



高级

付江涛 主编

英语口语教程

Advanced English Interpreting



河南大学出版社
HENAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

Advanced English Interpreting

高级英语口语译教程

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

高级英语口语译教程/付江涛主编. - 开封:河南大学出版社,2010.10
ISBN 978-7-5649-0239-1

I. ①高… II. ①付… III. ①英语-口译-教材 IV. ①H315.9

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2010)第 162476 号

责任编辑 宋达华

责任校对 别致

封面设计 马龙

出版 河南大学出版社

地址:河南省开封市明伦街 85 号

邮编:475001

电话:0378-2825001(营销部)

网址:www.hupress.com

排版 郑州市今日文教印制有限公司

印刷 河南郑印印务有限公司

版次 2010 年 10 月第 1 版

印次 2010 年 10 月第 1 次印刷

开本 787mm × 1092mm 1/16

印张 18.75

字数 317 千字

印数 1—1500 册

定价 38.00 元

(本书如有印装质量问题,请与河南大学出版社营销部联系调换)

前 言

近年来,尤其是1999年高考扩招以来,全国每年仅英语专业的毕业生就多达12万人,但其所受教育多为通识教育和基础的学术性研究,所以很难直接进入社会,适应社会对高素质翻译人才的需求。因此,培养专业翻译人才是强调教育为经济建设服务的一大重要举措,是外语专业学科发展的必然趋势。

早在1999年,英国威斯敏斯特大学的Jack Lonergan教授就曾指出,口译员需求量的增加是一个世界性的现象。随着我国社会经济的飞速发展,我国与世界各国之间的经贸、文化、教育等各领域的交往越来越频繁,对高层次口译人才的需求也更显迫切。

在我国与世界各国文化、科技和经济贸易等方面的交流日益频繁的形势下,口译作为一门内涵深广的人文学科,在最近20年有了长足发展。各高校学口译、教口译、研究口译和从事口译职业的实践,已经成为与对外开放同步前行的社会文化热点之一。然而,口译教学一直是我国翻译界的薄弱环节。目前,我国口译教学的实践和研究与起步较早、发展较为成熟的西方国家相比还十分落后。口译教学设施仍较欠缺和简陋,口译教学的方法和手段尚处于起步阶段,由于缺乏全国统一的教学大纲和统编教材,各地的教学内容和教学方法不尽相同。鉴于翻译专业的应用性、实践性、职业化等特点,培养翻译人才的教学方法、教学手段及教师素质均有特别的要求。为确保翻译人才的培养质量,我们经过讨论,计划在口译课程教学中充分运用研究探索与实践,并以此来推动翻译学员培训课程与模式改革,用更为新颖、科学、高效的方法培养出合格的高素质口译技能运用型人才。这便是我们编撰本教材的初衷。

本教材以实用目的为纲,在理论讲解的同时,穿插大量实战练习,使学生可以把理论梳理与集体研讨实实在在地结合起来,早日达到对汉英双语的自由运用,顺利流畅地完成口译任务。

本书共分十一个单元。第一单元对口译发展历史进行了简单的叙述并对不同的口译形式进行了分类,第二单元是听力理解训练与旅游专题,第三单元是演讲训练与演讲口译练习,第四单元是关于记忆训练与体育专题,第五单元是关于笔记讲解与文化教育专题,第六单元讲解口译中数字的处理方法和政治外交专题,第七单元讲解同声传译与宗教专题,第八单元是口译中视译的练习,第九单元是单句与段落口译练习单元,第十单元是关于演讲中的同传练习,第十一单元是针对记者招待会交替口译的实践练习。大部分单元均包含理论讲解、思考练习、拓展阅读、句子或段落口译练习、常用词汇等内容。由于各部分长短、难度不一,教师可以结合本校教学的实际情况进行删减、选取,以达到充分利用教学资源保证学生练习效果最大化的目的。

书末附录一为部分文章的译文及部分练习的参考答案。为了不限制学生的创造性思维,有些较为灵活的口译素材资料没有列出参考答案,教师可在教学过程中自行对这些内容做相应处理。附录二提供了若干中国古诗英译赏析,以便在提高学生综合文学素养的同时帮助其积累语言知识积淀。

感谢河南大学出版社外文出版中心薛巧玲主任和本书编辑在编辑过程中所付出的艰辛劳动。由于编者学识有限,疏漏之处在所难免,敬请广大读者、同行不吝赐教。

编者
2010年5月

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Section One Introduction

口译简介

要求学生简单了解口译的发展史以及口译机构与测试

- 口译发展历程简介
- 口译定义及种类

教学建议:

