

Introduction to Interpreting

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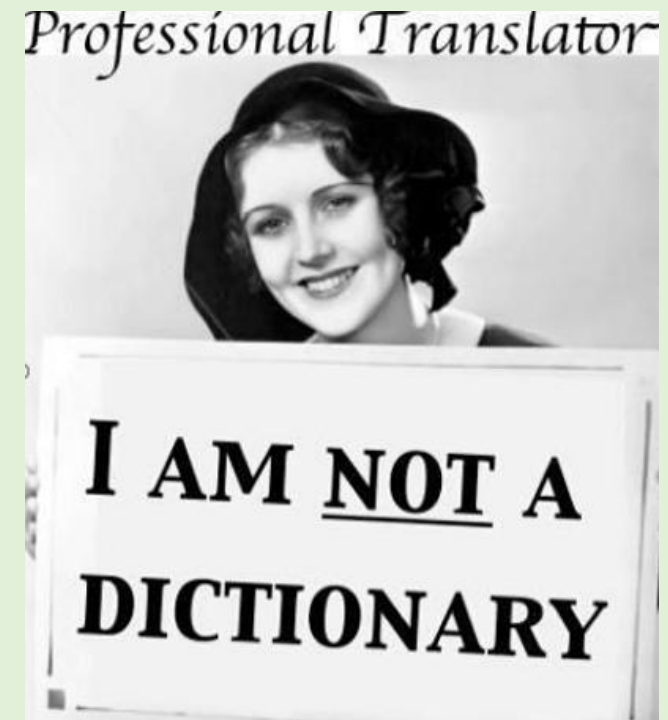


Topics for Discussion

- Translation vs interpreting
- Types of interpreting
- Classification of languages
- Three stages of the process
- Consecutive interpreting
- Note-taking
- Criteria for good interpreting
- Future of the profession

Translation and Interpreting as two sides of the same coin?

- Common – linguistic transfer
- Different:
 - Physical aspects – time and medium
 - Purpose
 - Static vs dynamic
 - Focus on the user vs focus on the text

