

An Inquiry into the Application and Significance of Segmentation Techniques in English-Chinese Simultaneous Interpretation

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Abstract

With the development of international communication, simultaneous interpretation (hereinafter referred to as simultaneous interpretation) has become an important bridge for cross-cultural communication in today's society. Syntactic linearity is one of the basic principles of simultaneous interpretation. The basic requirement of it is proper segmentation of the original sentence; (Wang Lina, Zhao Junfeng, 2008) In addition, the huge difference between English and Chinese language structures is also one of the important reasons for English and Chinese simultaneous segmentation. [1] Zhang Weiwei (1999: 48) believes that segmentation is the most important technique for simultaneous interpretation. In a sense, many other interpretation techniques are derived from this. [2] This article discusses the basis of segmentation and how to perform segmentation reasonably and effectively.

Keywords

Syntactic linearity, cognitive load theory segmentation, simultaneous interpretation.

1. Introduction

Simultaneous interpretation is widely used in various occasions. It has the characteristics of short time consuming and high work efficiency. Its role in international communication cannot be ignored. With the widespread application of simultaneous interpretation around the world, scholars at home and abroad have paid more attention to the theoretical research of simultaneous interpretation. Some scholars once defined simultaneous interpretation as: according to the order of the original speech of the speech he heard, the sentence is continuously divided into individual conceptual units and different groups of ideas, and then they are naturally connected to translate the entire original intention of speech. Also, Professor Jill of France, based on the observation of simultaneous interpretation, believes that there are three basic tasks to complete simultaneous interpretation, namely listening comprehension, translation and short-term memory.

In practical applications, accurate segmentation and cohesion can be ensured, the simultaneous interpretation can be carried out smoothly, and the amount of information produced can be maximized. Because of the special nature of simultaneous interpretation, reasonable use of segmentation and cohesion techniques can quickly reduce the memory load of translators and reduce the pressure on information processing of memory in a short time.

2. Previous Studies

2.1. Importance and Feasibility of Segmentation Research

the average processing time difference between translators receiving source language information and producing target language information is only 4-5 words. Therefore, translators need to complete the entire sentence before the speaker has finished speaking. The

capacity of human short-term memory is generally 7 ± 2 units. Therefore, if the translator is unable to process the old information in a timely manner during the simultaneous interpretation process, then the new information received by the translator will weaken the translator's memory of the old information, so the translation produced by the translator may miss more information. (Wang Xiaohang, 2010) [3] The English and Chinese languages have some basic sentence structures that are similar in structure. The similarity in the sentence structure of the two languages allows translators to change grammatical units and words without simultaneous interpretation in order. (Zhong Weihe, 2008) [4]

2.2. Research on Segmentation in Translation Practice

Segmentation is actually a translation of "rounding to zero" and deconstruction of the original sentence. (Liu Yang, 2019) [5] But how to divide English long sentences is a question of benevolence and wisdom. Some well-known scholars in the domestic English community have done related research on this issue. Liu Yiqing once said: "For SI with Chinese participation, 'Zeroing to zero' is the first step, and then 'Zeroing to zero' is the second step" (Liu Yingqing, 2001) [6]. And if the resulting "zero" is not connected, the translation will become a pile of illogical clauses, and it will be difficult to achieve the purpose of "integration". This will cause difficulty in understanding for the audience, and the interpretation will end in failure. Zhang Weiwei believes that "sentences are not broken for the sake of breaking but for the sake of continuity" (Zhang Weiwei, 1999) [7]. The older generation of scholars put forward the most basic views on segmentation in English and Chinese simultaneous interpretation, which laid the foundation for the development of the theory of segmentation. However, due to the insufficient development of simultaneous interpretation at the time, these views only remained at the cognitive level and did not rely on enough Analyze the practice cases of simultaneous interpretation to form a set of effective translation methodologies to guide practice.

2.3. Leaping Development of Research on Segmentation in Simultaneous Interpretation

In the 21st century, the study of segmentation in the same interpreter pays more attention to the relationship of discourse background, rather than just staying at the level of knowledge of segmentation techniques. Halliday believes that "cohesion is a semantic concept, which refers to the meaning relationship that forms a discourse" (Hallley, 2007) [8]. Cohesion occurs when the interpretation of one component in a discourse needs the help of another. "The continuity provided by the cohesion lies in expressing the connection points between each stage of the discourse and the above" (Halliday, 2007) [9]. This recognition of segmentation relying on the concept of cohesion developed the original theoretical basis, and at the same time, the continuity of the entire discourse became more concrete from the original abstract description. However, further reference shows that there are no principles that can be directly followed in the simultaneous interpretation, and there are no regular cohesive means. There are three main commonly used cohesive means: First, the invisible cohesion of semantic logic: Chinese and English There are great differences in the way of expression. The English utterance structure is compact and grammatical. The way of Chinese expression is to focus on semantics, and the structure between sentences is entirely based on the natural connection and integration of semantics. Therefore, translators can directly use the semantic features of Chinese to construct and connect sentences. The second is repetitive cohesion: in the simultaneous interpretation process, sometimes because English sentences are long and complex sentence breaks are just at the position of some relative pronouns, then you can use syntactic linearity and translate it into several short Chinese sentences. The third is the cohesion of part-of-speech conversion method. Since the parts of speech in English and Chinese are very different in terms of expression and wording, in practice, it is often necessary to connect by changing the type of

vocabulary. [10] Such a formulation provides a paradigm for the systematic study of segmentation in simultaneous interpretation.