本章主要介绍口译发展的历史沿革及口译的类型和种类等基本概念,学生们可以在教师的指导下进行泛读,对于相关情况获取概况性的了解,并对一些口译行业的专门术语有所了解,以便为下一步具体的技能学习做好准备。

Further Reading (拓展阅读)部分介绍了国际会议口译员协会(International Association of Conference Interpreters,简称 AIIC)这一专门职业唯一的全球性专业会议口译协会以及北京外国语大学翻译资格证书的若干情况。在指导学生阅读的过程中,教师应尽量激发学生的学习兴趣和动力,鼓励学生更多更深层次地了解口译这一职业,使学生通过参与课堂教学、教学实习等环节,历练自己的口译实践能力,为将来能够走向职业口译岗位打下坚实的基础。

建议学时:2 学时

讲授方式:研讨型授课

Welcome to the course of Advanced English Interpreting. Born to this world of fast-tempo development, we are barely to survive without communication with the outside world, and thus, foreign languages, though being interestingly tagged as “the weapon in the struggle of life” by Karl Marx, are assuming their perfect role of the ideal medium. For many of us struggling with the tedious, sometimes fruitless reading of English at universities and colleges nationwide, to get our hands on a pinch of English to Chinese, or the converse, oral interpretation polish before saying goodbye to the sheltering ivory tower is likely to serve better as a back-up for job hunting in this highly competitive world. What’s more, even to those who wish not to seek any benefit out of the interpreting business, touching on some oral interpretation drills can indeed help consolidate our language acquisition, and therefore assist us, more or less, with any profession or field, academically or commercially, that we are to further pursue. Before we get to the hands-on practices, let’s try to refresh ourselves with some background information that may later prove useful on the road. To start with, we would love to invite you to look back at a little history.

A Brief Account of OI^① Development

Oral Interpretation, an ancient form of communication medium, has been in existence, without a doubt, for a long span of time. Allegedly, many theologians hold the story of the Tower of Babel (originally named in Hebrew as כְּבֵל מִגְדַל, pronounced Migdal Bavel) from the *Holy Scriptures*, arguing that the Language began to vary from people to people, and even person to person ever since that shocking God-challenging era, approximately over four thousand years ago. The story is roughly documented in the *Bible*, Genesis 11: 1-9. From these verses can we know that the descendants of Noah had migrated from the “east” (Armenia) first southward, along the course of the Tigris, then westward across the Tigris into “a plain in the land of Sennar”. As their growing number forced them to live in localities more and more distant from their patriarchal homes, “they said: Come, let us make a city and a tower, the top whereof may reach to Heaven; and let us make our name famous before we be

① OI: Oral Interpretation

scattered abroad into all lands". The work was soon fairly under way; "and they had brick instead of stones, and slime (asphalt) instead of mortar". But God confounded their tongues, so that they did not understand one another's speech, and thus scattered them from that place into all lands, and they ceased to build the city. To verify the Babel story, we can even get our hands on the Sumerian account nowadays, which dates back to around 3 000 BC: "(Then) Enki, the lord of abundance, (whose) commands are trustworthy; the lord of wisdom, who understands the land; the leader of the gods, endowed with wisdom; the lord of Eridu changed the speech in their mouths, brought contention into it, into the speech of man that (until then) had been one." (See translation from *The Babel of Tongues: A Sumerian Version* by Kramer, S. N., *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 88:108-11, 1968)

In truth, a similar account of the legend is also recorded in the Mexico literature: "And as men were thereafter multiplying they constructed a very high and strong Zacualli, which means 'a very high tower' in order to protect themselves when again the second world should be destroyed. At the crucial moment their languages were changed, and as they did not understand one another, they went into different parts of the world." (See Don Fernando de Alvara Ixtlilxochitl, *Obras Historicas Mexico*, 1891, Vol. I, p. 12.) Same evidence is traceable in Polynesian, American Injun sagas, etc. Being laymen in both history and religion, we are not taking to dig up the accurate time of various languages dispersing all over the face of the globe; however, bearing these tales in mind, we feel safe to say that ever since peoples with different tongues initiated communication in whatsoever means, translation or interpretation took its way to the route of information exchanges. From the connection amongst numerous ancient tribes to the later professionally trained experts engaging in oral interpretation services, oral interpretation has been playing a role of profound significance. As early as the 14th century, a well-known French scholar Pierre Dubois had proposed to set up special educational institutions for the purpose of training professional oral interpreters. His ingenious idea sparked the entirely new practical and academic field, and soon afterwards schools as such came into being. History never ceases to develop,

