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SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION FROM NUREMBERG MOSQUES TO THE HOLY MOSQUES IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

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Abstract. Simultaneous interpretation is a form of oral translation and is considered one of the most challenging professions. It is frequently ranked as the third most difficult job after those of astronomers and high-speed aircraft pilots. This field is highly demanding, requiring not only talented and highly qualified interpreters but also specialised equipment. Despite these challenges, translators and specialists continue to advocate for its use in international forums and official meetings. Simultaneous interpretation was prominent during the Nuremberg Trials and is now utilised in major organisations such as the United Nations and the European Union, as well as in the Holy Mosques, the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah. This article provides an overview of the historical background of simultaneous interpretation, discusses its inherent difficulties, and explains why it is the preferred method in international settings. Simultaneous interpretation has long attracted significant interest from specialists and is often admired by the general public. Many aspire to become interpreters, envisioning it as a prestigious career, and understandably so. Simultaneous interpretation is typically associated with interpreters who attend international conferences and political meetings, frequently travelling from one capital city to another. However, those drawn to this field may not realise that it involves tremendous responsibility, as even minor errors can have serious consequences. Moreover, it is a highly demanding profession with numerous conditions and requirements.

Keywords: translation, simultaneous interpretation, qualifications, equipment, difficulties, interpreter, Nuremberg Trials, Holy Mosques, Grand Mosque, Prophet's Mosque

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СИНХРОННЫЙ ПЕРЕВОД ОТ МЕЧЕТЕЙ НЮРНБЕРГА К СВЯЩЕННЫМ МЕЧЕТЯМ В КОРОЛЕВСТВЕ САУДОВСКАЯ АРАВИЯ

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Абстракт. Синхронный перевод- это форма устного перевода, которая считается одной из самых сложных профессий. Часто она занимает третье место среди самых трудных работ после астрономов и пилотов высокоскоростных самолетов. Эта сфера требует не только талантливых и высококвалифицированных переводчиков, но и специализированного оборудования. Несмотря на все сложности, переводчики и специалисты продолжают продвигать использование синхронного перевода на международных форумах и официальных встречах. Синхронный перевод получил широкое признание во время Нюрнбергских процессов, а сегодня используется в таких крупных организациях, как Организация Объединенных Наций и Европейский Союз, а также в Священных Мечетях- в Великой мечети в Мекке и Мечети Пророка в Медине. В данной статье рассматривается исторический контекст синхронного перевода, его трудности и объясняется, почему он считается предпочтительным методом в международной практике. Синхронный перевод давно вызывает большой интерес у специалистов и часто восхищает широкую публику. Многие мечтают стать переводчиками, считая эту профессию престижной- и это вполне оправдано. Синхронный перевод, как правило, ассоциируется с переводчиками, посещающими международные конференции и политические встречи, часто путешествующими из одной столицы в другую. Однако те, кто стремится попасть в эту сферу, не всегда осознают огромную ответственность, которую она требует- ведь даже незначительные ошибки могут привести к серьезным последствиям. Более того, эта профессия чрезвычайно требовательна и сопровождается множеством условий и требований.

Ключевые слова: перевод, синхронный перевод, квалификация, оборудование, трудности, переводчик, Нюрнбергские процессы, Священные Мечети, Великая Мечеть, Мечеть Пророка

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NÜRNBERQ MƏSCİDLƏRİNDƏN SƏUDİYYƏ ƏRƏBİSTANI KRALLIĞINDAKI MÜQƏDDƏS MƏSCİDLƏRƏ QƏDƏR SİNXRON TƏRCÜMƏ FORMALARINA DAİR ARAŞDIRMA

