

DISCOURSE ANALYZE OF EXTRALINGUISTIC FEATURES OF ORAL TRANSLATION

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Abstract. *Oral translation, often referred to as interpreting, is a dynamic and multifaceted communicative activity that transcends the simple substitution of words between two languages. While linguistic competence is undoubtedly fundamental, the effectiveness of an interpreter relies heavily on a complex interplay of extralinguistic features. These features encompass the cultural, social, cognitive, and situational factors that shape the interpretation process and ultimately determine the accuracy, fluency, and appropriateness of the delivered message. Neglecting these extralinguistic dimensions can lead to misunderstandings, misinterpretations, and ultimately, a breakdown in communication. This article aims to delve into the intricate world of extralinguistic features in oral translation, examining their impact and highlighting their crucial role in ensuring successful cross-cultural communication.*

Introduction. Extralinguistic features refer to all the factors influencing the interpreting process that are external to the linguistic code itself. They are the contextual elements that provide meaning and shape the way language is used and understood. In the context of oral translation, these features are particularly important because interpreters must navigate not only the linguistic nuances of two languages but also the cultural and social landscapes in which those languages are embedded. Some of the most significant extralinguistic features impacting oral translation include:





This encompasses the shared values, beliefs, customs, traditions, and worldviews that characterize a particular cultural group. Cultural context influences everything from preferred communication styles to acceptable levels of formality and directness.

This includes the specific social setting in which the interpretation is taking place, the relationships between the participants, their roles, and the power dynamics at play.

Situational Context refers to the immediate environment in which the interpretation is occurring, including the location, time, purpose of the communication, and any other relevant circumstances.

Cognitive Factors involve the mental processes and abilities of the interpreter, such as memory, attention, problem-solving skills, and knowledge of the subject matter.

Nonverbal Communication includes body language, facial expressions, gestures, tone of voice, and other nonverbal cues that convey meaning and emotions.

Interpreter's Background and Experience: This encompasses the interpreter's linguistic proficiency, cultural competence, subject matter expertise, ethical considerations, and personal experiences.

Culture is deeply intertwined with language, shaping the way people think, communicate, and perceive the world. Interpreters must possess a strong understanding of both the source and target cultures to accurately convey the intended meaning of a message. Several aspects of cultural context can significantly impact oral translation:

Cultures differ in their preferred communication styles, ranging from direct and explicit to indirect and implicit. In direct communication cultures, such as those prevalent in many Western countries, speakers tend to be straightforward and leave little room for ambiguity. In contrast, indirect communication cultures, common in many Asian and Middle Eastern societies, rely heavily on context,



nonverbal cues, and implied meanings. Interpreters must be aware of these differences and adjust their delivery accordingly. For example, a direct request in English might need to be softened and phrased more indirectly when translated into Uzbek to avoid causing offense.

Cultural values and beliefs influence the topics that are considered appropriate for discussion, the way people express emotions, and the types of arguments that are persuasive. Interpreters must be sensitive to these values and avoid making statements that could be offensive or culturally insensitive. For instance, discussing personal finances in detail might be considered inappropriate in some cultures.

Humor and idiomatic expressions are often deeply rooted in culture and can be difficult to translate accurately. What is considered funny in one culture may be incomprehensible or even offensive in another. Similarly, idioms often rely on cultural knowledge and shared experiences that may not exist in the target culture. Interpreters must be creative and resourceful in finding equivalent expressions or explaining the meaning of these culturally specific elements.

Cultures have different rules and expectations regarding social interaction, including greetings, eye contact, personal space, and gift-giving. Interpreters must be aware of these norms and ensure that their behavior is appropriate in the given context. For example, the level of formality expected in interactions with elders or authority figures may vary significantly between cultures.

Certain topics may be considered taboo or sensitive in some cultures, and interpreters must be careful to avoid raising them or to handle them with great sensitivity. These topics may include religion, politics, sex, or death.

The social context of an interpreting situation also plays a crucial role in shaping the communication process. The relationships between the participants, their roles, and the power dynamics at play can all influence the way language is used and understood.

In conclusion, oral translation is a complex and demanding skill that requires more than just linguistic proficiency. Success as an interpreter hinges on a profound understanding of extralinguistic features, including cultural context, social dynamics, situational factors, cognitive abilities, and nonverbal communication. By taking a holistic approach to oral translation, considering these factors alongside linguistic competence, interpreters can enhance their accuracy, fluency, and cultural sensitivity, thereby facilitating more effective and meaningful communication across cultural boundaries. Moving forward, interpreter training programs should prioritize the development of these crucial extralinguistic skills, preparing future generations of interpreters to navigate the complexities of cross-cultural communication and bridge the divides between people and cultures. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the importance of skilled and culturally aware interpreters will only continue to grow, making them indispensable facilitators of understanding and cooperation on a global scale.

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