

Synchrony in Consecutive Interpretation: Experience of Multimodal Analysis of Nonverbal Communication

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ABSTRACT

The non-verbal component in oral translation activity as an object of study is a lacunar area. The three-way interaction of the speaker, interpreter and listener is considered for the interpretation of their gestures, the position of the body (and its parts), which are characterized as repetitive. The focus of attention is focused on the multi-channel information processed by the translator during work. In the process of translation, a synchrony occurs between the translator and the speaker, showing the degree of involvement in communication, which allows the speaker to verify the translation. This indicator gives an understanding of the adequacy of the transmitted meaning, since the speaker has the opportunity to evaluate it at the level of non-verbal communication and the listener's response.

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I. Introduction

The goal is to study the non-verbal interaction between a speaker and an interpreter in the context of consecutive interpreting on the example of the emerging mimicry phenomenon of synchrony.

The material of the study was videos with the participation of Krasnoyarsk translators with a total duration of 1 h 57 min 29 s. Each video is an interview with the participants of the World Junior Curling Championship, which took place in Krasnoyarsk in January 2020. To mark up the videos, a specialized ELAN program was used, which allows annotating media files according to various parameters. To process the results, the annotation method according to A. A. Kibrik was used, which involves a graphical display of the results.

In the course of the study, it was possible to trace the emergence of synchrony between the translator and the speaker, which shows the establishment of a connection and leads to the adoption of certain translation decisions. It was also possible to trace the opposite - when synchrony does not occur, but inaccuracies in the translation or incomplete translation appear.

Because of the analysis, an understanding of the principles of tripartite interaction in the context of multi-channel information was formed. The similarity of movements, gestures and body position of the participants in communication is the adaptation of the interlocutors to each other's behavior, which indicates their involvement and coordination of the communicative behavior of the participants. The more participants in communication are immersed in communication, the greater the level of synchrony they demonstrate.

II. Literature review

The phenomenon of synchrony is clearly demonstrated. Situations in which the interaction between the interpreter and the speaker turned out to be ineffective and the goal of communication was not achieved

or was not fully achieved are shown using examples of emblematic, illustrative and regulative gestures.

Oral consecutive translation until the 21st century was studied solely from the point of view of transcoding units of translation from language A to language B, taking into account only the verbal component of the translation act. However, people interact with each other not only with the help of verbal signals, but also with the help of facial expressions, gestures, gaze, body position, which play an important role in conveying meaning and achieving the goal of communication. The non-verbal component in oral translation activity appeared in articles as a subject of research not so long ago, but still represents a research gap in the oral translation discourse. The work aimed at studying the non-verbal component and developing sign communication was presented by E. Y. Moshchanskaya a section devoted to the culture of non-verbal behavior of an interpreter has been created.

A. Meyerabian statistically calculated and derived a model of the ratio of verbal and non-verbal means in interpersonal communication, which later became known as the 55-38-7 rule, where body movements convey 55% of information, voice - 38%, and words - 7%.

In real life, we rarely receive information from only one channel or one modality. According to E. V. Chistova, visual information makes it easier to understand speech by ear, especially in a noisy environment. The Multiple Source Theory, which states that "humans have the ability to multitask as a result of separate limited mental resources associated with four dimensions: processing stage, code choice, response type, and modality", conceptually explains the advantage of multimodal processing in audiovisual perception information.

Following A. A. Kibrik, "to create a realistic idea of language as a central ability of a person, several more circumstances must be taken into account: (1) language units are not only stored as elements of a system, but are also used online to form thoughts. (2) In addition to verbal components, sound includes intonation, emphasis, tempo, loudness, etc. These elements are closely related to verbal ones. (3) The speaker not only reproduces the sound, which is subsequently perceived by ear, but also makes movements that are perceived by the interlocutor visually. The approach in which different types of communicative behavior are considered together is called multimodal.

III. Analysis

A feature of the consecutive translation act is the translation itself using various communication channels. During the act of consecutive translation, the interpreter has the opportunity to translate the claim information by hand and subsequently use the notes to reproduce the words of the speaker. It is important that during the recording he needs to follow the speaker's speech, its pace, tone of voice and maintain the necessary eye contact.

Despite the little-studied non-verbal communication in translation, much attention is paid to this issue in linguistics. Therefore, G. E. Kreidlin believes that the kinetic aspects of people's behavior - their gestures and postures, how people stand or sit, how they are located in relation to each other, how they exchange views - play a decisive role in oral communication. However, despite their importance, they cannot be taught, because they arise subconsciously and cannot be controlled (A. Merabian, D. Morris, S. G. Ter-Minasova, P. Ekman). According to D. Burgun, D. Buller and D. Woodal, non-verbal communication is an "unspoken dialogue", which includes "all messages that people exchange other than words." M. Knapp associates non-verbal communication with "all those human reactions that are not described as explicit words (oral or written)". Taking into account the use of non-verbal signals in computer communication, B. De Paulo and G. Friedman believe that "non-verbal communication is a dynamic, mostly personal exchange of information through signals other than words."

Following the opinion of E. Y. Moshchanskaya, non-verbal means that we use in our speech act as a kind of indicator of the internal mental state, relationships and personal qualities, thereby creating a subtext for verbal communication. It is impossible to consider the non-verbal component of communication in a situation of translation in isolation from other communicative methods of the speaker, since non-verbal signals affect the interpreter, speaker and other participants in communication both at the conscious and unconscious levels.

