

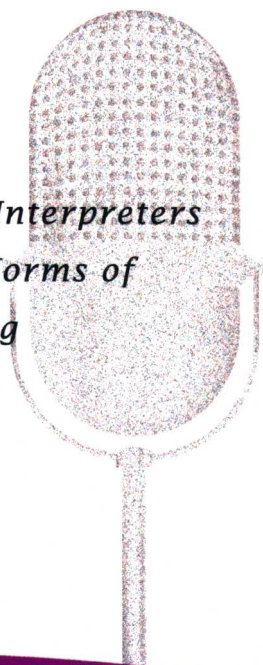
从口译员的操控看

口译规范

在会议口译中的作用

■ 王海若 著

*The Manipulation of Conference Interpreters
- A Study on the Role of the Norms of
Conference Interpreting*



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Preface

THE MANIPULATION OF CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS-A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF THE NORMS OF CONFERENCE INTERPRETING is about to be published. I suddenly found that writing a preface to it cannot be more difficult since it is such an emotional moment.

This book is based on my dissertation in partial fulfillment of requirements for Degree of Doctor of Philosophy of Shanghai International Studies University. It reports a study that explored the possible manipulation by conference interpreters in their performance through the examination of the relationship between their decision-making in their interpreting behavior and the norms of conference interpreting. By the adoption of a social oriented approach to Interpreting Studies, the research explored the influence of sociological factors on the decision-making of the interpreters and its implications on theory and practice.

The research question and conceptual hypothesis is proposed: the interpreter plays a part of manipulation in the target text, which is norm-governed. And four hypotheses are proposed to explore this question.

A corpus based on the transcription of the performance of 12

professional interpreters in eight international conferences with general topics was established for the study. From this corpus, 1,336 cases based on shifts or non-shifts between the source text and the target text in acceptable interpreted production were randomly selected, with each belonging to one category of the independent variable-norms of interpreting-and one category of the dependent variable-strategies of interpreting.

With quantitative and qualitative analysis, a strong association is established between norms of interpreting and strategies of interpreting. And there are four points of major findings.

(1) The two norms have different frequencies of appearance, with the communication norm appearing more frequently than the accountability norm.

(2) Various strategies have different frequencies of appearance, with cohesion change, information change, paraphrase, partial translation and unit shift being the five most frequently adopted strategies.

(3) When the interpreter tries to conform to the accountability norm, the strategies of literal translation, loan, calque, partial translation and paraphrase are more likely to be adopted.

(4) When the interpreter tries to conform to the communication norm, the strategies of converses, cultural filtering, emphasis change, interpersonal change, transposition and cohesion change are more likely to be adopted.

The findings of this study have both theoretical and practical implications. The theoretical implications are:

(1) The findings could be used as a basis for relevant research based on theories of norms of interpreting, such as quality assessment, interpreters' accreditation, etc.; and

(2) It could potentially complement the sense-making mechanism of earlier paradigms.

The practical implications are:

(1) It could have some implications to the training of conference interpreters;

(2) It could also have some implications for the continuous improvement of practicing interpreters.

.....

I am indebted to a large number of people for help with this book.

I want to first thank my PhD supervisor Professor Harry P. DAI for his patient guidance, not only for this dissertation, but also for the three years being a PhD candidate under his supervision. Special thanks are due to Professor CHAI Mingjiong, whose breadth of vision and kind guidance undoubtedly gave me a lot of inspiration for this dissertation.

I especially want to thank Professor XIE Tianzhen, whose class inspired me with the theoretical foundation for this dissertation. I also want to thank Professor ZHANG Ailing for her kind guidance.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Professor CHEN Jianlin, Professor WANG Xuewen and Professor ZUO Biao for their advice on revision in the dissertation defense.

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Most of all, I thank my mother, my father, my daughter, and my husband for their constant support.

Last but not least, I wish to thank my editors for their hard work and for pushing me to complete all that necessary tasks for the publication of this book.

List of Abbreviations

IS	Interpreting Studies
TS	Translation Studies
DTS Descriptive	Translation Studies
IT paradigm	Interpretive Theory of Translation Paradigm
CP paradigm	Cognitive Processing Paradigm
NL paradigm	Neurophysiological/ Neurolinguistic Paradigm
TT paradigm	Target-text-oriented Translation-theoretical Paradigm
DI paradigm	Dialogic Discourse-based Interaction Paradigm
DIS	Descriptive Interpreting Studies
CTS	Corpus Translation Studies
CIS	Corpus Interpreting Studies
TEC	Translation English Corpus
SL	Source Language
TL	Target Language
TR	Translation Research
IR	Interpreting Research
TT	Target Text
ST	Source Text

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Chapter One

Introduction

The present study investigates the norm-observing behavior of conference interpreters by analyzing the corpus that is based on real-life conference settings. The corpus was established by the researcher for this particular study. Both a quantitative and a qualitative study were carried out by analyzing the data at hand. The present study is aimed at enhancing our understanding of the norm-observing behavior, one of social nature, of conference interpreters. This may be able to help both teachers of conference interpreting and practitioners to better understand the roles that the interpreters play in a conference setting. Thus, it will help the teachers to better guide conference interpreting learners and help the practitioners to enhance conscious decision-making. It could also be useful as a study adopting the social oriented approach in the relatively new target-text-oriented translation (TT) paradigm of Interpreting Studies (IS). Specifically, it intends to explore an interesting problem area: what is the role of interpreters in conference interpreting?

It is obvious that the role of interpreters is more than mere

linguistic transfer, which can be found out from daily observation of the behavior of interpreters, and it is possible that the behavior of interpreters can be better understood from a closer look at the target text. Therefore, a conceptual hypothesis is proposed as the research question: interpreters play a part of manipulation in the target text, which is norm-governed.

To explore this question, four hypotheses are proposed as follows:

Hypothesis 1: The two norms have different frequencies of appearance, with the communication norm appearing more frequently than the accountability norm.

Hypothesis 2: Various strategies have different frequencies of appearance, with information change, literal translation, unit shift, partial translation, and interpersonal change being the five most frequently adopted strategies.

Hypothesis 3 : When the interpreter tries to conform to the accountability norm, the strategies of literal translation and partial translation are more likely to be adopted.

Hypothesis 4: When the interpreter tries to conform to the communication norm, the strategies of cohesion change, converses, emphasis change, information change and unit shift are more likely to be adopted.

1. Necessity for the Study

The study is motivated by some practical reasons. However, what is more important, it also bears some theoretical and practical values.

1.1 Rationale

The rationale of this study is:

(1) that it is important to understand the social aspects of conference interpreting;

(2) that it is necessary to take a social-oriented approach in the study of conference interpreting.

1.1.1 Importance of Understanding the Social Aspects of Conference Interpreting

Sitting in the booth, the conference interpreter helps render a speech by a speaker who is taking the floor into another language. The booth, which insulates the interpreter from the rest of the crowd in the conference room, seems to keep the interpreter in isolation. In reality, however, this isolation is misleading.

Two interesting scenarios are typical in exploring the close connection between the conference interpreter and the social ambiance he/she is working in.

The first scenario: An interpreter is sitting in the booth, interpreting the speech on the floor simultaneously. An audience, who is listening to the target text, possibly out of curiosity of how the interpreter is able to do such a seemingly amazing job, turns and looks back at the interpreter. The interpreter immediately notices this gaze and looks down at the machine to see if the channel is right. After the confirmation of the right channel, he/she starts to monitor her output even more carefully to make sure that this gaze is not because of the unsatisfactory service.

The second scenario: After the presentation made by the