Səlimə Çabani*

Məcdə Çelli**

Abstrakt. Sinxron tərcümə şifahi tərcümənin bir növüdür və ən çətin peşələrdən biri hesab olunur. Çox vaxt astronomlar və yüksək sürətli təyyarə pilotlarından sonra üçüncü ən çətin iş kimi qiymətləndirilir. Bu sahə son dərəcə tələbkardır və yalnız istedadlı və yüksək ixtisaslı tərcüməçilərlə yanaşı, xüsusi avadanlıqlar da tələb olunur. Bu çətinliklərə baxmayaraq, tərcüməçilər və mütəxəssislər beynəlxalq forumlarda və rəsmi görüşlərdə bu metodun tətbiqini təşviq edirlər. Sinxron tərcümə ilk dəfə Nürnberq məhkəmələrində diqqət çəkmiş və bu gün Birləşmiş Millətlər Təşkilatı, Avropa İttifaqı kimi böyük təşkilatlarda, həmçinin Məkkədəki Böyük Məscid və Mədinədəki Peyğəmbər Məscidi kimi Müqəddəs Məscidlərdə tətbiq olunmağa davam edir. Bu məqalə sinxron tərcümənin tarixi kontekstinə qısa bir baxış təqdim edir, onun daxili çətinliklərini müzakirə edir və beynəlxalq arenalarda niyə üstünlük verildiyini izah edir. Sinxron tərcümə uzun müddətdir ki, mütəxəssislərin maraq dairəsindədir və geniş ictimaiyyət tərəfindən də tez-tez heyranlıqla qarşılanır. Bir çox insan bu sahəyə maraq göstərir və onu nüfuzlu bir peşə kimi görərək tərcüməçi olmağı arzulayır- və bu tamamilə başadüşüləndir. Sinxron tərcümə adətən beynəlxalq konfrans və siyasi görüşlərdə iştirak edən və tez-tez bir paytaxtdan digərinə səfər edən tərcüməçilərlə assosiasiya olunur. Lakin bu sahəyə cəlb olunanlar bəzən onun nə qədər böyük məsuliyyət daşdığını dərk etmirlər- çünki ən kiçik səhv belə ciddi nəticələrə səbəb ola bilər. Bundan əlavə, bu peşə çoxsaylı şərtlər və tələblərlə müşayiət olunan son dərəcə gərgin bir sahədir.

Açar sözlər: tərcümə, sinxron tərcümə, ixtisaslar, avadanlıqlar, çətinliklər, tərcüməçi, Nürnberq məhkəmələri, Müqəddəs Məscidlər, Böyük Məscid, Peyğəmbər Məscidi

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1.Introduction

This article seeks to address several essential questions: What is simultaneous interpretation? How did it begin? What are its main requirements? What qualifications must interpreters possess? Why is it considered one of the most challenging professions? Moreover, why is it used by organisations such as the United Nations and the European Union, and when and why was it introduced at the Holy Mosques in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

1-a. Definition of simultaneous interpreting

Simultaneous interpretation is a form of oral translation in which meaning is conveyed from one spoken language to another in real time. Hassib Hadid (2011) defines simultaneous interpretation as “the acquisition of cognitive contents and communicating those contents” [p.19]. Dr. Shaker Hassan further explains that simultaneous interpretation involves the interpretation and transmission of ideas and messages rather than the word-for-word translation of an entire text. He noted that a simultaneous interpreter who can convey 90% of the spoken message has accomplished a significant achievement, whereas those who exceed this percentage approach the ideal in the profession.

In this context, Maha bint Ayed Al Harbi (2008) observes the following:

“Translation in general means, in reality, searching for a functional equivalent for the text rather than a formal equivalent, with the level of accuracy varying according to each type of translation. In simultaneous interpretation, the interpreter tries to set aside the words of the source language and begins to form ideas independent of the original message. The interpreter then attempts to convey these ideas in another language, possibly using different words from those in the source language. For this reason, it is called interpreting” [p.355].

Thus, simultaneous interpretation can be described as the intellectual process by which interpreters orally and instantaneously convey ideas from one language to another.

1-b. Types of simultaneous interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation is classified according to the subject matter of the dialogue or the field in which it is practised. Because it is used in a wide variety of contexts, several distinct types of simultaneous interpretations have emerged, including the following:

1. Legal interpretation:

Legal interpretation is used in courts when a plaintiff, defendant, or witness does not speak the official language of the court. The legal interpreter is often referred to as a sworn translator because it takes an oath to ensure truthful and accurate translation.

