



شبكة المعلومات الجامعية
التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



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شبكة المعلومات الجامعية التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكرو فيلم



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جامعة عين شمس

التوثيق الإلكتروني والميكروفيلم

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**Towards a Comprehensive Model of idiosyncratic Style:
An Empirical Study of Simultaneous and Consecutive Interpreting of the
69th Session of the UN General Assembly**

A Dissertation in Partial fulfilment of a PhD degree

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Abstract

Studying the idiosyncratic features of an interpreter's style can illuminate research on the interpreting process and help interpreting trainees improve their performance. This study sets out to investigate the idiosyncratic features of style in Arabic-into-English simultaneous and consecutive interpreting, aiming to develop a comprehensive model of interpreting style. The research takes as its starting point the model suggested by Van Besien and Meuleman (2008) for interpreting style. In a controlled experiment, quantitative stylometric discriminators and qualitative analysis are used to compare and contrast the performance of five interpreters while interpreting a UN General Assembly speech from Arabic into English. The first half of the speech is interpreted in the consecutive mode and the second in the simultaneous. Both parts are analyzed for the global and local strategies described in Van Besien and Meuleman's model. The results show some consistency in interpreting style regarding strategies such as speed of delivery, intonation and stalling. The results also show some mode-related discrepancy in style with respect to some other strategies such as omissions. The researcher suggests building on Van Besien and Meuleman model for interpreting style to study other modes of interpreting and suggests adding summarization/text condensation as an additional global strategy.

Key words: Simultaneous interpreting, consecutive interpreting, interpreting style, Arabic/English interpreting, empirical interpreting research.

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List of Abbreviations

TL	Target language
SL	Source language
TT	Target text
EVS	Ear-voice span
TTR	Type-token ratio
OT	Official translation
ST	Source text
WPM	Word per minute
PVQ	Pitch variation quotient
TS	Translation studies
F0	Fundamental Frequency
SI	Simultaneous interpreting
NP	Noun phrase
SOV	Subject-verb-object
TOT	Tip of the tongue

Introduction

Simultaneous interpreting remains an intriguing process in the eyes of interpreters, clients, and researchers. Research in interpreting studies (IS) has gained momentum over the last 20 years in an attempt to describe the complex processes involved in interpreting and to formulate robust assumptions to build on in interpreter training. The present study is an attempt to contribute to the body of interpreting studies research with special reference to the Arabic-English language pair.

0.1. Problem Statement

A translator's idiosyncratic style, similar to an author's "writeprint"¹, might be hidden due to the editing and proofreading processes that the translated text undergoes— sometimes by an individual other than the translator. An interpreter's writeprint, on the other hand, seems to remain untouched due to the immediate nature of the interpreting process. Researchers have shed some light on the idiosyncratic features of interpreting and tried to link them to interpreting directionality or interpreters' speaking style. In fact, in the interpreting market, almost all interpreters offer simultaneous and consecutive interpreting services as well as the at-sight mode, though in less common circumstances. However, little light has been shed on the degree of consistency in interpreting style across these different modes.

0.2. The Objective of the study

The present study sets out to trace the idiosyncratic features of interpreting style in Arabic-into-English interpreting. The aspired goal is to develop a comprehensive model of the features that distinguish an interpreter's style. Through an empirical methodology and building on previous research in IS, the study aims at a model that highlights the similarities and discrepancies between interpreters' style during simultaneous and consecutive interpreting.

0.3. Significance of the study

Various attempts have been made to grasp the different aspects of the interpreting process: the cognitive processes, the linguistic shifts, the professional practices and ethics, and the psychological and environmental factors surrounding it. The study of interpreting style is an attempt to further the understanding of this process. Formal training in interpreting is relatively wide-spread nowadays, and the majority of professional interpreters have undergone some sort of training, be it in the form of a degree-based training or professional certification. Nonetheless,

¹ A term used in forensic linguistics to refer to a writer's idiosyncratic stylistic features.