

CONSECUTIVE INTERPRETING STRATEGIES IN THE POLICE FIELD INVESTIGATION

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to investigate the consecutive interpreting strategies used by an Indonesian interpreter, Putu Bellina, a student from Mahasaraswati Denpasar. This study examined police investigation from Bahasa Indonesia and it was interpreted into English and vice versa. Faerch and Kasper's (1983) theory of consecutive interpreting strategy was applied in this research. The method in this research was qualitative. The data were collected through voice recordings taken during the investigation. The recording then was transcribed carefully into written form. The result showed that the interpreter used two types of consecutive interpreting strategies, namely reduction strategies, and achievement strategies. According to the findings, the interpreter used the reduction strategy, particularly the skipping strategy, the majority of the time during the interpreting process. It revealed that the skipping approach was used roughly 67% of the time, the incomplete sentence method was used 11% of the time, and the message abandonment strategy was used 22% of the time. Due to the abundance of superfluous words and phrases that slowed down the procedure, it may be inferred that the translator frequently used the skipping approach throughout the field inquiry. In order to get to the point, the interpreter chose to use the skipping technique. Despite the extensive use of skipping techniques, the fundamental meaning of each phrase was neither altered nor diminished.

Keywords: *interpreting, Indonesian, English, police, investigation*

1. INTRODUCTION

Interpreting is multitasking work to mediate communication between two people who do not speak the same language. The interpreter will use a variety of techniques to convey meaning, including listening, taking notes, receiving the information, processing or interpreting it, delivering it in the target language, and using gesture, tone, and eye contact. The interpreter handles each of these continued throughout the dialogue. Gentile, Ozolins, and Vasilakakos (1996) contend that interpreting can accommodate linguistic disparities and is not a barrier to intercultural communication. Thus, the availability of an interpreter is crucial for communication, especially when two languages are involved. To perform interpreting, an interpreter should apply several modes of interpreting for instance consecutive modes of interpreting.

The consecutive interpretation mode is one in which the interpreter begins interpreting a message after the speaker has stopped generating the source utterance (Pochacker, 2004). The interpreter will listen to the speaker first, process the message or the information given by the speaker, note taking if necessary, and then the interpreter reproduced the speech in the target language. Commonly, this mode is applied to a formal place for instance courthouse (Kelly, 1979).

Interpreting is more difficult than translating since it requires more complicated actions to be performed during conversation and has much less time to assimilate meaning. Before working as an interpreter, it's also important to examine your communication skills. The speed at which an interpreter can absorb information from

the source language (SL) and translate it into the target language is a measure of the Target Language (TL). Additionally, the interpreter does not have time to rewrite since when the SL speaker has completed speaking, it is the interpreter's job to quickly and accurately translate the message into TL before the SL speaker delivers the next message. It implies that in this activity, excellence must come first.

Pochhaker (2004:18) states that an interpreter can interpret a message from SL into TL using one of two interpreting techniques. The way the message is rendered depends on the method of interpretation. Consecutive Interpreting (CI) and Simultaneous Interpreting are the two types of interpreting (SI). Consecutive interpreting has the attribute of a pause after the speaker's message delivery, meaning the interpreter will begin rendering or transferring the message as soon as the speaker made the pause or finishes speaking. While live interpretation during simultaneous interpreting begins 3 to 4 seconds after the speaker delivers the speaker's message.

In addition, Pochhaker (2004:18) claimed there were two modes of interpreting. They were Consecutive Interpreting (CI), and Simultaneous Interpreting (SI). Mode of interpreting is a way or how the message is rendered from SL into TL. Those two modes are having different characteristics. Consecutive interpreting includes the feature of pausing once the speaker finishes speaking, meaning the interpreter would begin rendering or transferring the message as soon as the speaker stops speaking or pausing occurs. While simultaneous interpretation begins 3 to 4 seconds after the speaker speaks, because the interpreter in SI would continue to translate the speaker's content throughout the speech, there was not much time for a pause. In this research, the focus would be on consecutive interpreting because the communication was obvious between the police and the witness continuously taking turns speaking.

