

## PHILOLOGY

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**PSYCHOLOGICAL AND ETHICAL ASPECTS OF THE INTERPRETATION PROCESS**

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*Specific psychological and ethical features of the interpretation activity, contributing to interpreting at the acceptable level, are considered. Linguistic abilities, the interpreter's psychological features, knowing culture and ethics of interpretation and communication would be advantageous in creating his positive image and successful performance. Some recommendations on these subject matters are given. The interpreter should adequately estimate his linguistic and interpretation limitations and possibilities. Specific attention is paid to appearance, dressing, health issues, habits, and cultural differences, manifested in behavior. Apart from being aware of his rights and duties, interpreter should know his don'ts. All these issues are resolved at practical classes.*

**Introduction**

Apart from having good linguistic and interpretation skills, knowing cultural differences etc., practicing interpreters should possess specific psychological features enabling them feel comfortable in this job and grow in it. Awareness of ethical aspects of the profession will add essentially to their positive image.

**Analysis of studies and publications**

These problems are almost not dealt with at the theoretical or practical classes, as not very much important and the ones which are caught up with later on in real interpretation conditions. Responsibilities of a would-be interpreter, his character traits he brings to the place, the so called pros and cons of his psychological and physical development, should be objectively analyzed, taken into account for further improvement and/or amendment. It's essential to be aware of personal possibilities and limitations as regards interpretative skills and consequently, not to under/overestimate one's own value or abilities.

Psychological training seems extremely essential, as this job is done under constant stress in unpredictable situations, therefore such qualities as peace of mind, confidence, self-control, reaction etc. should be imparted at the student's bench as well as good manners—instilled in them in advance.

The problem defined is covered to some extent by both native and foreign scholars. Those are particularly the works of I.S. Alexeeva [1], V.V. Alimov [2], G. Miram [3], G.I. Sydoruk [4], A. Chuzhakin [5; 6], A.F. Shyryaev [7].

**Task Outline**

The task of the article is to investigate the most essential and necessary psychological and ethical features which every interpreter should possess in order to be effective communicator and interpreter, who would convey not only words, but impressions with sounds and body language.

**Stages of Gaining Excellence in Interpretation**

It is axiomatic, that the adequate interpretation must be accurate, natural, and clear. Hence, linguistic intuition is helpful in having translation tailored to fit the needs of a client.

But oral presentation is not mere awareness of some languages and the rules of language transformations. It is the case where linguistic expertise, “the nerve”, culture and manners are inextricably interwoven.

There are certain stages, which make an interpreter skillful, besides of his being skilled in terms of English grammar and vocabulary. They can fit this category in case of having stable practice and growing confidence and feeling of perfection, otherwise their nervousness will hinder them from doing their job at an acceptable level. To prove oneself equal to the task means to lessen and conceal nervousness and show your interpretation skills to their best.

One can succeed where others might fail just due to his ability to overcome his limitations and demonstrate possibilities. The translation reads to the ear like an original itself if it is flowing smoothly, and for a mature interpreter it's not a big deal to confront with grammatical, lexical and semantic complexities. It's a great responsibility to impart the message given to you by another, to be someone's voice, when you know that this someone totally depends on you to speak for him. The major problem experienced by all cultures is one of communications. When you add language barriers the likelihood of miscommunications escalates appreciably. Therefore, interpreters are a group of greatly needed professionals. As the world is becoming more culturally diverse this profession will be in even greater demand. It's rather challengeable work which demands an interpreter's desire to excel through the whole period of his involvement into this business.

Hence the term interpretation denotes the oral form of the translation process, the study of translation theory should include specific knowledge of interpretation processes described and grounded in numerous works mentioned above. But still there are many issues that are waiting for their resolution as regards peculiarities of interpretation, its psychological and ethic aspects.

Every interpreter should keep in mind the old saying “learn yourself” and be able to answer who is he:

– he brings his character and skills to the place, his integrity and willingness to stretch and continuously learn new words and phrases, their meanings and applications, new subject fields.

To convey all the linguistic and paralinguistic aspects of the message he should know cultures. Language is inextricably linked to culture, and often the way ideas are expressed in a given language is dictated by the corresponding culture’s view of the concept.

Rendering the same idea in another language may require a shift in perspective for cultural reasons. Interpreters must be aware of such phenomena and make the appropriate adaptations.

Even gestures used by foreigners should be well known by interpreter. Many of gestures are appropriate only in informal situations, others are considered rude. Some clients make many gestures when they speak, so they are sometimes said to talk with their hands. Interpreter translates most of those gestures into language improving and correcting his client’s speech. A facial expression, such as a smile or a frown, often makes it clear whether a gesture shows approval or disapproval, pleasure or impatience.