2. Healthcare interpretation:

Health-care interpretation, also known as hospital interpretation, involves facilitating communication between doctors and patients when they do not share a common language. The interpreter acts as a mediator, helping to clarify the patient's condition and thereby accelerating the process of diagnosis and treatment.

3. Religious simultaneous interpretation:

Religious interpretation takes place in mosques, churches, meeting rooms, or any setting where religious topics are discussed. In the context of Islam, this includes the translation of the Qur'an, Sunnah, Sirah, fiqh books, tafsir, khutbahs, and all matters related to Islamic doctrine. Non-Arabic-speaking Muslims represent approximately 75% of the global Muslim population. Therefore, experienced interpreters who specialise in religious texts play a crucial role in enabling non-Arab Muslims to understand religious rulings and practices relevant to their daily lives and worship.

4. Conference interpretation:

Conference interpretation is employed in international forums and global organisations such as the European Union, the African Union, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Delegates from around the world, speaking different languages, and gathers for various purposes. Simultaneous interpretation removes the language barrier, allowing participants to engage in immediate and effective dialogue [Phelan, 2001, p.6].

5. Public service interpretation:

This type of interpretation, also known as "dialogue interpreting," is common in countries that receive large numbers of immigrants. It provides translation services in sectors such as education, postal services, and transportation.

6. Sign language interpretation:

This system of hand gestures is directed toward the deaf community and often accompanies simultaneous interpretation to ensure accessibility for all participants.

7. Screen interpretation:

In this form, guests on television follow a program on screen while the interpreter, situated in a booth, simultaneously translates the content for the guests. A distinctive feature is that male interpreters typically interpret male guests, whereas female interpreters interpret female guests.

8. Telephonic or over-the-phone interpretation

This method involves communication between the speaker and the interpreter via telephone, allowing for immediate translation. Phone interpretation is particularly useful when an interpreter is not available onsite and is ideal for emergencies, initial meetings, and rapid communication.

9. Commercial interpretation:

Commercial interpretation occurs during meetings between businesspeople and company representatives from different countries and is used for business and investment purposes. The session is conducted in the host country's language, as well as the languages of the other participants, with the interpreter providing real-time translation. This type of interpretation facilitates international business and contributes to economic development.

10. Liaison interpretation:

This form, also referred to as companion interpretation or bilateral interpretation, is used in official diplomatic, advisory, and economic meetings. The interpreter moves between the languages of the two parties and may pause the conversation to ask clarifying questions or provide further explanations as needed.

11. Video conference interpretation:

This type is used for conferences held via video links and is attended by many participants and at least one interpreter. When the interpreter is not physically present in the meeting room, the process is known as teleconferencing or remote interpreting. It is cost-effective, as it eliminates travel expenses and often includes the option to record the entire session [see www.languagedirect.org/video-conference-interpreting; Sincordia, 2014].

12. Media interpretation:

Media interpretation is used during conferences and seminars to broadcast event details via television, video, or news channels, either through a live interpreter or by providing subtitled translation.

13. Touristic interpretation:

In this type, the interpreter accompanies tourists or visitors on trips to historical sites, cultural institutions, or landmarks, providing explanations and answering questions. This role is similar to that of a liaison interpreter.

14. Sight translation:

In various situations, such as business meetings or court proceedings, the interpreter may be asked to read a document and translate it aloud, performing both reading and interpreting tasks simultaneously [Phelan, 2001, p.14].

1-c. The Qualities of a Simultaneous Interpreter

Both written and oral translations aim to clarify meaning, approximate it, and remove ambiguity. However, not every translator is capable of being a simultaneous interpreter, as simultaneous interpreting is widely regarded as one of the most challenging professions. It is frequently ranked third in terms of difficulty after the professions of astronomers and high-speed aircraft pilots. Simultaneous interpretation requires a highly talented interpreter who possesses specific qualities, as outlined below:

1-c-a. Language skills

A simultaneous interpreter must demonstrate exceptional mastery of their native language and possess fluency in at least two foreign languages, along with a deep understanding of the associated cultures. In addition, interpreters should have broad knowledge in fields such as history, geography, science, and literature. Their active vocabulary should encompass at least 25,000 words, whereas their passive vocabulary should include approximately 150,000 words. Knowledge of body language is also essential, as hand gestures, facial expressions, and eye movements can convey meaning beyond spoken words. Furthermore, the interpreter should hold a university degree in translation, participate regularly in forums and training courses, and continuously read to expand and maintain their knowledge.

