DISTORTION IN INTERPRETING DUE TO OMISSION, ADDITION AND PERMUTATION: A CASE STUDY

by

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Abstract

The present study investigates distortion in simultaneous interpreting in terms of omission, addition and permutation. For this purpose, omissions, additions and permutations are categorized, analyzed and thoroughly discussed in a simultaneously interpreted speech of His Majesty, late King Hussein held in a press conference in Amman in 1997. For further results, a speech of the former U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright, which was held in Amman in the same conference with the late King Hussein, was simultaneously interpreted by five interpreters upon the researcher's request. Fortunately, the researcher attended two conferences in Amman where he observed two real-life situations in interpreting.

After examining and analyzing the interpreted material, the researcher concludes that the interpreters committed a considerable number of errors most of which adversely affect the message conveyed. This indicates that interpreters in Jordan have some knowledge gaps in simultaneous interpreting; therefore, they need some sort of training in order to perform this task more appropriately. Furthermore, the researcher finds out that experience plays a very important part in simultaneous interpreting, and that more-experienced interpreters committed less errors than less-experienced ones.

The study concludes with some recommendations to simultaneous interpreters as well as to conference organizers and researchers in the field. It is hoped that this study would be helpful to upgrade the quality of the interpreters' adequacy through enlightening them with the concepts of omission, addition, and permutation to perform such tasks properly. It is also hoped that this study will be of great help in providing simultaneous interpreters, especially in training programs, with insights into the process of interpretation.