. Conclusion

This practice makes the author realize that an excellent interpreting not only requires a solid language foundation but also other abilities such as strong psychological quality, good communication skills and so on, which are indispensable for a successful interpreting. Although there are still deficiencies in the process, they are helpful for the interpreter to make a new plan for future study and development.

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