

Specialised Bibliography 5

**Teaching Interpreting**  
*study and practice*

Compiled and edited by  
H Janet Altman



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**Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research**

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# Introduction

## 1

The corpus of literature relating to interpreting is surprisingly large. Authors have addressed themselves to a great number of different aspects of interpretation, ranging from the role of bilingualism to the relationship between translation and interpretation, and from psychological and neurological considerations to sociological ones. The need to restrict the scope of the bibliography thus becomes apparent. It was felt that, rather than producing an unwieldy volume containing well over a thousand citations, it would be more practical and helpful to concentrate on the one essential area likely to be of particular interest to language teachers, namely the teaching of interpreting.

Interpreting is extremely young as an academic discipline. Conference interpretation as a profession began to take shape only around the turn of the twentieth century. Its emergence can be attributed to two principal factors: the demise of French as the language of diplomacy, and a proliferation of international conferences. And it was not until after the end of World War Two, with the advent of the technology necessary for simultaneous interpreting, and with the huge increase in international communications, that the profession began to assume the shape - and proportions - which we observe today.

The original professional conference interpreters were individuals with impeccable educational and intellectual credentials who also possessed linguistic skills in addition to their many other talents. The first author ever to devote himself to the subject of interpreting, Jean HERBERT (see (17)), was one of those early interpreters.

It was realised in the aftermath of the second World War, in the years when both the United Nations and embryonic European institutions were emerging, that there was a need for new blood to join the ranks of the first generation of highly skilled but untrained conference interpreters. Several training institutions, most of which have since become university centres, were founded in continental Europe. Professional interpreters, particularly those teaching at such colleges, gradually began first to describe and then to conduct research into their discipline. For example, the author of the first truly theoretical investigation of conference interpretation, published in 1968 (see (21)), is Danica SELESKOVIČ, of the Ecole Supérieure d'Interprètes et de Traducteurs in Paris. Although books about the subject are still few and far between, numerous articles have since appeared in specialised journals. The past twenty years have seen a remarkable

proliferation of literature in this area, and there is no sign of a decline in its rate of output.

Practising interpreters and teachers at institutes of interpretation have not been the sole contributors to this research activity. At approximately the same time as interpreters began to approach their work from an academic point of view, ie during the late 1960s, psychologists, socio-linguists, translation theorists and academics in other allied fields began to show interest in the ways in which the study of interpreting could contribute to their own research. Since it is not concerned with teaching, their work is not presented in great detail in this bibliography, although it is touched upon in section 2.

In Great Britain, the pattern of interpreter training is rather different from that which prevails in continental Europe, both East and West. Interpreters' 'schools', or institutes, have never been founded as such. Indeed, there exists only one course in the whole country whose sole aim is the training of interpreters : a short postgraduate course at the Polytechnic of Central London. Would-be interpreters must normally study both interpretation and translation, for example by following a postgraduate course at the University of Bath or Bradford. An alternative is to attend a short intensive postgraduate training course such as that offered by the Commission of the European Communities. A recent development in Britain is that interpreting is becoming increasingly widely recognised as a valuable course component for the enhancing of language learning. The exercise is now being incorporated into the curricula of many British Departments of Modern Languages.

A branch of interpreting which has begun even more recently than conference interpretation to receive the serious attention of authors is the use of interpreters outside the conference hall. Formal training programmes for 'community interpreters', who were already facilitating communication between members of ethnic communities and the authorities, were initiated in Australia in the 1970s. Similar moves are now getting under way in Britain. In the late 1970s the first courses in court interpretation were established in Canada. Another aspect of 'non-conference interpreting' is sign language interpretation for the deaf. This type of interpreting was, however, felt to be too distinct from the others covered here to merit its inclusion in the bibliography.

It is clear, therefore, that the whole area of interpreter training is a new and very dynamic one, in that courses are still emerging and evolving constantly. One of the major developments in the near future is likely to be an institutionalisation of training schemes for non-conference interpreters of ethnic minority languages. Theoretical research seems certain to proceed apace. We can

anticipate the publication of many interesting additions to the literature collected in this volume.