neither do events stop creating illuminating history milestones. Christopher Columbus (1451 ~ 1506), an Italian navigator, colonizer, and explorer, was very instrumental in Spanish colonization. In order to find a sea route to India for exchange of spices, he sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492. Fortunately, or rather contrary to his expectation, he discovered South America, that is the New World. This event marked the beginning of a new era, also became inspirational for the later progress made in interpretation business. With the additional colonization issue on top-agenda, more communication work must be done to get things going smoothly. Therefore, Columbus sent a number of native Americans to Spain for the training of interpretation. With time, oral interpretation gets more and more complicated and sophisticated. Another indelible progress point in oral interpretation was the 1919 Paris Peace Conference, in which a brand new method called simultaneous interpreting (SI) was initially adopted. This was generally regarded as the official oral interpreters' first challenging debut. Though simultaneous interpreting was applied only to partial sessions, it was a starting line for the new interpretation career. Afterwards, the Nuremberg trials of the Nazi war criminals during 1945 to 1946 called for extensive-scale use of SI, and the effect left almost nothing to be desired. Consequently, the 1946 United Nations Conference called for SI in all working languages. Not only did the meetings get less time-consuming, but also the expenses reduce on end. China followed suit in 1952, recruiting simultaneous interpreters in the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions. The next year, world-renowned AIIC (International Association of Conference Interpreters) was established. This marks the maturing phase of OI development. From this brief account can we see that OI has been evolving for quite a period, and it does play a pivotal role in the better understanding of nations with different cultural backgrounds. In modern days, OI is an indispensable tool for us to overcome the language barriers.

In China, OI got its wing through the frequent international communication with other nations as well. As early as Zhou Dynasty (1100 ~ 770 BC), there were already designated "Official Interpreting" posts established. A great amount of titles or honors were given to those who translate or interpret, such as

“Ji”, “Xiang”, “Yi”, “Xiangxu”, and “Tongue Man”. A more general term is “TongYi”, and many of those interpreters actually contributed significantly to the development of our communication with the outside world. Modern progress and interpretation are also interdependent. Particularly after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of CPC, OI is much more required in fields such as culture, politics, military, economics and science, because any time delay in information obtaining may cost us great opportunities for development. Besides, for active involvement in international affairs and close contact with advanced technologies, we must learn from other cultures or introduce our own through the medium of language; thus interpreting comes better in the picture.

In order to turn out eligible oral interpreters, a vast number of prestigious universities and schools offer academic or training programs on OI studies. Domestically, some options are hugely popular amongst Chinese college students who wish to pursue professional OI training. For example, Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation of Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU), Graduate Institute of Interpretation and Translation of Shanghai International Studies University (SISU). Other schools such as Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, Xiamen University, Sichuan University also offer good courses in OI. Department of Translation at Chinese University of Hong Kong, Department of Translation at Lingnan University, Center for Translation at Hong Kong Baptist University, Graduate Institute of Translation and Interpretation Studies at Fu Jen Catholic University also rank top. For those who are ambitious to attain a degree overseas, they may choose some world-reputed institutions like University of Bath, University of Leeds, Westminster University, and University of Newcastle, etc. Those educational schools offer the best training in OI throughout the globe.

Definition and Variety of OI

One might ask such a question as “What is indeed oral interpretation?” after or before get to know OI. As a matter of fact, it is no easy job to offer a fixed or commonly acknowledged version of answer to that enquiry. Obviously, we are certainly aware that OI falls under the category of “translation”, which

may be much inclusive of a big variety of studies. As a deriving branch, OI shares part of the similarities with translation, but maintains its unique oral characteristics. In this course, it is not our intention to discuss and compare these two large terms in great details, hereby we only try to draw up a simple-to-accept definition of OI itself.

