FACTORS AFFECTING SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION: A CASE STUDY

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Submitted in partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of M.A. (Translation)
Yarmouk University
1997

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ABSTRACT

The present study is designed to discuss the factors that affect the process of simultaneous interpreting. It focuses on the problems encountered by the simultaneous interpreters of His Majesty King Hussein and the Israeli Prime Minister’s speeches in two press conferences held respectively in Amman and Tel-Aviv in 1997.

Upon close examination of the translated material, it has been found that the simultaneous interpreters have given some erroneous renderings of some portions of the SL texts, thus affecting the message conveyed in the TL texts.

The researcher analyses and categorizes some erroneously translated words, phrases and sentences committed by the interpreters. He also tries to attribute the errors to their possible causes. Finally, the researcher suggests alternatives, supposedly, more appropriate than the interpreter's renderings.

The study consists of four chapters and an introduction. The introduction gives a general idea of the thesis. Chapter one is a review of related literature. Chapter two sheds light on the factors that affect simultaneous interpretation. Chapter three constitutes the core of the study. It reveals the problems the simultaneous interpreters have faced and gives reasons for them. The mistakes made by the simultaneous interpreters are classified into: lexical, syntactic and idiomatic mistakes. The last chapter presents the researcher’s conclusions and recommendations.
The researcher hopes that this study will contribute to helping trainees improve their performance in simultaneous interpretation and making them familiar with the different factors affecting interpretation and how they could be dealt with. It also suggests some practical steps to be carried out by trainees in order to acquire further practice.