## II

The first step in the compilation of the bibliography was to identify relevant items in the Bibliographie internationale de l'interprétation by Ronald and Diane HENRY (5). Its 717 citations were an invaluable aid, particularly in the survey of less recent publications. Also of considerable assistance was a bibliography produced (but never published) by the Groupe de Réflexion Théorique et Scientifique of AIIC (International Association of Conference Interpreters), which contains 131 unannotated citations relating to interpreting and allied disciplines. In addition to following up all references contained in the works cited by these two bibliographies, the main journals for publications on interpretation were searched systematically. A list of these appears in the Sources section (see p 5).

All entries are numbered sequentially and arranged alphabetically within the seven main sections of the bibliography. The first of these (entries 1 to 8) contains reference works which provide general information about interpreting and indications for further reading. Major theoretical studies of interpreting are listed and annotated briefly in section 2 (9 to 24). The Collective Volumes which constitute section 3 (25 to 37) are works containing chapters or articles relevant to this bibliography. Full publication details appear in section 3 : where the individual items appear in the body of the text, a numerical reference guides the reader back to this point. Section 4 (38 to 121), the most substantial one, has been divided into four sub-sections, each of which relates to a particular aspect of training in conference interpretation. In contrast, there is a shift in section 5 (122 to 139) away from the training of professional interpreters to the use of interpreting exercises in the classroom for the purposes of language teaching. Non-conference interpreting, as defined above, is the subject of section 6 (140 to 154) ; and lastly some articles are included which describe what interpreter training may lead to in career terms (section 7 : 155 to 172). There is a brief introduction at the beginning of each section/sub-section. At the end of the book there is a list of the names and places of publication of all journals cited, and after that an alphabetical index of all the authors included, accompanied by the appropriate numerical references.

Wherever mention is made of an author in connection with a work featured elsewhere in the bibliography, his or her name appears in capitals. In order to avoid repeating 'he or she'/'his or her' etc, the masculine pronoun has been used throughout purely for reasons of economy.



It will be noted that most of the items reviewed have been published since 1970. This is attributable to two facts. Firstly, as has already been pointed out, much more has been written about interpreting since 1970 than before that date, especially with respect to its teaching. And secondly, because the discipline has been (and still is) evolving at such a pace, much of what was published in the 1960s (course descriptions, curriculum content etc) is now outdated and has therefore been excluded. This argument does not, of course, apply to major theoretical studies or to works whose interest is intrinsically historical, and which clearly merit inclusion. Regrettably, owing both to restricted availability and to her inability to read Russian, the compiler was unable to scan the principal East European publications covering interpretation.

Finally, the compiler realises that some pertinent material may have been omitted from this bibliography. The principal criterion for inclusion was relevance to its subject matter, the teaching of interpreting, but selection was inevitably subjective. It is to be hoped that the omissions and errors of judgement are not too numerous. Corrections and suggestions for inclusion in any future revised version of the bibliography will of course be most welcome.

## Sources

The following publications were searched systematically for relevant material. The cut-off date for the inclusion of literature in the bibliography was September 1986.

### Journals

Babel, Budapest  
British Journal of Language Teaching (formerly Audio-Visual Language Journal), Oxford  
Cuadernos de Traducción e Interpretación, Barcelona  
Fremdsprachen, Leipzig  
Incorporated Linguist, London  
Interprète (L'), Geneva  
IRAL, Oxford  
Language and Speech, Teddington, Middlesex  
Language Monthly, Nottingham  
Langages, Paris  
Lebende Sprachen, Berlin, FRG  
Linguist (The), London  
Meta, Montreal  
Multilingua, Amsterdam  
Neueren Sprachen (Die), Frankfurt  
Quinquereme, Bath  
Traduire, Paris  
Yelmo, Madrid

### Other publications

Bibliographic Index, H W Wilson Co, New York  
British Humanities Index, London  
CIJE (Current Index to Journals in Education), Dryx Press, Phoenix, Arizona  
Language Teaching (formerly Language Teaching and Linguistics Abstracts), Cambridge  
LLBA (Linguistics and Language Behaviour Abstracts, formerly Language and Language Behaviour Abstracts), San Diego, California  
MLA International Bibliography of Books and Articles on the Modern Languages and Literatures (Modern Languages Association of America), New York