Speaking of OI, many probably think it reasonable to elucidate oral interpretation in a literal way, that is, "to oral interpret" means "to translate orally or verbally". Therefore, oral interpretation can be simply explained as "to render in other language(s) in a spoken rather than a written means". However, the real deal of OI is a lot more complex than that rudimentary version. OI, like other forms of rendering the original messages into another tongue, must cope with two essential aspects as well. One focus lies in the conversion of format, while the other rests with decoding the content messages. Oral interpretation is a social activity which involves the instant, complete message transmission for the purpose of primarily cross-cultural communication. Such fundamental means require the exchange of human verbal expressions at close intervals in order to get the apperceived and apprehended messages across promptly between and/or amongst various languages. Ideas being properly expressed should not necessarily cost a great amount of time, for obviously the two or more parties engaged in the communication process are undoubtedly awaiting the feedback and responses from one another. Also, efficient decisions are to be made within a tight budget of time. Less consumption of time is decisive in deals of all sorts, business, politics or seminars, etc. That means less time for interpreters to collect, digest, and re-encode the message, which may be very likely to result in errors or mistakes committed intentionally or otherwise. Tough as though, we, as oral interpreters are obligated to tackle such challenge-posing obstacles at all cost. Somehow with accumulation of experience and practice, hopefully, we shall, or rather have to, feel comfortable about managing the multi-task of swift conveying of the original messages clothed in distinguishable languages in a more or less accurate way. (God forbid and help us with that!) That maybe the ethical thing for OI workers to do, I am afraid.

Definitely, OI appears to be a monotonous, passive, and mechanical job

for robot-like interpreters as a routine. Indeed not so in many cases! Considerable facts, geographically or historically, have proved beyond any reasonable doubt that OI has been and will always be artificial behavioral message-reproduction that calls for nothing but complexity, activity and creativity. The orally interpreted messages reflect not in the least the entirely literal meanings of words concerning, but cover a variety of outer ranges relating to subaudition, speech stylistics, cultural characteristics, speakers' mood so on and so forth. In this sense, OI can be understood as a comprehensive behavior combining messages transmitted across different languages, cultures, mind-sets, ideologies, etc.

Once again, to clarify the intentions of ours as not so much to befuddle the readers, we would like to quote a more acceptable version of the OI service generated from the market economy context. To this highly globalized world, the motivation of training, recruiting, and hiring professional oral interpreters is to offer a certain sort of "service", which in most cases is in demand of payment in whatever form. Thus we are entitled to interpret OI, in simple terms, as "essentially a service activity with a communicative function done on request and in return for a financial reward". Hopefully, the last attempt of defining OI may act as a somewhat consolation for those students formerly and presently engaged in the trying grudges of learning and practicing OI drills, especially those who are almost reaching the break-down brink and in desperate search of the light at the end of tunnel!

Various Types of OI

Roughly speaking, OI is presented in many forms. The common categorization of OI is frequently carried out according to form, direction or task.

OI, according to form, can be classified into consecutive interpreting, simultaneous interpreting, liaison interpreting, relay interpreting, whispering interpreting, alternating interpreting, sight interpreting, etc.

In conformity to direction, one-way interpreting and two-way interpreting are mostly displayed.

In line with task issue, OI denominations are often labeled respectively as

ceremonial interpreting, conference interpreting, court interpreting, escort interpreting, community interpreting, diplomatic interpreting, and guide interpreting, etc.

For beginners, the three fundamental types are mostly applied to on various occasions. We shall, for the same purpose, primarily discuss and therefore practice these three forms on regular basis.

Firstly, consecutive interpreting(CI): it is used in a large scale for most meetings and conferences, though not very popular in today's UN and EU sessions or other similar international events. Probably only one tenth of such occasions requires the usage of CI. But this by no means denies the practicality of consecutive interpretation. For CI procedures, interpreters do not begin oral translation until partial or complete speeches have been delivered. This method caters to as many occasions as business presentations, academic lectures, ceremonial speeches, trade negotiations, press conferences, interviews as well as visiting, etc. CI offers us more time to ponder, organize and even to correct. In real-life circumstances, oral interpretation intervals in CI may not effectively provide time enough for checking or consulting other references, but the sparse reload time in such breath-taking atmosphere does count as a real blessing for us interpreters. Cherish it for we may not be shown the slightest amount of mercy on other occasions. A case in point is simultaneous interpreting(SI) method.