One of the most exciting features of human communication is the precise timing and coordination of

participants' communicative behavior. In non-verbal communication, one of the interesting phenomena is synchrony, which we understand as "coordination of people's movements in the process of interaction."

One of the manifestations of synchrony is the similarity of movements, gestures, "mirroring" the position of the interlocutor's body. Interlocutors respond to each other's actions and are able to coordinate to exchange roles "interlocutor-listener". They also tend to anticipate each other's next steps and follow each other's behavior, so interaction and signaling occur simultaneously and can be termed synchronous activity. This kind of adaptation of the interlocutors to the behavior of each other is often called "alignment" (alignment). Other terms that are used to describe and refer to synchronous behavior are copying or mimicry. Interaction can range from unintentionally copying another person's behavior to deliberate imitation.

IV. Discussion

Scientists also talk about the transfer of human behavior to characters created in the virtual space, paying special attention to facial expressions and their expressiveness. Researchers are analyzing the movements of the human body for a more detailed study of virtual agents. They must respond appropriately when interacting with a live interlocutor. In their work, an important role is played by the interpretation and perception of facial expressions, the prediction of emotions shown by a living person. The character is designed not to exactly duplicate the emotions that he sees, but to be based on models that represent the original expressive behavior of the user. Such synchrony is more directed towards the recipient.

We can also distinguish between a synchronicity that is more oriented towards the agent rather than the recipient of the communication. It also requires the agent to perceive and interpret the behavior of the interlocutor. However, such synchrony suggests that the agent exhibits behavior similar to the recipient in a natural way. This means that the simultaneous response is the result of the agent waiting for the recipient's response. The agent evaluates the behavior of the interlocutor in relation to his (agent's) goals and intentions. Synchrony is the unconscious planning of behavior, and not its intentional copying from the interlocutor.

The difference between mimicry and synchrony is hardly visible at the descriptive level. However, according to Natalie Sebants, this difference is related to the expectation and coordination of communicative actions: in synchrony, the action arises from the partner's intention to present something in a manner that matches his behavior, while in mimicry, only the external manifestation of the partner's behavior is copied.

In general, any gestures can carry communicative importance; it all depends on the interpretation of the interlocutor. Sometimes it is difficult to give unambiguous meaning to gestures and body movements, and often it is even impossible. From the point of view of synchrony, it is not necessary to look for semantic similarity in gestures and movements. Since it is necessary to convey not a specific conceptual meaning, but to indicate a kind of "cooperation", placed between speakers. Thus, any movement can serve as the starting point for a chain of "joint" gestures, as listeners unconsciously respond to the speaker's gestures. The speaker also unconsciously reacts to the behavior of the listener. In the future, it is possible to further study the roles of the speaker and listener, as well as to trace the changes in synchrony when changing roles.

This work is devoted to the three-way interaction of an interpreter and two speakers with a focus on their gestures and the position of the body (and its parts) that appear or occur simultaneously. Research attention is focused on the phenomenon of synchrony that occurs between participants, as it signals that all interlocutors are involved in communication and can predict each other's behavior.

The hypothesis of this study is that the manifestation of synchrony indicates the emergence of cooperation and understanding between the participants: the better they understand each other and the more they are immersed in communication, the more synchronous behavior they will demonstrate unconsciously (subconsciously).

Due to the little-studied area described, it is assumed that the data obtained will help to better understand the functions of synchrony in communication and translation. Filling in the research gaps will create a basis for further more detailed research, apply the acquired knowledge in practice and create teaching

aids.

The material of the study was five videos with the participation of Krasnoyarsk translators, with a total duration of 1 hour 57 minutes 29 seconds. Each video is an interview with the participants of the World Junior Curling Championship, which took place in Krasnoyarsk in January 2020. The working languages of the event are Russian, English. All three parties (translator, speaker, journalist) received consent to filming and using materials for analysis and research.

Annotation of the microcomposition of the multimodal context was used as the main method, which allows us to visually demonstrate the phenomenon of synchrony and highlight the factors that affect the success of communication. Based on the analysis of works on cognitive linguistics in the field of translation, much attention is paid to the "declassification" of the translator's thought processes in the course of decoding a message in language A and recoding it into language B, describing what contributes to the achievement of equivalence in translation. In the analyzed works, the authors mainly focus on the verbal component of translation, drawing conclusions about the adoption of translation decisions based on a text-centric approach. In this paper, we shift the focus from the verbal to the non-verbal component, trying to understand how important non-verbal semiotics is in the translation process and what functions it can perform.

V. Conclusion

According to G. E. Kreidlin, the semiotic classification of gestures begins with the division of all gestures into three large classes. These are (a) emblems or emblematic gestures - units that have an independent lexical meaning and are capable of conveying meaning regardless of the speech context; (b) illustrators or illustrative gestures - units accompanying some speech or other fragment of communication or illustrating some object or aspect of communication.

In turn, they are divided into two subclasses: illustrators proper - gestures that actually illustrate something, and accompanists - gestures that accompany speech and structure or rhythmize it; (c) regulators or regulatory gestures - units that control the course of the communication process, that is, establish, maintain or complete communication.

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