## Abbreviations

AIIC	Association Internationale des Interprètes de Conférence (International Association of Conference Interpreters)
CI	Conference Interpreting/-ation
Consi	Consecutive Interpreting/-ation
FL	Foreign Language
I	Interpreting/-ation
LL	Language Laboratory
SI	Simultaneous Interpreting/-ation
SL	Source Language
T	Translating/-ation
TL	Target Language

## 1 Reference Works

This section mainly comprises bibliographies and background information about the I profession : see HERBERT (6) and THIEME (8). The Bibliography by HENRY and Henry (5) was an invaluable starting basis for the compilation of this work.

1 AIIC (Association Internationale des Interprètes de Conférence) Bibliographies (on CI). AIIC Bulletin 3,3 (1975), 52-56.

The AIIC Bulletin reproduces three bibliographies which appear in works cited elsewhere in this volume. See BARIK (10) : 32 entries, GERVER (16) : 11 entries, and SELESKOVITCH (22) : 67 entries, annotated.

2 AIIC (Association Internationale des Interprètes de Conférence) Guide to establishments offering courses in conference interpretation. Geneva, AIIC (1984), 22p. Revised (in French) 1985, 73p.

Employing a detailed questionnaire, the interpreters' professional association surveyed the CI courses offered by institutions in 21 mainly European countries. An introduction to the brochure explains the difference between SI and ConSI and indicates the knowledge and aptitudes required to become a conference interpreter. A profile of what AIIC considers to be the 'ideal' training course is given : language competence is a pre-requisite ; postgraduate entry ; teaching is by practising interpreters only, etc. Very few of the institutions listed meet all the recommended criteria. Strikingly different practices were noted in three essential areas : entry requirements, teaching staff and examinations. The number of graduates who find work as interpreters is considered to be indicative of the quality of an establishment. The French revised version contains more factual errors than the original.

### 3 BABEL

Conference interpreting. Babel Special Issue, 8,1 (1962), 48p.

This volume was published at a time when CI research was in its infancy ; nevertheless, it offers a bibliography which contains 44 entries. 'Noblesse de la parole' by E CARY provides an introduction to the volume. In "Servitudes et grandeur" de l'interprète', C ANDRONIKOF describes some of the constraints under which the interpreter must work, but argues that these are outweighed by several major sources of satisfaction. D SELESKOVITCH states in 'L'interprétation de conférence' that the interpreter must a) have complete mastery over his working languages ; b) possess broad

general knowledge ; and c) have acquired the necessary technical skill. She explains the differences between I, oral T and written T. SI systems in the parliaments of Malaya, Ceylon and Singapore, and the problems encountered there, are described in A T PILLEY's contribution 'The multi-lingual parliaments of Asia'. L DHANRYPONT is the pseudonym of an organiser of international meetings using CI. His 'Lettre à un interprète' deals with problems of communication between interpreters, meeting organisers and participants.

#### 4 BABEL

Issue largely devoted to CI. Babel 22,3 (1976), 105-106.

In addition to the articles by LOCHNER (162) and HENDERSON (64), the major contributions are 'On quality in interpretation' by David L GOLD and 'Conference interpreting in Poland : an overview of the problems' by Andrzej KOPCZYNSKI. There is also an unannotated (and now clearly outdated) list of the articles about or touching upon interpretation which had appeared in the journal since publication began in 1955. 42 titles are included, eleven of which are also contained in the 1962 special issue on CI (see (3) above).

#### 5 HENRY, Ronald and Diane Henry

Bibliographie internationale de l'interprétation (International Bibliography of I). Sudbury, Ontario, Librairie de l'Université Laurentienne (1978), 103p.

This is the only exhaustive bibliography of I : so exhaustive, in fact, that utterly irrelevant references occasionally creep in, such as one on the theory and practice of literary translation. But despite its minor shortcomings and inaccuracies (a cavalier attitude to the use of the umlaut in German, for example), the Bibliography provided an invaluable source of material for the compilation of the present volume.

Section A covers books (157 entries) and Section B articles (560 entries), with items listed alphabetically in each case. The publication is by now inevitably outdated.