Interpreter imitates to some extent the same expressions, but he never adds to them, overplays, or shows with his own gestures, expressions, or his eyes rolled up, that he disagrees with the statements, finds them stupid or inarticulate.

Unfortunately, this happens often enough especially with fresh interpreters.

Sometimes it is not just a matter of substituting one term for another, however. A concept in one culture may simply not exist in another one, and a descriptive phrase to convey the idea adequately is used. As a result, the target-language version of a message is frequently longer and wordier than the source-language version. Sometimes he has to be more verbose than the original speaker simply because of the grammar and syntax of the target language. Interpreting, both sequential and simultaneous, unlike translation, must be performed in real time; in other words, the message must be delivered immediately to listeners who are present at the time of

communication. As a result, particularly when performing the latter the following is taken into account:

- 1) speed of the source-language speaker’s utterances;

- 2) grammar and syntax of the target language;

- 3) ability of the listener to process and comprehend the target-language message at a high rate of speed.

It may be physically possible for an interpreter to keep up with a speaker if he accurately interprets the source-language message without translating every single word of the original, even though equivalents exist for those words in the target language using speech compression.

Interpreter should know all his pros and cons as regards his skills. Knowing this influences what job he will apply for. He might love and feel comfortable in one sphere of knowledge and be indifferent or not to know some others.

He should stay within his comfort level for the time being. Due to their character traits some like high pressure rapid discussion, others prefer smooth speeches. Everyone determines for himself what arena he likes to work in – a lions den or a lamb’s pen. Because of their psychological temperament interpreters have different reaction to speech, therefore some can work under high pressure, and others can’t.

Conference speakers generally are uptight, and interpreter is a stranger for them, who doesn’t know what the former might say or how the latter will perform, so their anxiety transfers onto each other and both get doubly burdened.

Some are strong in interpreting from English into Ukrainian which requires more skill, because he must have good ear, distinguish sounds correctly, know jargon, idioms and dialects, etc. Others feel better in interpreting visa versa.

Interpreter should know his client, the one whose speech he has been asked to interpret. It’s good to read his works in advance or speak with him about the matter.

He demands of himself truth, accuracy and clarity; he must want to impart the author’s words exactly in the way he was intended to. The job cannot just be a job – he has to want to accurately convey the meaning.

Interpreter should be of one accord with his client. If the latter is trying to sell a particular product and he hates the product, he shouldn’t take the job, but be strong enough to say “no” no matter how much he would have earned; i.e. both should have similar values. Interpreter is a voice without opinion. He has much entrusted to – there is power in being a bridge between the parts, a very privileged position that must be treated with respect. Not only words does he convey, but impressions with sounds and body language.

Appropriate appearance, dressing for the job is essential.

He takes care of his own health being in close contact with many people. Taking constant care of oral and nasal cavities.

Clients might dislike the smell of cigarette smoke, so if the interpreter is a smoker he must pay attention to the fact that this will be detected in his clothing.

This alone may exclude him from being hired. Interpreter always shows up in good shape, fresh and rested.

He dresses differently for a medical convention versus a dog show competition or athletic event.

The most important thing here is not to draw attention of the audience to himself.

He brings his limitations with him and he must know about them. It's normal to have them, all people do. But the interpreter shouldn't say he can do something that he cannot.

If his language/interpretative skills are limited he would rather say so and specify.

### **Don'ts of Interpreter**

Every interpreter should know his don'ts – what he is not supposed to do while performing:

- to give his opinion or comments, unless of course he is asked;
- to add or delete meanings or distort information;
- to put forth his ideas or agendas;
- to interrupt or draw attention to himself;
- to stop speaking (interpreting) when arguments arise;
- to stop learning. (vocabulary is learned with practice opportunity and a desire to improve, but heart attitude is what undergirds it all);
- to exclude the one he is assigned to, from the conversation (i.e. a debate brakes out between several people and the interpreter just waits until it is finished, excluding his client from involvement);
- to keep on working in the sphere if it is not his calling (the best way to correct the mistake – to leave the job);
- to take a job that compromises him or his beliefs. He and his reputation are on the line.

Good translator is good for twenty minutes, and then his skills diminish as attention span decreases dramatically.

The activity requires simultaneous concentration and mobilisation of all mental and physical resources; therefore he gets tired very quickly. It's not a problem to tell he needs a break or replacement, as the symptoms are very clear.

He begins to hesitate, make simple mistakes, pick at his clothes, stammer, ask to repeat as he missed the point, mispronounce words, omit words and meanings, his eyes start to stare questioningly and he goes blank.