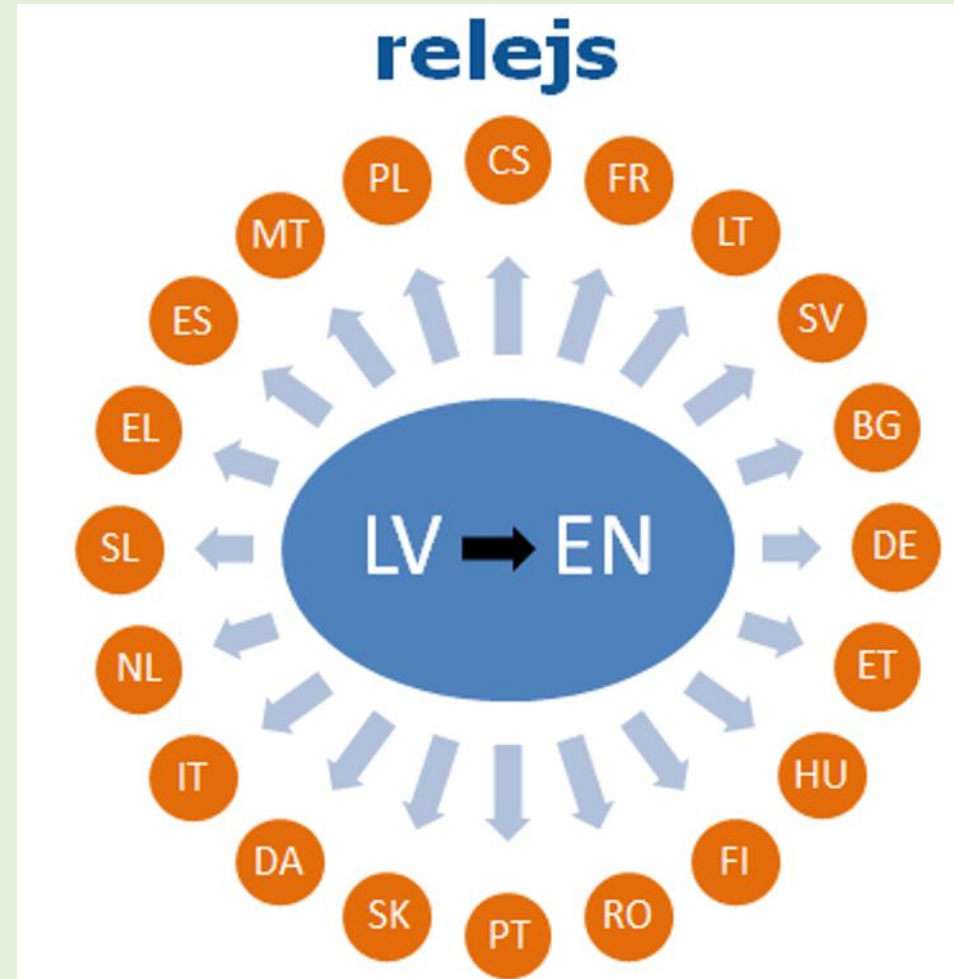


Types of Interpreting

- **Consecutive** (sentence by sentence/segments)
[Dialogue/liaison/community (kontakttulkošana)]
- **Simultaneous** (dual tasking)
[Chuchutage]
(main challenge)

Working languages

- active/passive
- A/B/C
- retour
- relay



The Process

1. Listening
2. Processing
3. Delivery



Effort model (Daniel Gile): our mental resources are limited, problems arise when we mismanage attention, eg. focuss too much on production at the expense of listening. It is crucial to be able to divide our attention depending on the point of difficulty in each concrete case.

The Process

1. **Listening** (input) – active vs passive

- knowledge of languages
- background knowledge (the more you know, the more you understand)
- power of concentration (110%!!!!)
- anticipation

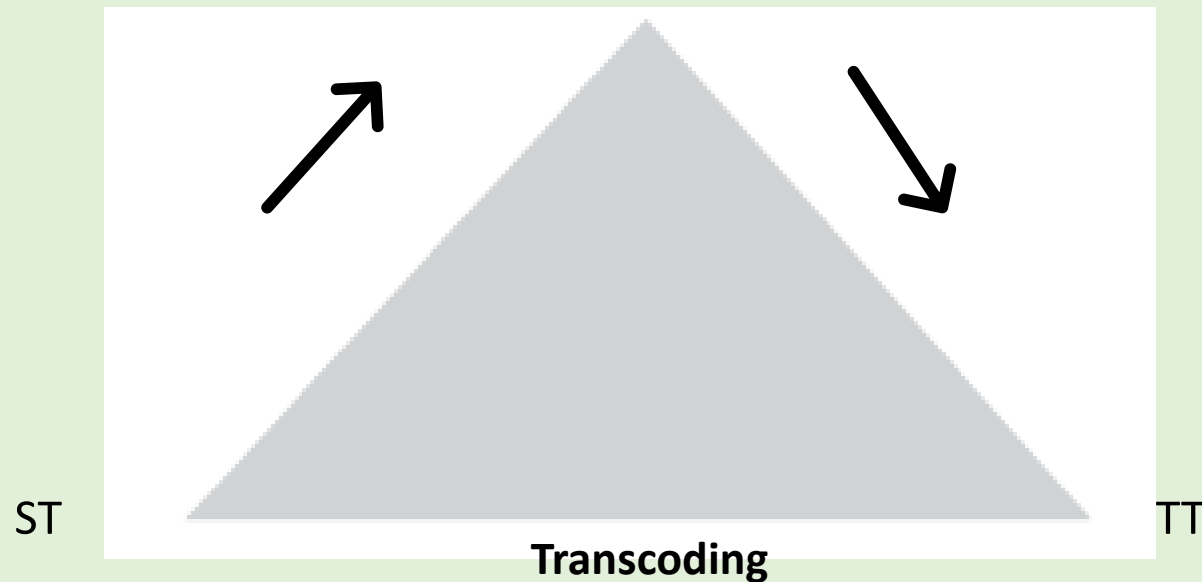
Active listening+the ability to attach info to facts in the LTM = good performance

The Process

Danica Seleskovitch, «La Theorie du Sense»

2. **Processing** (analysis): avoid literalism, make sense!