In addition, the differences between Chinese and English languages also have a great impact on segmentation in English and Chinese simultaneous interpretation. Chinese and English branch structures are different. English sentences have two-way extended branch structures, but right-sided extended branch structures are more common than left-extended branch structures, while Chinese compound sentences have more left-sided Yanzhong branches. The judgment of the extended branch structure mainly depends on the position of the attributive adverbial. [11] In English, because post-attributive clauses are often used, and the position of adverbial clauses is also very flexible, English compound sentences generally have more right-extending branch structures. In Chinese sentences, attributive clauses are replaced by attributive structures. In the centering structure, the modifier always precedes the head word (Lian Shuneng, 2010) [12]

2.4. Latest Research Result

Based on the cognitive load model (Huo Chang, 2014), it was pointed out that the way of interpretation that maintains the structure and order of primitives as much as possible reduces the mental load of translators' understanding and short-term memory so that translators can free up more energy to cope with new Information to ensure coherence and accuracy of the translation. [13] (Lu Linghong, 2017) believes that segmentation is the main technique driven by simultaneous interpretation, which enables translators to shorten EVS and reduce the energy of short-term memory; segmentation also cuts translation units, language expression energy, and pressure accordingly. [14]

The cognitive load model indicates that simultaneous interpreters need to bear the listening and analysis load, the generation load, the memory load, and the coordination load, and when the spokesman is too fast and the information is too dense, the total cognitive processing capacity requirements often increase. Segmentation is classified by Jill as a preventive technique to deal with the triggers of the problem (Gile, 1995) [15], for resulting in saturation of the translator's energy, errors or omissions. He believes that segmentation can reduce the pressure of short-term memory, and he also has more energy to consider the translation and listen to and analyze the next information. However, he (Gile, 2000) also pointed out that sentences produced by segmentation are relatively fragmented, which requires translators to be more proficient in using auxiliary techniques of segmentation, which increases the load of translation output. [16]

At present, the use of segmentation has become a commonly used technique in simultaneous interpretation, especially in the translation of English into Chinese. However, due to the differences in the specific context, form, and style of translation, the extent to which segmentation techniques are used is also different, and we need to gradually understand and summarize it in practice. In the translation of English into Chinese, English is usually characterized by meticulous structure, rigorous grammar, and the use of a large number of subordinate structures. However, Chinese does pay attention to the use of long and short sentences, pay attention to the language, Use features such as side-by-side structures. In English-Chinese translation, you only need to find the appropriate breakpoints, make full use of the characteristics of the Chinese language, and integrate the scattered sentences and broken sentences into a sentence that looks like the form is indeed God's inseparable, which can reach the goal of high-quality simultaneous interpretation.

From the beginning of the new century, the famous scholar Zhang Weiwei and Liu Yiqing and Halliday took the lead in the study of interrupted sentences in the field of simultaneous interpretation. Later, Halliday and Lian Shuneng discussed further. In recent years, Gile, Huo Chang, Lu Linghong, etc. have linked it to reality. Aiming at the innovation and exploration of this research, under the background of multidisciplinary discussions that introduce a cognitive

load model, the difficulty and coping strategies of simultaneous sentence breaks are gradually improved. Deep analysis and expansion in this direction, and strive to form a set of effective translation methodology to guide the practice of interpretation. So far, the research on sentence interpretation in simultaneous interpretation has begun to take shape.

3. Syntactic Linearity and Information Segmentation

English-Chinese simultaneous interpretation is an activity that walks between two different cultures, and skills play a very important role. The role of simultaneous interpretation is to convey the meaning and intention of the spokesperson to the audience, so that the audience can respond and judge, that is, it is centered on the audience, which also meets the requirements of functional equivalence. Syntactic linearity is the basic criterion in simultaneous interpretation. This criterion requires the interpreter to cut the information into meaning groups or information groups, which is the smallest unit of information that can be consistent with the speaker's speech flow and can be processed by the interpreter in a timely manner. These units of information are then logically connected. Due to the difference in English and Chinese order, the interpreter should try to shorten the time interval of interpretation to reduce the burden of memory.

3.1. Meaning Group Cutting and Segmentation

The author believes that in the process of simultaneous interpretation, the translator uses short-sentence group-driven sequential interpretation to interpret, and the main problem that arises is that some of the meaning groups is lost or mistranslated. Before the above problems occurred, a common feature was that the progress gap between the translator and the speaker widened, reaching more than two intentional groups, and the ideal state is that the gap is about one intentional group. After analyzing the problem cases one by one, the translators found that the reasons for the above-mentioned problems are various, mainly divided into three categories: the occurrence of new words or unfamiliar terms, the need for digital conversion, and the translator's adjustment is too slow when the speaker's speech rate changes.

