

Peculiarities of interpretation teaching in higher school

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Nowadays, English is considered native by more than 400 million people residing in the USA, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand etc. However, many more people, namely more than a billion speak English as a second or third language at work or at home. English has become a language of business, science, pop-culture and the Internet. Frequently English is called a kind of *lingua franca* of our times.

Such a situation is not favoured by all. Obviously such a dominant position of English in the world will have delayed economic, political, cultural and even geopolitical consequences. Back in 1889 «the Iron Chancellor» Otto Bismarck considered the fact that North Americans speak English a crucial event of the modern history.

However, it's not a mistake to state that the majority of the English users are not fluent in it. Typical in this case is the limited vocabulary, rather complicated and primitive speech. Those who value the beauty of the English language are raising the alarm as under the influence of the numerous factors, including millions of people for whom English is not a language-environment, a language-life but only a purely pragmatic means of communication, it is turning into rude and elementary when the distinction between the right and inadmissible is eliminated.

In this connection the issue of necessity of the profession of an interpreter arises. Can this profession turn into a kind of superfluous formality? This issue does not look as simple as it might appear at first sight. Moreover, it cannot be but taken into account. Suffice to say that most congresses in different sciences have been held with interpretation into several languages among English is the one spread mostly. It proves that the profession of an interpreter is not threatened with extinction unless an interpreter is a highly qualified professional.

It is rather easy to differentiate between an expert and a newcomer, a D student or a slacker. There are many traits of character important for a good interpreter-professional, but among the most important are good nerves, diplomacy, an ability to

address and endure. It is important to remember that interpretation is both physical and mental work. Under such loading an interpreter is advised to live a healthy life style. An ability to absorb information and quickly accommodate to different environments is another significant skill. Although one of the undeniably foremost abilities mentioned by all the experts and necessary for both translator and interpreters is love of words. Interpreters advise not to consider a source text a «straight jacket» but to be able to abstract oneself from the word cover and fully understand the situation described by the sentence or the whole text and then the translation will be born itself and the mind will find the necessary words. However, to abstract oneself from the word cover it is important to capture the meaning and this is not possible without constant exercises with vocabulary of the foreign and native languages.

An interpreter has to keep in mind a great number of the interlingual equivalence pairs. They are first of all the terms, idioms, proverbs and even quotations. Equivalents and other vocabulary correspondences kept in the memory of the interpreter serve as «supporters» in the process of interpretation. Their importance can hardly be overvalued as they are the units which help an interpreter understand the meaning of the context and expression on the whole. Although, their knowledge is not enough as an interpreter should «follow the fashion», namely remember of the vogue words.

Interpretation – is not only artistic work but also rather subjective. An author of the textbook on interpretation will hardly ever suggest variants of interpretation as he/she might be criticized. The reason is that there are both a lot of wrong and correct renderings. That is why to learn to interpret means to learn the vocabulary and develop the skill to of understanding synonymic flexibility. Synonymy should not be treated as a set of words similar in meaning belonging to the same part of language but as an ability of any language to express the idea with the help of different means: vocabulary, stylistic devices and contextual «guessing».

References

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