Non-verbal meaning/deverbalisation



The Process

3. Delivery and packaging

- Pleasant voice (voice coaching) and manners – interpreting style
- Fluency
- Clarity/ making sense!!!!!!
- Audience awareness (esp. consecutive)
- Booth manners
- Microphone technique
- Self-monitoring

80% of cognitive resources is devoted to listening and understanding and only 20% to speech production («Effort Model», Daniel Gile)

What is Good Interpreting?

- Pleasant voice, clear enunciation
- **Clarity of expression**
- Sense consistency with the original
- Fluency of delivery
- Completeness of interpretation
- Correct terminology
- Correct grammar

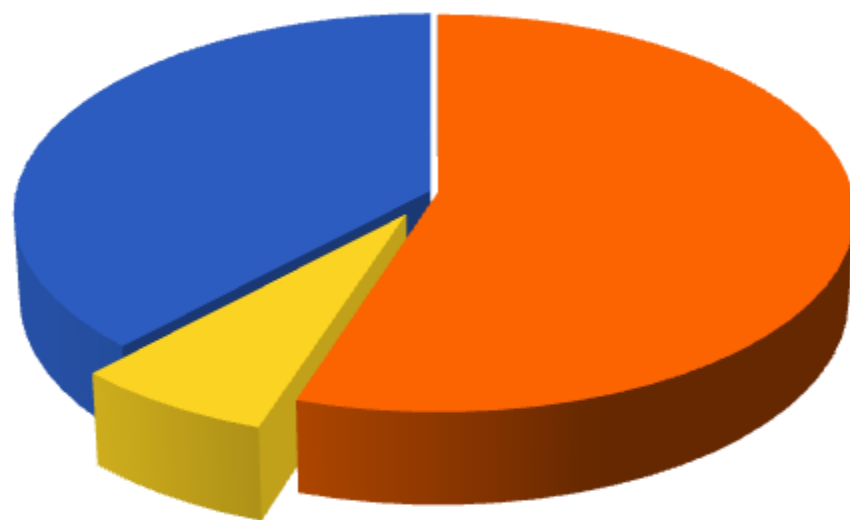
Personality Traits

- Voice
- Speed
- Intellectual curiosity, self-improvement
- Communication skills, social competence
- Risk-taking or problem solving skills (perfectionism is counterproductive)
- Stress resistance (trait anxiety vs state anxiety)
- Resilience
- Modesty (becoming the central figure)
- Being nice!!!

Consecutive Interpreting

- Listening
- Processing
- Memorising
- Taking notes: to relieve memory, only as a result of analysis, without memorising notes are of no use
- **Compression !!!!** / (demonstrates quality of thinking)
- Delivery – exposed!:
 - Make eye contact
 - Control your body language
 - Project your voice

kā klausītājs vērtē



■ kā mēs izskatāmies (tēls) 55%

■ ko mēs sakām (saturs) 7%

■ kā mēs sakām (forma) 38%

Note taking (Rozan, Matyssek, individual)

- Active listening and memorising, visualising – the basis
- NT minimal, don't take down what you can remember, «crutch»
- Notes should leap to the eye, if note-bound, hampered communication: use enough space/verticality + shift (eg. enumeration)
- Why? To relieve memory (figures, names, use keywords)
- Symbols (countries eg LV), (mathematical symbols $\downarrow\uparrow$, +,=), (!!!), ad hoc abbreviations, 😊
- The importance of links!!! Separate ideas
- In what language?
- Note pads, loose sheets, pens

Roderic Jones «Conference Interpreting Explained»(1998)

- Complete sentences
- Keep sentences short, simple and clear (salami technique)
- Sacrifice quantity for quality (compress)
- Make sense (keep the story line)
- Be grammatical

Does interpreting have future?

- Urban myth No. 1 – everobody speaks English
- Urban myth No. 2 – AI can do it better

(speech recognition → MT → speech synthesis)

Have fun!