#### 6 HERBERT, Jean

How conference interpretation grew. In Gerver and Sinalko 1978 (30), 5-10.

Herbert states that there have been interpreters since the remotest antiquity, but that CI developed into a recognised profession only during the First World War. Until then, all international meetings of any importance had been held exclusively in French. The author, who witnessed the birth of the profession and wrote one of the most authoritative early books about it (17), gives some personal

recollections. Speeches, which occasionally lasted over an hour, were originally interpreted consecutively. The first attempts to introduce SI were made shortly before the Second World War. Its increased use has had a psychological impact on the interpreter. According to Herbert, their profession does not justify interpreters to possess a complex of either inferiority or superiority.

7 ROBERTS, Roda P and Johanne Blais

The didactics of translation and interpretation : an annotated bibliography. In Delisle 1981 (26), 265-294.

Only French and English texts dealing with the training of professionals were included ; those relating to the use of T/I for language acquisition purposes were discarded. The 88 citations are annotated with a brief summary of their main points and classified by the aspects of T/I teaching covered. An index lists all the publications according to these analytical categories. The authors intend to publish a more complete bibliography at a later date. The bibliography deals mainly with T ; I is covered less thoroughly. Several of the course programmes described are 30 years out of date, and can therefore be of historical interest only.

8 THIEME, Karl

Die geschichtlichen Haupt-Typen des Dolmetschens (The principal historical forms of interpreting). Babel 1,2 (1955), 55-60.

Four types of I corresponding to four types of language are identified : 1) sacred language, whereby biblical texts were expounded to lay congregations ; 2) official language which, like 1), was imposed upon the people from above and based upon a binding original text ; 3) literary language, which permits the translator more freedom ; 4) the language of commerce, as used in business transactions. This latter type of I, clearly the closest to what we understand by I today, dates back to the year 3,000 BC and is mentioned in the Bible. Only after World War One, and the decline of French as the language of diplomacy, did the profession expand significantly. The first training schools were set up shortly after World War Two.

## 2 Theory of Interpreting

Despite the fact that the principal concern of this Bibliography is the teaching of I, a brief guide to some of the 'standard' works on I theory not otherwise covered has been included for the sake of completeness.

Broadly speaking, there have been two main approaches to the theory of I : that of psychologists and that of linguists. The psychologists have investigated SI in particular, with a view to furthering knowledge in such areas as psycholinguistics, cognitive psychology and human skills (as well as stress, personality, etc). See entries below : BARIK (10) and GERVER (16). Other authors include F Goldman-Eisler (see eg 'Segmentation of input in simultaneous translation', Journal of Psycholinguistic Research 1 (1972), 127-140).

The linguists, mostly practising interpreters, and beginning with Jean HERBERT (17), have tended to concentrate on I more as a means of communication involving transfer of the meaning of an utterance from one language (and one culture) to another. A leading centre of I research in Western Europe is the ESIT (Ecole Supérieure d'Interprètes et de Traducteurs) in Paris, directed by D Seleskovitch. Examples of literature emanating from this source are GARCIA-LANDA (15), LEDERER (19) and SELESKOVITCH (21, 22). The two titles by CHERNOV (12, 13) are examples of the theoretical approach in Eastern Europe, where another major Soviet exponent was MINYAR-BELORUCHEV (see 67, 68). In both the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic, I is generally regarded, as far as research is concerned, as an offshoot of its sister activity T, and the German term 'Translation' ('linguistic transfer') covers both activities. W Wilss (FRG) and A Neubert (GDR) are two of the leading theorists in the German-speaking world, although since they write more about T than I, their theoretical work has not been included here. (See, however, WILSS (121)). CARTELLIERI (11), like Neubert, is based at the Leipzig Interpreters' Institute.

A different approach to I, that of the sociologist, is evident in the article by ANDERSON (9).

9 ANDERSON, R Bruce W

Perspectives on the role of interpreter. In Translation : applications and research ed by R W Brislin, New York, Gardner Press (1976), 208-228.