1-c-b. Personal Traits of the Interpreter

There are essential qualities that must be present in the personality of a simultaneous interpreter, as these traits enable them to perform their tasks skillfully and effectively. An interpreter should be an excellent listener [see Multi-Language Net, n.d.] and must maintain a high level of focus to detect and understand complex ideas. Strong short-term memory is crucial, allowing the interpreter to store information temporarily and accurately reformulate it into the target language.

Additionally, interpreters should be characterised by accuracy and honesty, faithfully conveying messages without adding or omitting information. A clear, pleasant voice and good pronunciation are important, as are quick thinking and self-confidence. Interpreters must be decisive, able to mirror the speaker's tone and style, display good manners, and maintain strict confidentiality regarding the information they interpret.

Difficulties of Simultaneous Interpretation

Simultaneous interpretation is a complex process involving multiple rapid stages, requiring intense concentration and quick thinking. The process imposes significant psychological pressure on interpreters, leading many specialists to regard it as one of the most demanding professions.

Effective simultaneous interpretation depends on three key participants: the speaker (orator), the interpreter, and the listener (receiver). The interpreter serves as a mediator, facilitating dialogue between the orator and the receiver. This communicative process can be divided into three main stages:

1. Listening:

The interpreter listens carefully to the speaker to grasp both the meaning and intent behind the speech.

2. Analysing:

The interpreter analyses the information understood from the discourse. The nature of this analysis varies by context: for example, when the subject is a

welcome or a message of thanks, the interpreter may focus on form, whereas for artistic or scientific topics, more attention is given to the content.

3. Reformulation:

At this stage, the interpreter simultaneously translates what has been heard and analysed into another language, preserving the meaning of the original discourse while using the style, words, and vocabulary appropriate for the target audience. For this reason, this phase is known as the reformulation stage.

All of these stages, listening, analysing, and reformulating, occur within fractions of a minute, relying heavily on the interpreter's short-term memory. This intense mental activity leads to fatigue, so interpreters typically switch every twenty minutes. It is also advisable for interpreters to rest before any conference or meeting involving simultaneous interpretation.

Additional challenges may hinder the interpreter's performance. For example, if the orator's voice is unclear, delayed, or too rapid, important information can be lost. The presence of multiple dialects or accents within the same language, or the mention of numbers and figures, can also increase the risk of errors. Inadequate access to relevant documents, or receiving them late or incomplete, can result in misunderstandings or unintended distortions of the message.

Psychological factors also play a significant role. Anxiety, fear of failure, especially when faced with a large audience or fellow translators and speakers, and digressing from announced topics can negatively impact performance. Poor preparation, unreasonable expectations (such as asking the interpreter to translate ten pages in ten minutes), and a lack of breaks all diminish the interpreter's self-confidence and the overall quality and credibility of the translation.

1-e. Equipment for simultaneous interpreting

Another aspect that demonstrates the difficulty and complexity of simultaneous interpretation is its requirement for specialised equipment, including the following:

1. Soundproof Booth:

The interpreter's booth is a room with transparent glass, enabling the interpreter to see both the speaker and fellow interpreters. If assistance is needed, the interpreter can communicate with colleagues. The soundproof booth features lighting and a wheelchair with silent wheels. It is equipped with shelves for supplies such as pens, paper, and documents. The most critical feature of the booth is its soundproofing, which allows the interpreter to work without external noise interference [Aspena, 2021].

2. Interpreter Console:

The interpreter console functions as the central unit of the simultaneous interpreting system and can be likened to the electronic "nerve center." It

contains a microphone and various control buttons, including options to stop the audio, adjust the volume, and mute sounds such as coughing or sneezing.