Putu Bellina is a student at the University of Mahasaraswati Denpasar who joined HPI or the Indonesian translator association in 2022. She is a young member of the Bali Regional Commissariat. She is currently in her last semester at the Faculty of Foreign Languages majoring in English Literature. She has got many experiences during court interpreting and police interpreting in Bali. There are many criminal or civil cases in Bali which involved foreigners. Thus, the need for interpreters in Bali is increasing over time. This study investigated the consecutive strategies used by Putu Bellina, who was an Indonesian interpreter on the default case in Gianyar, Bali. This case has been reported in early 2022 and is still ongoing now. Putu Bellina as interpreter had a chance to accompany the police for a field investigation to Ubud, Gianyar Bali. Police field investigation here means an investigation conducted by the police that takes place outside the police office to get deep information regarding a case that is being handled by the police. The main investigation was about informing the witness that during the investigation all related evidence will be secure for the sake of the law.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study used a descriptive qualitative method because the data were taken from voice recordings without numbering or statistical data (Cresswell, 2009). The data were collected by voice recorder application on a mobile phone to capture the interpreter's voice. There were some stages done by the researcher to collect the data; 1) asking permission from the interpreter, witness and police to record the conversation during field investigation, 2) transcribing the voice recording into text, 3) classifying data based on the theory of Faerch and Kasper (1983), 4) analyzing the data which consist of consecutive mode, taking note to describe the data to be displayed on the table and analyzed based on Faerch and Kasper (1983) theory to have a conclusion.

3. RELATED RESEARCH/LITERATUR REVIEW

Kuswoyo (2020) researched interpreting in the court setting. He focused on finding consecutive strategies done by the interpreter named Yuliana Tansil using Faerch and Kasper's (1983) theory of consecutive interpreting strategy. He found that In terms of reduction strategy, the interpreter applied *skipping, incomplete sentences, and filtering*. Yet, message abandonment was not found in this study. In terms of achievement strategies, the interpreter used both *appeal for assistance and an elaborate strategy*. The results also indicated that the interpreter frequently elaborated and expanded the lexical meaning of words or phrases in the utterances. The interpreter used this strategy when she faced difficult words in long utterances because of some cultural nuance. So, she elaborated on her understanding of the message by adding more information as a way of making the utterance in the target language to be understood better. This research would help the current study as guidance for revealing interpreting strategies in a legal setting.

Hastuningdyah (2019) researched the interpretation of the press conference between the President of Indonesia, Mr. Joko Widodo and the Prime minister of Australia Mr. Malcolm Turnbull Press on February 2017 by using the qualitative approach by Hale and Napier (2013) to show the concept and characteristics of the strategies used in the interpretation and to analyze process and product of interpreting. As result, it is found that both interpreters applied strategy to enhance their understanding of the message and to overcome the difficulty of the speech and the short period. The most frequent strategies applied by both interpreters are transcoding, omission and addition. This research would help the current study as guidance for understanding interpreting strategies in a formal setting.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study discussed the consecutive interpreting strategies used by Putu Bellina from Indonesia into English on police field investigations. The data were analyzed and interpreted using the theory from Faerch and Kasper 1983. The descriptive qualitative method was applied to elaborate on the type of consecutive interpreting strategies used by Putu Bellina as the interpreter on police field investigations.

Table 1. The category of consecutive interpreting strategies

Category	Sub-category	Occurrence
Reduction strategy	Skipping	6
	Incomplete sentence	1
	Message abandonment	2
Total occurrence data		9

Reduction Strategy

Based on the analysis, there were 3 of the sub-categories from the reduction strategy appeared during the interpreting process. There were about 6 times skipping strategies, 1 incomplete sentence strategy and 2 messages abandonment.

Skipping

Skipping is characterized by avoiding or skipping a single word or a group of words during interpretation due to lexical simplification but still keeping the

meaning from SL to TL. The interpreter indeed simplified the message from the speaker to save energy during interpreting.

Data 1

Police (Pol): *Berapa tahun kira-kira barang-barang ini sudah ada di villa ini?*

Interpreter (Int): How long has this furniture been in this villa?

Witness (Wit): **Ok, tell them, young lady.** It's about 3 years, from 2019 until now

Interpreter (Int): *Sekitar 3 tahun, dari 2019 sampai sekarang*

Data 1 showed that the skipping strategy was used by the interpreter for the sentence in bold "**Ok, tell them young lady**". This word did not translate by the interpreter because she wanted to preserve the investigation effectively and strike to the point. The bold sentence had no relation to the police, because that sentence was addressed to the interpreter directly, not for answering the police's question. By skipping the bold sentence above, the process of interpreting could be more effective and efficient for all parties.

Message abandonment

Message abandonment was characterized by leaving unfinished messages due to language difficulties (Tarone, 1981). It could be seen when the interpreter abandons a long statement from the speaker and continue with a recent statement. This strategy also appeared during police field investigations.

Data 2

Police (Pol): *Hari ini kami akan mengadakan pemeriksaan terkait kasus Pasal 1238 yang bunyinya "**Debitur dinyatakan lalai dengan surat perintah, atau dengan akta sejenis itu, atau berdasarkan kekuatan dari perikatan sendiri, yaitu bila perikatan ini mengakibatkan debitur harus dianggap lalai dengan lewatnya waktu yang ditentukan**"KUHPerdara, apakah saksi mengerti?*

Interpreter (Int): Today we are going to do an investigation on article 1238, do you understand that?

