E CONF SERIES

International Conference on Modern Science and Scientific Studies
Hosted online from Madrid, Spain
Website: econfseries.com 20th August 2025

PSYCHOLINGUISTICS AND COGNITIVE SCIENCE IN SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION

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Introduction

In recent years, the issue of simultaneous interpretation has become increasingly important due to simultaneous interpreters rely heavily on working memory to hold and process information from the source language while formulating an equivalent in the target language. Cognitive science studies how interpreters manage this dual task, often switching between listening and speaking almost simultaneously. The interpreter's brain must balance the cognitive load, managing incoming information, language production, and sometimes cultural adaptation, all while avoiding overload. Research in cognitive science helps to understand the limits of this processing capacity and how interpreters can optimize their mental resources. Interpreters often switch between languages quickly, a process that involves complex cognitive mechanisms. Psycholinguistics explores how bilingual individuals manage this switching, how they keep both languages active in their minds, and how they suppress interference from the non-target language. Cognitive science studies how interpreters inhibit the non-active language and avoid code-switching errors, ensuring that they stay within the confines of the target language while translating.

Purpose and Objectives

The aim of the research work is to analyze and elucidate the cognitive and psycholinguistic mechanisms that underpin simultaneous interpretation, with the goal of enhancing the understanding of the mental processes involved. This includes identifying the specific cognitive functions and linguistic strategies that interpreters use to manage the demands of real-time language translation.

The tasks of the research work define the specific steps or objectives that need to be accomplished in order to achieve the aim of the research. The tasks could be outlined as follows:

- conduct a comprehensive review of existing literature on psycholinguistics, cognitive science, and simultaneous interpretation to identify current knowledge, gaps, and theoretical frameworks.
- develop a theoretical framework that integrates psycholinguistic and cognitive science theories with the practice of simultaneous interpretation, focusing on cognitive load, working memory, attention, and language processing.
- analyze how cognitive load affects the performance of interpreters, identifying the factors that contribute to increased cognitive demands and their impact on interpretation accuracy and fluency.
- examine the role of working memory and attention in simultaneous interpretation, determining how these cognitive functions contribute to managing the dual tasks of listening and speaking.
- investigate the processes of language switching and error correction during simultaneous interpretation, analyzing how interpreters maintain coherence and accuracy while rapidly transitioning between languages.
- explore the neural correlates of simultaneous interpretation through methods such as neuroimaging or cognitive modeling to understand the brain's involvement in managing these tasks.

Methods

The methods used in the research work: literature review, textual analysis, comparative analysis. Simultaneous interpreters need strong language skills and sharp memory. Long-term memory is key. It helps interpreters store vast information like words and cultural contexts. They can quickly retrieve this info during interpretation. Experts rely on long-term memory to recall past sessions and predict what's next. This reduces effort and enhances performance. Cultural knowledge is essential for interpreters because it helps them convey messages accurately and overcome cultural barriers. It also prevents misunderstandings. Despite advancing technology human interpreters are still superior in this aspect. Ethical implications

also play a key role in professional practice and will be covered next. Interpreters need to listen and talk at the same time which is hard because of articulatory suppression. Articulatory suppression is the decreased ability to retain information when speaking and listening simultaneously, as the cognitive resources needed for both tasks compete for limited attentional resources.

Results

Understanding how articulatory suppression impacts simultaneous interpreting is crucial. It shows that speaking while listening affects retention and the quality of interpretations. Research proves this negative effect on holding onto prose. So, we need effective strategies to face these challenges. The brainwork involved in listening while speaking demonstrates the difficulty of retaining information under such conditions. Knowing how these tasks relate helps us grasp their effects on our minds better. Overall, the importance of continued research in this area cannot be overstated, as it has the potential to significantly enhance the quality and effectiveness of interpretation. Exploring possible solutions to the challenges posed by listening while speaking can benefit not only interpreters but also the individuals and organizations that rely on their services.

Conclusion

Simultaneous interpreting is a cognitively demanding task that requires interpreters to manage complex processes such as memory, attention, and rapid language switching under time pressure. Performance is influenced by factors including cognitive load, working memory capacity, language proficiency, and the specific characteristics of the language pair and translation direction. Effective interpreting relies on tailored strategies to handle linguistic asymmetries, articulatory suppression, and real-time error correction. Continued research into these cognitive mechanisms and challenges is essential for improving interpreter training, refining strategies, and developing supportive technologies to enhance accuracy and fluency in professional practice.

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