3. The Headset:

Each interpreter uses a binaural headset, a hearing aid for each ear, connected by a semicircular band placed on the head. Binaural headsets ensure that the interpreter can hear clearly with both ears. While conference organisers typically provide headsets, many professional interpreters prefer to use their specialised hearing aids during assignments [[InterStar Translation, n.d.](#)].

4. The microphone:

The microphone is a device that amplifies the interpreter's voice. There are several types: one is attached to a circular headband and remains stationary in front of the interpreter's mouth, even as it moves. The second type is a tube-shaped microphone installed in the control unit. A third type is a single microphone placed on the cabin table, which is generally less convenient than the first two options.

5. The receiver:

Audience members use receiver headphones tuned to a specific channel or frequency corresponding to their preferred language. The receiver can be attached to clothing or held in the hand. It includes a dial or button allowing users to select the appropriate channel for their mother tongue.

2. Historical Path of Simultaneous Interpretation

For a long time, consecutive interpretation dominated major international conferences and forums. In this traditional method, the speaker delivers a sentence or paragraph or completes an idea before pausing. The interpreter then begins translating, often relying on notes taken during the speech. The process alternates between the speaker and the interpreter, continuing until the end of the event. However, practical experience has revealed several drawbacks to consecutive interpretation. The process is slow and time-consuming, often resulting in excessively long and tedious speeches for the audience. Additionally, confusion may arise from side conversations among delegation members during pauses. These issues prompted the search for a more efficient alternative.

A. Replacing Consecutive Interpreting with Simultaneous Interpretation at the International Labour Organisation

Edward Filene, an American businessman and frequent representative of workers at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conferences, noted that consecutive interpretation was too slow for effective communication. To address this, he proposed a system in which speeches are translated into one of the organisation's official languages (English or French) through consecutive interpretation, then converted into digitised symbols via a stenograph, and subsequently submitted to the translator for simultaneous interpretation.

Although Filene was not a technical expert, he collaborated with British engineer Gordon Finlay, who designed a system comprising a microphone, loudspeaker, and headphones placed throughout the conference hall, enabling participants to hear speeches through dedicated translation channels. This system was first evaluated during the 1926 ILO conference, where it proved largely successful. However, the typing component of the process was later eliminated, as it often led to translation errors.

Encouraged by the success of his system, Filene established the first educational project focused on training interpreters in simultaneous interpretation. He also developed a telephone translation system in collaboration with Thomas Watson, known as the IBM Hush Phone. The Filene-Finlay system received a patent in 1926 and was used for the first time during an ILO session in Geneva on June 4, 1927 [Gaiba, 1998, p.31]. The same device was later used by Siemens at the International Energy Conference in 1930, and simultaneous interpretation was also employed in Leningrad in 1935 during the International Congress of Physiology, chaired by Pavlov. At this event, the organisers explained to the participants how to use the loudspeaker and headphones.

B. Attempts to introduce simultaneous interpreting in the League of Nations

Filene sought to expand the use of his successful system from the International Labour Organisation to the League of Nations. On September 14, 1929, he sent a letter to the president of the League of Nations expressing his willingness to provide the simultaneous interpretation system free of charge, noting the significant personal investment he had made [Baigorri, 2014, p.150]. In response, a committee chaired by Robert Cecil was formed to evaluate the efficiency of Filene's system.

After significant effort and debate, the committee agreed to test the simultaneous interpretation system with the League of Nations and to adapt the recognised translators of the International Labour Organisation for this purpose. Filene reached an agreement with IBM (International Business Machines) to supply the equipment and cover transportation costs from New York to Geneva. Upon arrival, a local company managed the installation. Despite these efforts, the committee ultimately decided to abandon the simultaneous interpretation system, arguing that it lacked live interaction and diminished the spirit of communication.

C. Simultaneous Interpretation During the Nuremberg Trials

Nuremberg Trials are considered among the most significant events of the twentieth century and were among the most widely covered by the media. They not only marked a milestone in international justice by prosecuting war criminals but also served as the birthplace of the profession of simultaneous

interpretation. Without this innovation, the trials were estimated to have lasted four years instead of just one.

