

Teaching priorities in educating student interpreters

Speaking about teaching interpreting in its different modes – oral consecutive, oral simultaneous and oral whispered – we are to speak about the constituents of the professional competence in oral translation whose very important element is the ability to operate an extensive terminological vocabulary. Needless to say, it is absolutely unattainable without developed cognitive and memorization skills.

Actually, in the procedural studies of oral interpretation it is advisable to concentrate on practicing oral consecutive interpreting, since the oral whispered type may take place only in case there are no more than two listeners (which is rare), and the oral simultaneous interlanguage communication is far too straining for the classroom. From this perspective the most reasonable is to focus on memory training – firstly, because we have to deal with remembering specific field terms, and secondly, because memory factor plays a significant role in consecutive interpreting – interpreters have to memorize quite lengthy utterances.

It would be reasonable from the very beginning to bring students into awareness that they will be encountering some troubles on the way, for instance, find it problematic to remember terms from totally different scientific areas, experience difficulties when retrieving the necessary terminology, forget concepts, and thus fail in their professional domain. In the state of alertness students will begin to remember things, due to the ability of the human brain to classify information and store for the long term what is regarded as necessary for the functioning of a human.

Student interpreters should also get to know and implement other strategies to counteract the loss of information, improve their analytic abilities and master the three memorizing techniques – mechanical, logical and mnemonic – to fully shape up their professional competence. By knowing what to expect they will anticipate potential hazards and when those arise be able to overcome them at ease.