Anderson argues that the role and behaviour of interpreters is of relevance to sociolinguistic and sociological theory and research. The author reviews selected literature pertaining to three aspects

of the interpreter's role : 1) the interpreter as a bilingual ; 2) ambiguities and conflicts in the interpreter's role as an intermediary ; 3) the interpreter as a power figure (monopolisation of the means of communication). There is an extensive bibliography.

10 BARIK, Henri C

Simultaneous interpretation : qualitative and linguistic data.

Language and Speech 18 (1975), 272-297.

This article is one of two relating to a study on SI published by the author in the same journal, the other being 'Simultaneous interpretation : temporal and quantitative data' (1973).

The interpreter's version of a text may reveal 'translation departures' of three types : 1) omissions ('skipping'/comprehension/delay/compounding omissions) ; 2) additions (qualifier/elaboration/relationship/closure additions) ; 3) substitutions and errors (mild/gross semantic errors, mild/substantial/gross phrasing changes). These T departures are analysed according to temporal and grammatical attributes of the input material. The author acknowledges 'the shortcomings of the coding scheme, which is insensitive to the "elegance" of the translation'. He feels that the interpreter's ability to segment the incoming message at linguistically appropriate places (time lag) is a critical factor which affects quality of performance. Other linguistic observations relate to difficulties with differing grammatical constructions, with 'function words' and with abstract words, 'reversals of T', interference from SL and 'flaws' in delivery.

11 CARTELLIERI, Claus et al

Zu Bedeutung und Aufgaben des Gedächtnisses beim Dolmetschen (The importance and role of memory in I). Fremdsprachen 23,3 (1979), 169-178.

The authors, interpreters and psychologists, address themselves to four questions which they consider important in terms of both I quality and training. 1) What role does memory play in I ? They adduce the current consensus that at least three overlapping areas of memory are of relevance to human information processing : immediate, short-term and long-term recall. 2) Are signs of laterality in the central nervous system useful in the optimising of I processes ? Language production is lateralised to a lesser extent than is perception, which, in right-handed people, takes place in the left hemisphere of the brain. 3) What tasks are performed by the memory during I ? Various storage functions, monitoring of output, etc are involved. 4) How can the interpreter best prepare himself for duty ? Some advice is given to help interpreters prepare for



specific assignments : short-term memory is the most crucial in this context.

12 CHERNOV, Ghelly V

Teoriya i praktika sinkhronnogo perevoda (Theory and practice of simultaneous translation). Moscow, Mezhdunarodniye Otnosheniya (1978), 206p.

This book, written by one of the Soviet Union's foremost interpreters at the United Nations, aims to present a psycholinguistic account of the processes at work when SI is performed.

Part 1. The book begins with a brief examination of the historical development of the practice of SI, then provides an extensive critical review of the existing literature. After an investigation into the question of whether 'simultaneous' I is indeed simultaneous, part 1 concludes with an attempt to define the problems involved in studying SI and those features which distinguish it from research into other forms of I.

Part 2. The concept of the anticipation mechanism, typical of the Soviet school of I theory, is developed. This theory argues that the interpreter is able to some extent to predict what the speaker will say, and that he is aided in this by a number of hierarchically structured factors which include the text structure and the communicative situation. Each of the levels is examined in detail, and the results of various experiments are incorporated.

Part 3. Many feel this to be the most useful section. It sets out a comprehensive training programme for interpreters, taking account not only of the need to develop language skills but also of the importance of sound general and background knowledge. The duties of the conference organiser are outlined in a final chapter.

Conclusion. The author indicates his intentions to develop his theory further, and to flesh out the section on training in greater detail. The bibliography of Russian sources contains 42 entries, while SI entries refer to sources in English, French and German.

Although opinion is divided as to the validity of the 'probability-anticipatory' theory of SI, there is no question that this book is a major addition to studies in I.

13 CHERNOV, Ghelly V

Semantic aspects of psycholinguistic research in simultaneous interpretation. Language and speech 22,3 (1979), 277-295.

Semantic redundancy in the SL message is considered to be a source of semantic prediction, ie it helps the interpreter to predict probable developments in the sense of the message. The results of an experimental study of the semantic component of the SI mechanism point to a cumulative dynamic analysis of the semantic structure of