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SIGHT TRANSLATION: TRAINING ALGORITHM

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This research describes sight translation by comparing it to simultaneous and consecutive interpreting. Since the beginning sight translation has mostly been considered as a pedagogical exercise. However, the development of "professionally" oriented translation/interpretation makes the Sight Translation a separate type in the translation paradigm. The algorithm of teaching Sight Translation to students has been verified in the Translation Class for Law and Economy majors.

Key words: *written translation, interpretation, consecutive interpretation, simultaneous interpretation, "professionally" oriented translation/interpretation, translation/interpretation algorithm, translation paradigm.*

Михайленко В. В. Переклад з аркушу: алгоритм навчання. *У центрі уваги переклад з аркушу у парадигмі перекладу з англійської на українську мову. Даний переклад все ще вважається одною із фаз навчання письмовому перекладу або синхронному перекладу. Проте, розвиток «професіонально орієнтованого» перекладу виокремлює зазначений переклад в окремий тип. Розроблений алгоритм навчання перекладу з аркушу пройшов апробацію на заняттях з професійного перекладу (економічний дискурс і правови дискурс).*

Ключові слова: *письмовий переклад, усний переклад, послідовний переклад, синхронний переклад, «професійно орієнтовний» переклад, алгоритм.*

Михайленко В. В. Перевод с листа: алгоритм обучения. *Данная статья представляет собой анализ парадигмы различных типов перевода с английского на украинский, где выделен перевод с листа как отдельный тип. До настоящего времени его считают одной из фаз подготовки письменного или устного синхронного перевода. Однако развитие «профессионально ориентированного» выделяет перевод с листа в отдельный тип в парадигме перевода.*

Ключевые слова: *письменный перевод, устный перевод, последовательный перевод, синхронный перевод, «профессионально ориентированный» перевод, алгоритм, парадигма.*

Introduction. At present Sight Translation is defined as the reading of a text by the interpreter from the Source Language into the Target Language, simultaneously, in a manner, Jimenos Ivares underlines, in which the content of the document can be easily understood by the audience [11], it is also termed as a 'hybrid translation'. Therefore it is a unique process combining interpreting, which is based on oral communication and, I. Cencova points out, translation, which deals with written communication [5, p. 320-323]. Sight interpreters much depend on their background knowledge, body language and voice intonation to make sure the audience that they are attributing the proper meaning to the words [see: a full description: 23, p.169-198], of the Source Text. Sight Translation leaves the interpreter alone with the text and the audience and no arsenal of his/her usual resources when working as a translator. The settings of the Sight Translation can be meetings and conferences where an official interpreter is always present to clarify some documents and the situation demands a quick response, unlike the courtroom and clinics where speed should not trump accuracy [see modes of translation: 4, p.170-176]. To be smart and fluent sight translators must have a versatile training based on linguistics, translation and professional practicum. In the process of the the Taxonomy Translation analysis [17, p.479] two subsystems can be deduced: (written) translation ("transferring a message in writing from SL → TL, retaining meaning, tone, mode and purpose" and (oral) interpretation "transferring a message verbally from SL →

TL, retaining meaning, tone, mode and purpose"). Due to its twofold nature, sharing the activities of the both types – Sight Translation ("oral translation of a written text") must be a node at the overlapping of the referred nodes and it must be considered an autonomous type of translation in the Taxonomy Translation. And Sight Translation should not be treated as a misnomer of Sight Interpreting. Though professional translators, Rosean Duenas Gonzales et al. underline, often use Sight Translation as a strategy of problem solving, for dictating drafts, for assisting clients in determining whether a text is to be translated partially or in its entirety [8, p. 893-903; see also: 11].

There are two approaches to the Sight Translation, either as a "supportive method of interpretation for simultaneous and consecutive interpretation – a type of training exercises for interpreters" [21, p. 32-42] or a "sole interpretation" [6] with its characteristics which we shall define further in the paper. The fact is that the priorities of the Sight Translation are quick response, communicability, time constraints and linearity of the text which require a special training to meet the needs of the translator and to meet the demands of the job-market. Trainees must understand that in the field of the Sight Translation and to perform the task s/he has to resort to his/her inner abilities and resources. It seems much more difficult than it seems, especially when the interpreter has not seen the document ahead of time. Since sight translation is one of the more difficult modes of interpreting, it requires considerable training and experience. Accordingly, interpreters and translators must have certificate allowing them to work for courtrooms and medical institutions.

There are three objectives of the main goal of the present paper, first, to reveal specific features of Sight Translation, second, to define its status in the Translation paradigm, and, third, to introduce some activities into the Sight Translation training algorithm to enhance interpreters' skills.