3.2. Coping Strategies

3.2.1. New Words and Specific Terms

Insufficient background knowledge will also encounter new words and strange terms. At this time, the sentence is divided into short-term groups, and the strategy of following the speaker's interpretation is no longer applicable. The translator should properly open the progress with the speaker, and concentrate on listening to the following 1-2 meaning-groups. Meaning, because after the new word, it may be the speaker's interpretation of the new word, or supplementary content that helps the translator understand. But the waiting time should not exceed 2 meaning groups, otherwise the pressure of the translator's short-term memory will be too high. If the translator still cannot understand the new word after waiting, then he should give up decisively, quickly translate the content identified by listening, and continue to interpret the following content. Of course, it may also happen that after a few sentences, the translator gradually understands the parts that have not been understood before, so the translator can quickly add explanations without affecting the listening.

3.2.2. Logical Relationship

Although Chinese is a "meaningful" language, which can be clearly expressed without the need for too many logical word connections, the basic principle when using phrasal driving is to output the Chinese interpreter without changing the English word order. The language follows the syntactic structure of the source language. In this case, the logical connectives in the source language have become very important interpretation elements. On the one hand, the logical words can prompt the translator. Next, the content of the speech and the direction of the

speaker's tone should follow the above or another A meaning; on the other hand, it can help the listener understand the speaker's logic. The above case analysis shows that the translator has a tendency to focus on the main content and ignore logical words in the process of interpretation, which makes it difficult to establish a logical relationship between the various meaning groups in the sentence. In the future interpretation practice, translators should strengthen their vigilance over logical words, and even take the lead in translating them after the emergence of logical words, to show logical relationships as much as possible.

3.2.3. Energy Distribution and Digital Interpretation

Digital interpretation has always been a difficult point for simultaneous interpretation. From the perspective of Gill's energy distribution model, Gill lists numbers as a type of problem trigger (Gile), that numbers affect the energy distribution of translators. Because the listening and analysis of digital information consume more energy, the energy allocated to short-term memory and the translation output will be relatively reduced, which affects the quality of translation. The processing of numbers can also be divided into two parts: pre-translation training and translation. In daily training, specialized digital interpretation exercises can be performed, that is, selecting digitally dense texts for training, such as financial statements. In the practice, not only should you be proficient in converting numbers, but also accurately interpret the meaning of the numbers. When encountering numbers in the interpretation process, you can first use notes to assist. This is basically the same for pre-translation strategies for digital digits or unfamiliar terms, and for new words and unfamiliar terms. I have mastered most of the new words and unfamiliar terms through adequate pre-translation preparations, and tried to overcome the obstacles caused by new words or unfamiliar terms during the interpreting process. New words, as the name suggests, are vocabulary that translators do not recognize, but the definition of unfamiliar terms is subtler. Some terms, which the translator encounters in daily reading and even in alternate interpretation, can easily reflect the meaning, but when instantaneous response is required in simultaneous interpretation, a long-term jamming or even mistranslation occurs. The key to solving this problem is to restore the state of simultaneous interpretation as much as possible in the preparation before translation, so as to find out which terms are actually not yet mastered by yourself, but do not know it. This puts forward higher requirements for preparation before translation.

Of course, with sufficient preparation before translation, it is not possible to exhaust everything the speaker has to say. In translation, translators are necessary because of digital interpretation. According to Sun Ye's empirical research, notes can effectively improve the accuracy of digital interpretation (Sun Ye, 2011), so you can use notes appropriately without distracting your efforts, especially when you hear a large number of complex numbers. Time, thereby improving the accuracy of the numbers. If accurate digital information cannot be captured, it should be remedied by using fuzzy strategies, that is, interpreting the general scope of the number, or an order of magnitude.

4. Conclusion

Simultaneous interpretation is a high-tech, high-intensity job. High-quality simultaneous interpretation needs: deep bilingual ability, the ability to handle multiple tasks at the same time, a good psychological quality and rich knowledge reserve. When simultaneous interpretation is in progress, the human brain is operating at a high speed, and it is not just as simple as translating an English word into a Chinese vocabulary. Because in the simultaneous interpretation process, it is often encountered that the speaker will speak long and complicated sentences. However, after the speaker completes the interpretation, the interpretation will not meet the requirements of simultaneous interpretation. Furthermore, it will cause a long blank time. At the same time, there are many disadvantages. First, the speaker's source language and

the interpreter's the time difference will be significantly longer, and the short-term memory of the translator will also be very stressful. Therefore, some important information will be omitted. Therefore, the principle of incidental driving can effectively alleviate this problem to a certain extent. However, when there is a big difference between English and Chinese in terms of expression and the order of words, using segmentation techniques to break through new words and strange terms, logical relationships, and digital interpretation will greatly improve the quality and effect of interpretation.

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