Nuremberg was selected as the site for the trials because it had hosted many major Nazi gatherings, was under American control after the war, and the United States was the only country capable of covering substantial costs [Gaiba, 1998, p.27]. The trials commenced on November 20, 1945, and concluded on October 1, 1946. The tribunal consisted of judges from the United States, Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union and was presided over by Sir Geoffrey Lawrence. The chief prosecutors were General R. A. Rudenko (Soviet Union), François de Menthon and Auguste Champetier de Ribes (France), Sir Hartley Shawcross and Sir David Maxwell Fyfe (United Kingdom), and Justice Robert H. Jackson (United States) [Gaiba, 1998, pp.26-27].

The complex and highly publicised nature of the Nuremberg Trials, combined with the diversity of participants, led the International Military Tribunal (IMT) to guarantee defendants the right to follow proceedings in their language or in the language they understood [Charter, Chapters IV and V; Gaiba, 1998, p.32]. These requirements prompted organisers to adopt translation as a central means of communication.

While some historians credit Justice Jackson as the first to introduce simultaneous interpretation, having allegedly brought the idea from Geneva, most sources recognise Colonel Léon Dostert as the key figure who brought the technology to Nuremberg [Gaiba, 1998, p.35]. Dostert, who had served as Eisenhower's interpreter at the Pentagon and led the State Department's language service, was a linguist at Georgetown University and familiar with Filene's system from the League of Nations. Given that existing equipment, with some modifications, could support simultaneous interpretation, Dostert proposed this approach as the ideal solution for trials. He collaborated with Mr. Suro (head of the translation department) and Mr. Charles H. Horsky and secured IBM's support, which provided 200 headphones and all necessary cables free of charge.

The process of recruiting interpreters involved several stages. First, candidates from around the world were screened through a competitive examination of linguistic skills and interpreting ability. The most qualified samples were sent to the United States for further testing via simultaneous interpretation. Those who excelled were then relocated to Germany for brief but intensive training, which continued throughout the trials.

To meet technical requirements, the organisers set up a corner of the Nuremberg Palace of Justice with four adjacent transparent glass booths, each without a roof. These booths were positioned so that interpreters could see the

speakers, allowing them to observe facial expressions and body language, key elements in delivering accurate interpretations.

C-1. Interpreters During Nuremberg Trials

The interpreters at the Nuremberg Trials came from a variety of countries and had diverse professional backgrounds, including law, radio broadcasting, the military, academia, medicine, and professional interpreting [Gaiba, 1998, p.133]. Some notable interpreters include the following:

1. Léon Dostert:

The first chief interpreter at Nuremberg, Dostert, worked as a French-to-English interpreter and served as a monitor. Born in France, he became a U.S. citizen in 1941. Dostert served as General Dwight Eisenhower's French interpreter in 1944. In 1960, he initiated a program to train blind individuals in language learning and teaching. Critics referred to him as "Le Petit Napoléon." Dostert passed away during a conference in Bucharest in 1971 [Gaiba, 1998, pp.133-134]. The interpreting profession owes him a great deal.

2. Boris B. Bogoslawski:

An American citizen of Russian origin, Bogoslawski, briefly served as a court interpreter at Nuremberg before working as a document translator.

3. Thomas K. Brown:

An American teacher from New York City, Brown, interpreted from German into English during the Nuremberg Trials. After the trials, he left the interpreting profession and moved to Maryland.

4. Haakon Maurice Chevalier:

Chevalier, who had dual French and American citizenship, was an experienced French-to-English interpreter at Nuremberg. He earned his Ph.D. in Romance Languages in 1929 [Gaiba, 1998, p.137].

5. Elisabeth Heyward:

A French nation, Heyward, worked at Agence France-Presse and interpreted from English into French during the Nuremberg Trials. She later became a freelance interpreter before being recruited by the United Nations Headquarters, where she worked until her retirement in 1981 [Gaiba, 1998, pp.139-140].

D. The strong presence of simultaneous interpretation in the European Union and the United Nations

1. Simultaneous Interpretation in the European Union

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of European countries established at the initiative of German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman, and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Its main objectives are economic cooperation, political stability, and collective security. Annually, the EU hosts approximately 11,000 meetings, all of which require simultaneous interpretation, a service provided by the Joint

Service Section for Interpretation and Conferences. The EU employs 720 translation staff, along with more than 1,300 freelance and temporary translators, making it the world’s leading employer of translators [Phelan, 2001, p.59].

