INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
SJIF 2019: 5.222 2020: 5.552 2021: 5.637 2022:5.479 2023:6.563 2024: 7,805
eISSN :2394-6334 https://www.ijmrd.in/index.php/imjrd Volume 12, issue 05 (2025)

THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF PREDICTION STRATEGY IN SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION

Bayronova Shakhnoza Berdakhovna

UzSWLU

Scientific advisor: Prof. **Samigova Khushnuda Botirovna**

Abstract. Simultaneous interpretation is a highly professional activity in which interpreters deliver spoken words in real time, usually in multilingual situations such as conferences, diplomatic meetings, or international events. The prediction approach is one of the most important tactics that interpreters use to increase their efficacy. This article discusses the significance and usefulness of prediction in simultaneous interpretation, emphasizing how it improves accuracy, fluency, and overall communication.

Key words: simultaneous interpretation, prediction strategy, linguistic predictions, contextual predictions, cultural predictions, accuracy, fluency, comprehension, confidence, listener engagement, active listening.

INTRODUCTION. Simultaneous interpreting is particularly difficult because interpreters have to attend to and produce utterances concurrently in two different languages. Therefore, it is unsurprising that most accounts assume that simultaneous interpreters also make use of prediction during comprehension. Prediction in
interpretation refers to the ability of interpreters to anticipate what a speaker is going to say next. This involves not only linguistic elements but also contextual clues, cultural references, and the speaker's intent. Effective prediction allows interpreters to prepare their responses in advance, ensuring a smoother and more coherent delivery.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODS. Much evidence for prediction is comparatively recent, but the potential value of prediction for simultaneous interpreting has been apparent for a long time, so it is not surprising that traditional accounts have also assumed a role in prediction. There are several types of predictions:

- **Linguistic Predictions**: Interpreters predict the next words or phrases based on grammatical structures and vocabulary. Familiarity with the language and common expressions enables them to make educated guesses about upcoming content.
- **Contextual Predictions**: Context plays a crucial role in prediction. Interpreters consider the subject matter, the audience, and the speaker's tone to anticipate the direction of the conversation. For instance, in a political speech, knowing the current events can help interpreters predict key terms or phrases.
- **Cultural Predictions**: Understanding cultural nuances allows interpreters to anticipate idiomatic expressions or culturally specific references that may arise during interpretation.

Prediction significantly contributes to the accuracy of interpretation. By anticipating content, interpreters can prepare relevant vocabulary and phrases, reducing the likelihood of errors. For instance, if an interpreter knows the speaker is discussing economic policies, they can mentally prepare terms related to economics ahead of time, leading to a more precise interpretation. One reason for this is that interpreters produce utterances about 70% of the time that they are listening. They thus need to keep pace with the speaker while planning and producing their utterances. The prediction could allow interpreters to maintain a shorter lag between input and output, reducing demands on memory and allowing them to focus attention on their production. Another reason to make predictions during comprehension relates to differences in word order between the source

and the target languages. Without prediction, interpreters would be unable to produce the appropriate translation of a phrase in the target language before encountering the relevant phrase in the source language. If a German-English interpreter encountered a subordinate clause with subject-object-verb (SOV) word order and interpreted it into SVO word order, then she could not produce the object in English until she heard the verb, even though the object may be preceded by a long adjectival phrase. But if she predicted the German verb, she could produce its English translation and then produce the translation of the object without delay. If the interpreter were reasonably confident, then acting on the prediction would be advantageous, as it would allow her to reduce the demands on memory (the interpreter would be able to maintain a shorter lag). Of course, simultaneous interpreters could make inaccurate predictions, and suppressing or revising these could require additional processing. Federmeier, Kutas, and Schul (1999) found evidence of processing effects (an ERP deflection) of plausible yet incorrectly predicted words in younger adults and some older adults, which might suggest additional processing. Similarly, incorrect predictions may induce additional processing during simultaneous interpreting, as interpreters would not only have to revise their prediction but might also have to revise their planned utterance.

