



Interpreting

Week 1

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Learning Outcome

At the end of this learning activity,
the students are expected to be able to:

1. Comprehend the definition of interpreting
2. Describe the advantages of interpreting
3. Describe the disadvantages of interpreting

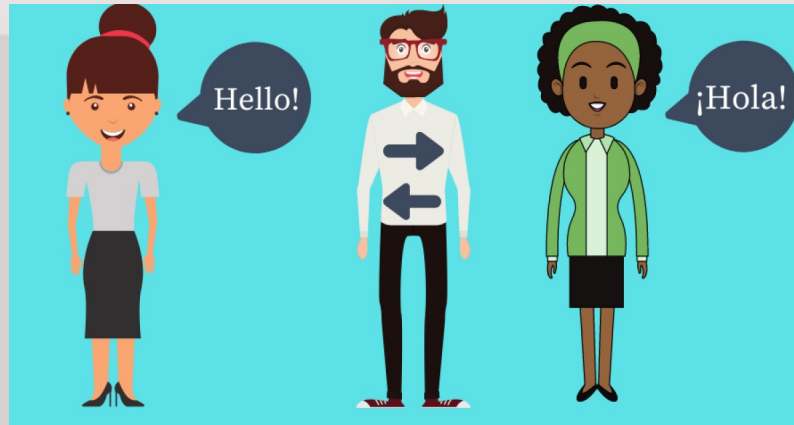
What is interpretation?

Interpretation essentially means an extempore oral reproduction in one language of what is said in another language.

Interpretation is not merely a linguistic undertaking but communication of linguistic proficiency and encyclopedic knowledge.



WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “LINGUISTIC PROFICIENCY”?



Linguistic proficiency is a speech reproduced orally in a language. It is transfer of the meaning of an utterance from one language (source language, and one culture) to another (target language). That is why, interpretation, essentially, is the faithful representation in one language of what is written in another language.

What does interpretation deal with apart from linguistic proficiency?

Interpretation deals further with encyclopedic knowledge. The lack of knowledge of the subject matter can become a serious stumbling-block.

An interpreter has to learn to acquire in advance some basic knowledge of and basic terminology relevant to the given or assigned tasks.

What fields of study should an interpreter have knowledge in?

Of course, the level of knowledge acquired or mastered by an interpreter can never be equal to that of the specialist in any particular field. Yet a competent interpreter must have some knowledge in all the multifarious fields with which he deals, and the level of that knowledge must be adequate for understanding.

What is meant by "extra linguistic inadequacy" in interpretation?

As a rule, an interpreter's "extra linguistic inadequacy" always leads to obscure or meaningless or even erroneous interpretation. Conversely, given the required "language proficiency", the greater the interpreter's knowledge of the subject matter, the more readily understanding occurs, and the more accurate and intelligible his "output" in the target language.

Another definition of INTERPRETING

Interpreting or interpretation is the intellectual activity of facilitating oral and sign-language communication, either simultaneously or consecutively, between two or more users of different languages.

Advantages of interpreting

By interpreting, an interpreter has several favorable impressions, they are:

a. enjoy more freedom than the translator. **How?**

b. concentrate on the sense of a message rather than the words which convey it. **How?**

c. get helpful aids from the intonation, gesture and facial expressions of the speaker, redundancies (non-verbal language).

d. occasionally ask the speaker to repeat a word, a phrase or a sentence, or explain some points.

Disadvantages of Interpreting

Otherwise, by doing interpreting, the interpreter will face:

a) **Stress:**

1. Concentrated listening, absorbing information and reproducing it.
2. Great demands on the interpreter ability to seize the essential meaning of a statement and to find an appropriate rendering.
3. Inadequate preparations.



b) Pressure:

1. Verbal message of transient nature.
2. Rapid analysis and synthesis.
3. Immediate communication.
4. Psychological pressure.

c) overall test of linguistic competence: source language & target language:

1. Phonological, syntactic and semantic difference between the two languages (figures, idioms, technical terms)
2. Lack of general, cultural and background knowledge.



d) accent:

different speakers with varied accents.



Thank You

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