2. Simultaneous Interpretation at the United Nations

The United Nations (UN) was officially established on October 24, 1945. It is composed of independent states and operates according to a charter that outlines the rights and responsibilities of its member states. Simultaneous interpretation has been used by the Security Council since the early 1970s. Notably, the first translators at the UN were not professional interpreters but rather individuals with multilingual abilities. The UN recognises six official languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, and Arabic. United Nations interpreters are distinguished by their high linguistic and intellectual capabilities, being fluent in at least two of the official languages in addition to their mother tongue. The work of UN interpreters covers a wide range of subjects, including political, economic, social, financial, and legal affairs.

E. Simultaneous Interpretation at the Holy Mosques in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Islam is a universal message, and the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent to all humanity, Arabs and non-Arabs alike. As a single preacher or imam cannot master all world languages, it is necessary to provide translation services that ensure accessibility for diverse audiences. In recognition of this need, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has prioritised translation and interpretation services at the Two Holy Mosques: the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah. These services play a vital role in introducing Islam, clarifying its teachings, disseminating its principles, and safeguarding it from misinterpretation or distortion. Translation services at the Holy Mosques include the interpretation of Friday sermons, Taraw with prayers, books, pamphlets, and informational signs.

e-1. Simultaneous Interpretation During Taraw with Prayers

Simultaneous interpretation at the Two Holy Mosques began with a project led by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Guidance in coordination with the Ministry of Information and the General Presidency. The project involved translating the meanings of the Holy Qur’an into English during Taraw with prayers in Ramadan 1427 AH [September 2006 CE; 2003 *الشرق الأوسط*]. The initiative was overseen by His Excellency Sheikh Saleh Al Sheikh, with Sheikh Talal bin Ahmed Al Aqeel serving as project manager and Technical Director Shaker Talib. The translation team comprised eight translators, all of whom had memorised the Qur'an and were proficient in English, with half being stationed at the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the other half at the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah.

e-2. Simultaneous Interpretation of the Jumu'ah Khutbah (Friday Sermon)

Importance of Jumu'ah Prayer:

Jumu'ah (Friday) prayers hold a central place in Islamic worship and the collective life of the Muslim community. It is a compulsory act of worship for every mature, free Muslim. The Qur'an commands,

"O you who believe! When the call is proclaimed for Jumu'ah prayer, come to the remembrance of Allah..." [Surat Al-Jumu'ah, verse 9; Allali & Muhsin, 1996, p.1094].

Jumu'ah prayer takes place weekly on Fridays, replacing the regular Dhuhr (noon) prayer. It is distinguished by the khutbah (sermon), which is an essential component: the imam delivers a sermon, pauses, and then delivers a second sermon. Attending and listening to the khutbah is a religious obligation for the prayer to be valid.

The purpose of the khutbah is to praise Allah, declare His oneness, and bear witness that Muhammad is His Messenger. The sermon must also include a call to fear Allah (taqwa), remind the congregation of the Hereafter, and enjoin good while forbidding evil. The khutbah is expected to strengthen faith (iman), address current issues such as calls for charity during times of hardship and conclude with prayers (du'a) for all Muslims.

Simultaneous interpretation of the Khutbah of Jumu'ah

The implementation of the Friday sermon translation project was initiated under the directive of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, who instructed that the Friday sermons in both the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah be translated for non-Arabic-speaking worshippers. This initiative aims to communicate the guidance and awareness message of the Two Holy Mosques to pilgrims and Umrah performers in their native languages. This approach helps reflect the correct image of Islam and promotes its moderate values [Masr Al-Arabia, n.d.].