Moreover, the prediction may facilitate the processing of words that are semantically related to the predictable word. The potential additional processing required following incorrect predictions may also lead to a processing advantage in the longer term: Dell and Chang (2023) proposed that incorrect predictions may lead to long-term changes in the comprehension system, as it could learn from the difference between the predicted and the actual utterance, thus reducing future errors in similar situations. Given the benefits of prediction in comprehension during simultaneous interpreting, and the benefits of error-based learning, it seems likely that the ability to make predictions and decide whether or not to act on them constitutes a processing advantage rather than a disadvantage for is an optional step in one of the first simultaneous interpreting process models suggested that the ability to predict is a prerequisite for being a successful simultaneous interpreter. Moreover, Grover et al. found that students performed better in interpretation exams if they were more likely to fill in blanked-out words correctly in a passage of text. In other words, the ability to use context to determine probable words was positively related to interpreting performance (but note that students saw the entire passage at once). Seleskovitch posited an even more central role for prediction, arguing that interpreters engage in 'freewheeling anticipation'; that is, they predict constantly during comprehension and update their predictions regularly based on whether what the speaker says fits with them.

Strikingly, these accounts do not consider the locus of prediction. They do not propose whether prediction takes place in the source language (being comprehended) or in the target language (being produced). Does the comprehension predict the upcoming word in the source language or its translation in the target language (or both)? Predictive production occurs when a simultaneous interpreter produces the translated utterance in the target language before it has been uttered in the source language. It is viewed as a strategy used by interpreters working with (mismatched) language pairs that involve a great deal of syntactic asymmetry.

RESULTS. In a recent study, Hodzik and Williams (2017) had simultaneous interpreters and (non-interpreter) bilinguals simultaneously interpret German verb-final sentences into English. The verbs followed either a high or low constraint context and were therefore predictable or not predictable. They found that the English verb was produced more quickly after the German verb in high-constraint contexts. Moreover, participants occasionally produced the verb before they heard it (4% of interpreted sentences for interpreters and 2.4% for bilinguals), and almost all of such predictive productions (around 90%) followed the high constraint contexts. This demonstrates that prediction takes place during simultaneous interpreting. However, given that

interpreters lag a few seconds behind the original speaker, and that lag may vary, there may also be instances where interpreters predict but do not predictively produce a sentence constituent. In sum, theoretical accounts and a few empirical studies suggest that prediction is part of the simultaneous interpreting process.

More compelling evidence of prediction during comprehension comes from the psycholinguistics literature. The most convincing evidence of prediction taking place at semantic, syntactic, and phonological levels comes from event-related (brain) potential (ERP) and eye-tracking studies using monolingual participants. Evidence of meaning-based prediction comes from Altmann and Kamide (1999), who presented participants with scenes containing an agent (e.g., a boy) and four objects in an eye-tracking study. Participants heard a sentence with a verb that was semantically linked to either only one or all four of the objects in the display, such as "The boy will eat the…" or "The boy will move the…", where the objects were a cake, a train set, a toy car, and a balloon. In the "eat" condition, eye movements to the cake began before noun onset, whereas in the "move" condition they did not, indicating that information from the verb was used to predict the semantic nature of the noun. In an ERP study, Grisoni et al. showed that participants can also make meaning-based predictions in the absence of a supportive visual context. They had participants listen to highly constraining sentences related to either the hands or the face (e.g., "I take a pen and I… write") and showed that participants pre-activated the corresponding parts of the motor cortex depending on the verb.

DISCUSSION. Prediction allows interpreters to maintain a steady pace by preparing for anticipated information. This fluidity not only enhances the listener's experience but also helps interpreters manage their cognitive load more effectively. When interpreters can predict content, it aids in their overall comprehension of the message. By grasping the direction of the discourse, interpreters can better understand the nuances and underlying meanings, leading to a more faithful representation of the speaker's intent. The ability to predict effectively fosters confidence in interpreters. As they become more adept at anticipating content, their anxiety decreases, allowing them to focus on delivering high-quality interpretations. This confidence also positively impacts their performance, as they can engage more fully with the material. A smooth and coherent interpretation keeps the audience engaged. When interpreters use prediction strategies effectively, they create a seamless flow of information, allowing listeners to absorb the message without interruptions. This engagement is vital in settings where the success of communication can influence outcomes, such as negotiations or public speeches.

REFERENCES

1. Setton. R. Simultaneous interpretation: A cognitive pragmatic analysis. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing. 1999. P–12.
2. Babayev Javid. Impact of socio-linguistic and socio-cultural factors on translation process. Sciences of Europe. № 128, Praha, Czech Republic, 2023.

3. Hodzik. E., & Williams. J. N. Predictive processes during simultaneous interpreting from German into English. Interpreting, 19; 2017. P–20.

Altmann. G. T. M., & Kamide. Y. Incremental interpretation at verbs: restricting the domain of subsequent reference. Cognition, 73. 1999.P–264.