Cohesion in Simultaneous Interpretation of Press Conferences

By

Najwan Mahmoud Obeidat

B.A. English for Special Purposes, Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2002

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Approved by:

Yousef Bader..........................Chairman

Professor of Linguistics and English, Yarmouk University

Mohammad Farghat..........................Member

Professor of Linguistics and English, Yarmouk University

Lutfi Abulhaija..........................Member

Doctor of English Language, Yarmouk University

Ali Al-Hamad..........................Member

Professor of Arabic Language, Yarmouk University

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Abstract

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By
Najwan Mahmoud Yousef Obeidat

Supervised by
Prof. Yousef Bader

This study discusses the subject of cohesion in simultaneous interpretation of press conferences from English into Arabic. Simultaneous interpretation refers to the interpreter's rendering of the speaker's words at the same time that they are uttered or a few seconds later. This task involves a cognitive overload on the interpreter and this in turn leads to problems in cohesion. The study adopts the error analysis approach (EA) to find out how an interpreted text (IT) differs from the corresponding original text (OT) regarding the usage of cohesive devices. This study finds out that while OT is highly cohesive, the IT is less cohesive and sometimes incohesive. The study also shows how important cohesive devices are to the whole understanding of the message by the audience. It concludes that in his/ her task as a mediator who is called upon to produce a cohesive and coherent text, the simultaneous interpreter has to pay attention to every cohesive device used in the OT, use all kinds of anticipation strategies to predict what is coming regarding structure and cohesive devices, and provide audience with a well-understood, well-structured interpretation that is also faithful and keeps the conveyed message.

Abbreviations:

ER: Error Analysis
IT: Interpreted Text = Target Text
OT: Original Text = Source Text