State of the arts. The term "interpretation" generally brings simultaneous or conference, consecutive or liaison interpretation to mind [see: 12; 18, p.753-767]. Till present time Sight Translation has mostly been considered as a supportive interpre-

tation method. Unfortunately, there is scant literature on Sight Translation but we sort it out into the publications on the Sight Translation as a technique and the publications treating it as a separate discipline. Jean Herbert (1952) characterized sight translation as a type of simultaneous interpreting [see: 3, p. 24-27] though still for many a scholar Sight Translation is just a pedagogical exercise for getting started in the techniques of consecutive and simultaneous interpreting, an exercise by which trainees can learn to quickly react and improve their oral skills [21; 20;]. Sylvie Lambert suggests that the Sight translation is a variant: as it "involves transposition of a message written in one language into a message delivered orally it can be defined as a specific type of written translation as well as a variant oral interpretation" [13, p. 298]. However, Sight Translation, Consecutive [cf.: 12, p. 87-91] and Simultaneous interpreting are performed under different conditions. Despite their similarities in the mental process, the overall process is different. In Sight Translation, the translator reads a written text, whereas the interpreter, in both consecutive and the simultaneous modes, listens to the speaker [see: 19]. But the major difference of Sight Translation (and at the same time the major difficulty) lies in "smooth coordination of the R[eading], M[tviry] and P[roduction] Efforts, while struggling against increased visual interference from the Source Language ' [1, p. 47]. No doubt a demarcation line cannot be drawn between the existing terms Sylvie Lambert believes that sight translation with previous reading the text, must be distinguished from sight interpretation without any time to read the text [13, p.298]. But this differentiation is of technological type but it does not concern the nature of the Sight Translation

Experimenting. Sight Translation, as a pedagogical tool, is widely used in the Translation and Interpretation classroom, Li Xiangdong stresses as a constituent of the Translation and Interpretation Curriculum [23, p. 169-198]. It is the conversion of written words in one language into spoken words in another language. It combines interpreting, which focuses on oral communication, and translation, which deals with written communi-

cation. Sight Translation is mostly appropriate for those occasions when you need to translate a short document quickly. It is undertaken by interpreters, rather than translators, because they read the text in one language and provide an oral translation in a second language at the same time. Sight Translation can be defined as the reading of a text by the interpreter from the source language into the target language, simultaneously, in a manner in which the content of the document can be easily understood by the audience. It is a real skill, which sight translators have to master to become experienced interpreters who are comfortable working in two languages simultaneously.

Sight Translation can be useful in meetings and conferences where an interpreter is already present. For business meetings, asking an on-site interpreter to clarify the occasional written word or phrase is certainly the quickest option. Although it is not always considered as a mode, nevertheless it is often used most often in the public sector, and is not usually documented in available interpreting manuals.

The fact is that due to globalization and mobility most participants of professional meetings, workshops and conferences are English fluent speakers. Therefore the Sight Translation is acquiring a new status that of an autonomous type in the translation paradigm.

It is nowadays the most commonly used form in environments such as courtrooms, in such cases as the reading of a witness's statement or a court ruling, or in hospitals to help doctors to communicate effectively with patients who speak a different language. In this case, a sight translator can ensure that patients understand the doctor's diagnosis or the dosage instructions printed on their medication. Sight translation is an option for professionals who need the meaning of a written document to be verbally conveyed on extremely short notice. One might think this would be perfect for court rooms – the Sight Translation quickly provides meaning to foreign documents [see: 9, p.169-198]. However, in practice, the Sight Translation should be utilized as a last resort. This is not ideal because courtrooms demand accurately translated legal documents. While sight translation is often used to translate a

written witness statement that is in a language different from the one being used in court proceedings, it is far from optimal. Lawyers should be prepared ahead of time with certified legal translations. Courtroom proceedings are always better served with a certified translation instead of a hasty sight translation. [see: 9]. For instance, the Judicial Council of California (2001) prepared "Suggestions for preparing for test in Sight Translation and a set of exercises for Sight Translation In Public Speaking; Reading Ahead in Text; Analytical Skills; Completing Phrases; Paraphrasing; Expanding; Condensing; Manipulating the Register.

The sight Translation must follow the courses in basic skills of speaking, reading with intensive text analysis, writing, listening. Reading must be in focus in the Pre-Sight Translation: reading aloud; reading fast; reading extensively; reading for content; practice paraphrasing; practice changing the register; practice structuring the text because 'in order to perform the task of Sight Translation [9, p. 895-896; see also: 10; 16] proficiently, interpreters must be adept at grasping the meaning of written texts. C.V. Angelelli says that o reach this level of comprehension they must read widely and voraciously [2, p. 27-30]. It is not a preparatory exercise before starting the Sight Translation class, it is just vital.

