

Interpretation Courses

General Objectives of the consecutive and bilateral interpretation courses:

1- Enable students to grasp the fundamental concepts and techniques of bilateral and consecutive interpretation.

2- Apply the skills and techniques of consecutive and bilateral interpretation, e.g. concentration, comprehension, retention, and note-taking. The main focus is how to comprehend the meaningful chunks of information included in the source text rather than a mere string of disjointed words that cannot be organized into meaningful structures.

3- Systematic training and in-depth training in note-taking as being one of the prerequisites for quality interpretation. Drawing the students' attention that resorting to excessive note-taking and devoting so much energy to scribbling notes may make them fail to listen to the speaker, and the result is a jumble of illegible notes that do more harm than good.

4- Shift of focus in the interpretation classroom, from an overwhelmingly audio evaluation to an audio-visual examination of interpretation quality. This is achieved by making the students share in activities on board demonstrating the usage of note taking and then the interpretation of these notes.

5- Interpret in the bilateral / consecutive mode on general and semi-specialized topics.

6- Cope with the overlapping series of cognitive processing activities. These include: attending to the message, concentrating on the task at hand, remembering the message, comprehending the meaning of the message, visualizing the message nonverbally, and finally reformulating the message in the target language accurately as much as possible, so as to attain the ultimate goal, i.e. delivering an accurate and equivalent target text.

Specific Objectives:

The bilateral interpretation course is mainly based on oral communicative situations that are conducted in both English and Arabic and interviews that are conducted in the form of questions and lengthy answers with more than one interviewee. The consecutive interpretation course is based on diversified texts which are somewhat lengthy to enhance the students'

retention and comprehension skills. The chosen texts mainly focus on attaining the following specific objectives:

1-Train students how to use note taking effectively to help them in their interpretation and teach them how to focus on key word as an aid to memory, i.e. only the words that help the students to retrieve ideas from their memory and organize them into meaningful structures.

2- Improve the students' memory skills so as not to be bogged down in details and fail to grasp the overall meaning of the passage and be unable to recall it correctly.

3- Enhance the students' ability to listen accurately.

4- Teach the students' the analytical skills, i.e. how to infer meaning from the context and how to differentiate between unimportant information that can be dropped and that which cannot.

5- Teach the students' the importance of focusing on the linguistic aspects in their interpretation to render the source text as accurately as possible.

6- Diversified topics are covered in the interpretation courses, e.g. natural disasters, epidemic diseases, conferences, scientific discoveries, social issues, economy and politics, etc. However, the topics that are taught in Consecutive (1) are mainly political and economic texts because the more knowledgeable the students are about the topics they are interpreting the greater capacity they will have to retain the information. There is no doubt that once the students master the basic skills need for bilateral interpretation the more efficient they will be in interpreting any topic. Also concentrating on the latest political issues keeps the students abreast with what is going on in the world and encourage them to surf the net, listen to the radio and TV news bulletins and search for the latest events expecting them to be the topic of their coming class or coming exam. This method, in fact, helped a lot in broadening their general knowledge and in acquiring global outlook to things going around them. Economic topics helped them in knowing how to interpret semi-specialized topics.