Sometimes it entails funny situations; sometimes results might be very dramatic.

Once the interpreter got very tired working for hours without break until he started slurring and mumbling. Instead of saying "satisfy needs", he pronounced "satisfy nudes" which resulted in laughter.

A responsible client will recognize the difficulty of the task of interpreting, and not require unreasonable expectations.

Five hour meetings are unreasonable. It is analogous to asking a hundred meter sprinter who has just won the race to keep sprinting until he is asked to stop. Interpreters need to rest and they need to speak up when this is not recognized.

Every experience of interpretation is useful and interesting in its own way.

These are precious seasons in the lives people irrespective of their part of an interpreter or client, when they are together – to help one another to the best they can be.

As usual the work of an interpreter is a corporate activity – it means you are not alone, you work as one group, therefore, such qualities as mutual support, encouragement, good willing, cheering up, relief etc., should be implanted deeply to avoid such bad instances, as unhealthy competitiveness, envy or correcting each others mistakes in public during performance which is absolutely inadmissible, and which unfortunately still happen. A mature interpreter should instruct the beginner in a polite and friendly manner without mocking or rudely criticizing him out loud.

### **Usefulness of interpretation activity in the classroom**

The need of imitational technologies at practical classes implies simulation of real interpretation processes, when a student interprets in front of the audience, the rest acting correspondingly as his colleagues by making notes of his drawbacks and progress in psychological, ethical and linguistic spheres. This reproduction of real situation helps considerably in overcoming psychological complexes and language barriers, fighting with some cultural weaknesses and behavioural imperfections. Interpretation is a natural and necessary activity. Outside the classroom – in offices, banks, factories, shops and airports translation is going on all the time.

Students should feel comfortable in it for long. Besides it is priceless in complementing language learning. It develops three qualities essential to all language learning:

- accuracy;
- clarity;
- flexibility.

It trains the practitioner to search (flexibility), for the most appropriate words (accuracy) to convey what is meant (clarity).

### Conclusion

The students – would-be interpreters should get rid of psychological language barriers before their involvement into the business of interpretation.

Knowing client, dialects, nuances of language, culture, ethical aspects is all but extremely essential.

The ethical issue is much more complicated as it seems at the first glance. Not only it presupposes some kind of ideal loyalty to a source text, author or sender, often pitted against similar loyalty to a receiving language, culture or receiver.

Ethical rules should control interpretation as a profession, regulating the interpreter's relations with other interpreters, with clients and with questions like official secrets.

Besides, interpreter constantly struggles with the temptation to expose his identity or personality through overplaying, or abusing his unique position, etc., knowing that he must remain invisible and anonymous serviceman.

Not everyone can suppress that humiliating feeling inside, so this issue should be dealt somehow too prior to the real performance.

Certainly, knowing that practice is the criterion of truth, we assume that most of psychological and ethical issues are resolved at work through observing and imitating the performance of others, but it is expedient to start facing and neutralizing them at practical classes.

### Literature

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Психологічні й етичні аспекти процесу усного перекладу

Розглянуто специфічні психологічні й етичні особливості професії перекладача, що сприяють виконанню перекладу на прийнятному рівні. Лінгвістичні здібності, особливості психіки перекладача, знання культури й етики спілкування та перекладу сприяють створенню його позитивного іміджу та успішній роботі. Надано рекомендації відносно питань, що розглядаються, а саме: адекватна оцінка лінгвістичних та перекладацьких можливостей та недоліків. Особлива увага приділяється зовнішності, одягу, здоров'ю, звичкам, культурним відмінностям, присутнім в поведінці. Окрім знання прав й обов'язків, перекладачу слід знати те, що йому забороняється робити в процесі усного перекладу. Всі ці проблеми розглядаються і вирішуються на практичних заняттях.

Г.И. Сидорук

Психологические и этические аспекты процесса устного перевода

Рассмотрены специфические психологические и этические особенности профессии переводчика, способствующие выполнению перевода на приемлемом уровне. Лингвистические способности, особенности психики переводчика, знание культуры и этики перевода и общения способствуют созданию его положительного имиджа и успешной работе. Даны рекомендации относительно рассматриваемых вопросов, а именно: адекватная оценка лингвистических и переводческих возможностей и недостатков. Особое внимание уделено внешности, одежде, здоровью, привычкам, культурным различиям, присутствующим в поведении. Помимо знания прав и обязанностей, переводчику следует знать, что ему запрещено делать в процессе устного перевода. Все эти проблемы рассматриваются и решаются на практических занятиях.