Most handbooks in Sight Translation suggest the following strategies:

1. Selecting the main idea of the Source Text and to keep to it in the Target Text.

2. Transferring complete information of the Source Text in the Target Text.

3. Syntactical transformation of (chunking) the Source Text into the Target Text.

4. Avoiding the 'so-called equivalents.'

5. Avoiding personal inferences in the Target Text [15, p.398-405].

In the Fundamental Translation class we have to train basic skill: (a) a full command of working languages Ukrainian (L1) and English (L2), both can be either Source Language or Target Language at all level of usage; (b) public speaking – voice projection, clear enunciation, good posture and smooth pacing; and (b) mental agility. i.e. the ability to multitask . Interpreters, while giving

a translation of paragraph or a sentence they are also reading ahead, analyzing the contents and preparing the following segment of the TT translation [21, p. 47-48]. Of course, there is a danger to be "hypnotized" by the written text [the term used by Danica Seleskovitch: 19].

The First Phase of the (Pre-)Sight Translation Algorithm (Steps 1-5):

1. Fast reading the Source Text, the length can be one page (250-300 words to read within 20-30 seconds:

1.1. Scanning (reading for content) requires the trainee to browse the text looking for specific information to be able to recall the content of the text.

1.2. Skimming requires trainees to a fast reading focused on the title, headings: topic sentence, sign posts to overview the text.

Note: texts for practice must represent various professional discourses.

3. Defining the dominant lexeme and the words sharing a common semantic component, use brainstorming to recall the words sharing a common semantic component.

4. Mapping the conceptual system represented by the dominant lexeme:

4.1. Verifying the use of the semantic domain in the Source Text.

4.2. Compiling a semantic domain based on their background knowledge.

5. Paraphrase the text:

5.1. Rephrasing and retaining the information and keeping the conceptual system in mind.

5.2. Reconstructing the Source Text – paragraph sequences, sentence sequences, style register.

5.3. Read the Source Text aloud and alter the register, be careful not to stray from the ST original meaning.

The Second Phase of the (Pre-) Sight Translation Algorithm (Steps 6-7):

6. Reading the Source Text to render its message into the Target Text:

6.1. Render the Source Text and condense it retaining the same meaning and using mostly nominations of the conceptual system.

6.2. Render the Source Text and expand it retaining the same meaning but adding more nominations synonymic of the ones used in the text.

6.3. Specifying title, headings, topical sentences, signs, posts to refer them into the Target Text.

7. Paraphrase the Source Text into the Target Text:

7.1. Paraphrase the Source Text into the Target Text in the condensed form retaining the information [10, p.5-23].

7.2. Paraphrase the Source Text into the Target Text in the expanded form retaining the paragraph sequences, sentence sequences, style register. There is a risk of the SL interference because, D. Gile says: "Words and linguistic structures are ever-present before the practitioner's eyes" [7, p.184].

7.3. Paraphrase the Source Text into the Target Text retaining the ethnic-cultural features of the ST; avoid 'kitchenizing', when the Source Text is rendered into colloquial style, or 'foreignizing' the Target Text, when it bears many transliterations.

The Third Phase of the (Pre-) Sight Translation (Steps 8-9):

8. Start the Sight Translation and ask to record and film it.

8.1. Ask your group-mates to jolt down comments

9.1. Think-Aloud Protocol and its video, when the translator analyses his/her activities – choices and transformations [6, p.5-23].

9.2. The group discussion of The Think-Aloud Analysis Protocol not as evaluators but as 'would-be translators' [c.f.: 14, p. 694-714].

This algorithm is designed to develop mental agility, linguistic flexibility, and analytical skills. In actual Sight Translation, interpreters do paraphrase, summarize, and change the register of the Source Text, etc. But all these steps occur in their "black box". And the less they pause or stumble the more perfect their Sight Translation looks thanks to the trainer's elaborated algorithm.

Conclusions and perspectives. Sight translation has been considered as a 'supportive tool' of simultaneous and consecutive interpretation. However, due to the recent developments in the fields of economy, business, finance, international trade, science and technology, due to a moderate foreign language command of conference participants, and

due to changing job-market demands, sight translation has gained an extra place beyond consecutive and simultaneous interpretation. Sight translation demands a deeper cognitive processing activities and it is more of an interpreting modality than a hybrid modality.

This paper aims at considering a groundwork for teaching Sight Translation, based on concepts and strategies of skill training and further on to elaborate some suggestions for Sight Translation teaching verified in the Professional Translation Class for Law and Economy majors during more than two decades. One can learn the basic concepts and techniques of sight translation through the text analysis, identify units of meaning, and similarities and differences in Source Language and Target Language (grammar and writing styles)., but still remaining amateurs. Face-to-face courses offered by Departments of Translation and its trainers could bring up professionals of trainees.

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