Translation services are not limited to the Friday sermon alone. The Languages Department also broadcasts the translation of Surah Al-Kahf on Friday mornings, as well as the sermons for Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, and special occasions such as the rain prayer and eclipse prayer.

e-3. Target Languages and Their Speaking Countries

The languages selected for translation at the Two Holy Mosques were chosen on the basis of their widespread global use and the linguistic diversity of visitors. English is spoken in 54 countries, Urdu in 4 countries, French in 54 countries, Malay in 4 countries, Hausa in 14 countries, Turkish in 16 countries, and Bengali in 3 countries [The Agency of General Presidency of the Prophet's Mosque].

e-4. Specific Frequencies for Each Language

Distinct radio frequencies in the FM band have been assigned for simultaneous interpretation in the areas surrounding the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah. The frequencies are as follows:

- **English:** 105.050 FM
- **Urdu:** 105.00 FM
- **French:** 99.050 FM
- **Bengali:** 107.090 FM
- **Malay:** 99.000 FM
- **Turkish:** 107.000 FM
- **Hausa:** 107.030 FM
- **Persian:** 95.200 FM

[Source: Arabian Business, 2016]

e-5. The Platform of the Manarat of the Two Holy Mosques

The General Presidency has launched an electronic platform, Manarat Al-Haramain, to serve the Grand Mosque and the Prophet's Mosque and to convey their guidance to a global audience. The platform provides more than 40 electronic services throughout the year, with expanded offerings during Ramadan. Among its features are live and recorded broadcasts of sermons, religious lectures, and Sharia sessions delivered by the imams and scholars of the Two Holy Mosques.

The platform enables direct communication through a dedicated window, allowing users to submit written questions and receive responses from qualified religious scholars. Additionally, it offers a detailed schedule of upcoming sermons, lessons, and lectures, as well as a comprehensive archive for users to access past content.

Additional Services on the Manarat Al-Haramain Platform

The Manarat Al-Haramain platform provides a variety of digital services to facilitate and enrich the experience of visitors to the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah. Among its key features is the "Guide Me" service, which helps users locate specific places within both mosques. The platform also includes a transportation application that streamlines the process of purchasing tickets and reserving electronic or standard vehicles for performing Tawaf and Sa'i inside the Grand Mosque.

Additionally, the "Maqsad" application assists users in finding their desired location within or outside the mosque via the internet or Bluetooth technology. The platform further offers a "Guide" application that provides continuous, detailed explanations of the steps of Hajj and Umrah [Khabrna, n.d.].

e-6. The Manarat Al-Haramain Platform during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Launched in collaboration between the ministry and the general presidency during the COVID-19 pandemic, the platform achieved widespread success. It

recorded 3.5 million visits, hosted 71 religious lectures, and provided access to 659 Friday sermons and lessons, totaling approximately 1,550 hours of broadcast content. These digital services allowed Muslims worldwide to listen to sermons and religious teachings from the Two Holy Mosques remotely and with ease [Makharelyom, n.d.].

e-7. Al-Haramain application

The General Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques also launched the Al-Haramain application, which offers all the services available on the Manarat Al-Haramain platform. Users can watch live broadcasts of Friday sermons and daily prayers in multiple international languages, as well as access simplified and concise explanations of Umrah rituals and etiquette. This application aligns with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, reflecting the Kingdom's commitment to utilising modern technology to serve the Two Holy Mosques and facilitate the needs of pilgrims and Umrah performers [Khabrna, n.d.].

Conclusion

Simultaneous interpretation is one of the most complex forms of language use. The process is demanding and involves multiple rapid and successive stages that require intense concentration and mental agility. These pressures often lead specialists to describe simultaneous interpretation as an exceptionally challenging and strenuous profession. Successful interpretation relies on three key participants: the speaker (orator), the interpreter, and the listener (receiver). The interpreter acts as a mediator, facilitating effective dialogue between the orator and the audience.

The development of simultaneous interpretation has gone through several stages before its current advanced form was reached. It has played a critical role in eliminating language barriers between individuals and groups, reducing ambiguity, facilitating communication, and saving both time and effort. As a result, simultaneous interpretation has been adopted in primary international settings such as the United Nations, the European Union, and the Two Holy Mosques, the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah. Those who pursue a career in simultaneous interpreting must possess high-level language skills and a strong work ethic, qualities essential for success in this demanding yet vital field.

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