Secondly, simultaneous interpreting, a genuine nightmare for all interpreters. SI is the process of interpreting the words of one language into another at the same time as the presenter is speaking. The lag time set for "admissible same time" is just a few seconds away, one complete sentence at most. But of course, such cutting-edge past-paced rendering process must be facilitated with customized equipment. The interpreters are accommodated in a little room called booth, not necessarily a perfect niche for appreciating the going-ons outside like in the operas, but for working their heads (also ears and mouths) off to catch up by jumping to and fro between languages with the abominable speakers who are barely mindful of the miserable existence of us interpreters. Besides the mission impossible of mixed torrent tongue movement, we have the headphones and microphone to delight ourselves with, which both

require certain manners. Though evil for us, SI may prove to be a blessing in disguise for its highly efficiency in terms of time. Therefore, costly it is, overwhelmingly majority of international conferences are conducted with the aid of SI. Thanks to this anti-normal-brain challenge, the smoothness of UN meetings running in multi-languages is safeguarded. However, due to the extremely rapid process of SI, it is understandable the precision and exactitude may not be 100% counted on.

Another scene of OI we sometimes witness is sight interpreting. It can be considered as very close to the form of simultaneous interpreting, often used in interpreting documents, papers, statements and so on. But seeing the text or manuscript of some prepared speeches can indeed add up to the credibility and quality of the interpreting.

To save time and space in our discussion of OI, we shall spare the other types. However, we must know that some of them are likewise crucial in many events.

Section Summary

Apart from the dry issues mentioned above, there are actually more to be desired for further deliberation. For instance, the difference between OI and written translation, the criteria for OI, the requirements for oral interpreters, the theorem of OI studies, the establishment of OI teams, financial rewards standard. Since this course-book intends no academic monographic elaborations, some of those chapters are simply wiped off, and some shall be discussed in later divisions. It is considered to work better for theory to be accompanied by practice in terms of any sort of language instruction. Therefore further theoretical narration will come along with various exercises from now on. But first things first, prior to our official drills, let's get fully prepared both linguistically and mentally.

Points to Ponder

1. How would you define oral interpretation in your own words?
2. What do you think are the features of oral interpretation?
3. In what way are oral interpretation and translation different?

4. What else do you know about the history of OI?
5. What kind of preparation do you think we must do for OI studies?
6. Have you been ever to any OI occasion? What impresses you most?
7. What do you think you will benefit from studying oral interpretation?

Useful Vocabulary

资质认定译员 accredited interpreter

隔音状况 acoustic insulation

计算机辅助翻译 CAT(Computer Aided Translation)

强势语言 dominant language

次语言 sublanguage

调频口译设备 FM interpreting equipment

内部文本 inbound text

红外口译设备 infrared interpreting equipment

译员操纵台 interpreter console

桌台式发送器 tabletop transmitter

Further Reading

Passage A

Introduction to AIIC^①

What is AIIC?

AIIC is the only worldwide association for conference interpreters. Founded in 1953, it brings together more than 2 800 professional conference interpreters in over 250 cities in over 90 countries.

Language and languages are at the heart of international communication. The possibility to say exactly what one wants to say in one's own language and to understand perfectly what others are saying is a basic right. AIIC plays a central role in guaranteeing this right by working with all types of users to match supply to demand. AIIC promotes the profession of conference interpretation in the interest of both users and practitioners by setting high standards, promoting sound training practices and fostering professional ethics.

① AIIC: International Association of Conference Interpreters 国际会议口译员协会

Membership in AIIC is achieved by peer review through a system of sponsorship. By entering the association, members make a commitment to respect AIIC's stringent code of ethics and professional standards.

The association aims to represent the profession as a whole and to act on behalf of all conference interpreters. By expanding membership, especially in parts of the world where the profession is now growing rapidly, and by staying abreast of relevant developments AIIC aims to contribute to the overall good of the community of interpreters.

What does AIIC do?

AIIC negotiates collective agreements with major international organizations governing terms and conditions of employment.

AIIC stays abreast of market developments through the work of the Private Market Sector, which has contributed to expertise in the area of conference organization and to recognition of the role of the consultant interpreter.

AIIC works to represent all conference interpreters and in collaboration with UNESCO^① which has undertaken a long-term project on the definition and recognition of the profession.

AIIC sets standards in close cooperation with normative bodies like the International Organization for Standardization, where specifications for interpreting booths are established. AIIC also provides expert guidance to architects designing conference centers or with television channels that want to program a satellite link with voice traffic.

AIIC promotes professional excellence and defends working conditions. AIIC has collected a large corpus of information about the optimum conditions for quality interpretation. Recently, AIIC worked hand-in-hand with a recognized international expert in work-place medicine to establish the correlation between working conditions and interpreter performance.

AIIC promotes best practice in training through its survey of interpreting schools and sponsorship of continuing education courses.

① UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization 联合国教科文组织