Witness (Wit): Yes

Interpreter (Int): *Ya, mengerti*

Data 2 showed that the interpreter applied a message abandonment strategy for the sentence in bold "**Debitur dinyatakan lalai dengan surat perintah, atau dengan akta sejenis itu, atau berdasarkan kekuatan dari perikatan sendiri, yaitu bila perikatan ini mengakibatkan debitur harus dianggap lalai dengan lewatnya waktu yang ditentukan**"KUHPerdara,". If this is literary translated into English, it would be "The debtor is declared negligent by a warrant, or by a similar deed, or based on the strength of the engagement itself, that is, if this engagement results in the debtor being deemed negligent with the lapse of the specified time" of the Civil Code. This big chunk of the message was abandoned by the interpreter because the police was speaking too fast reading the content of the legal article in Bahasa Indonesia, where the interpreter was not familiar with a description and she had no time to think and formulate that kind of information. Then she decided only translate the main question only by saying "so you understand? Even though there was an abandoned message in this process, the intention of the question could be delivered

by the interpreter and accepted by all parties. In addition, the article had been mentioned earlier by saying "...to do an investigation on article 1238..." which could convince the witness can get the meaning of what she interpreted for him. Thus, the abandonment could be accepted as long as it did not distract the listener (the witness).

Incomplete sentence

The incomplete sentence strategy is characterized by omitting large units of the text in the TL. It can be seen when the interpreter is rendering the message and suddenly stopped in the middle of a sentence (Faerach& Kasper, 1983). It could be seen that the interpreter did not render the message fully.

Data 3

Police (Pol): ***Kami tidak akan menyita barang-barang anda, kami hanya mengambil gambar saja, tidak akan ada kami sita barangnya, tolong tenangin dulu bulenya ini***

Interpreter (Int): Please relax, we did not want to take your stuff

Police (Pol): Kalau *begini terus beneran saya sita barangnya bawa ke kantor biar tau rasa*

Interpreter (Int): Please calm down ya, we do not take anything from here

Witness (Wit): **We have paid all the rent, there is nothing to do with the police and whatever case you have**

Interpreter (Int): Yes, yes, please lower your voice

Data 3 showed that the interpreter applied an incomplete sentence strategy during the interpreting process by omitting a large unit of the message from the police as in bold above "***Kami tidak akan menyita barang-barang anda, kami hanya mengambil gambar saja, tolong tenangin dulu bulenya ini***" in the English language supposed to be "We will not confiscate your belongings, we will only take pictures, please calm down this foreigner first". Based on the analysis and direct observation it could be explained that the interpreter was nervous at this moment, the tension at the time was escalating because the witness thought that the police would take everything on the witness's villa for the sake of the case. Everyone at that moment was speaking, the interpreter was confused and she made a decision by rendering the incomplete sentence which she thought was less important to be rendered and focusing only on the most important message. In the next part, the witness said something in response to the police by saying "**We have paid all the rent, there is nothing to do with the police and whatever case you have**" with a high tone and screaming. As result, the interpreter spoke directly to the witness to calm the witness.

Based on the result, it was found that the interpreter used the reduction strategy, especially the skipping strategy most of the time during the interpreting process. It showed about 67% occurrence for skipping strategy, 11% occurrence for incomplete sentence strategy, and 22% occurrence for message abandonment strategy. It could be concluded that the interpreter tended to use the skipping strategy during the field investigation because during the process there were many unnecessary words or sentences which could slow down the process. Thus, the interpreter decided to apply the skipping strategy to strike the point. Even though there were many skipping

strategies applied here, they did not disturb or decrease the essential meaning of each sentence.

Faerach and Kasper (1983) stated that there were around six interpretive techniques. However, in this research, it was only found 3 interpreting strategies had been applied by the translator namely skipping strategy, incomplete sentence strategy, and message abandonment strategy. Those strategies were applied by the translator during police field research at Ubud, Bali. This finding was in line with the theory from Faerach and Kasper (1983). In addition, the finding of this research is also related to research from Kuswoyo (2020), who found that the skipping strategy also appeared in his research. In addition, Hastuningdyah (2019) found that the interpreter mostly applied the omission strategy from Hale and Napier (2013) which has the same result as the current research where the skipping has similar characteristics to the omission in previous research.

5. CONCLUSION

According to the findings, the interpreter used the reduction strategy, particularly the skipping strategy, the majority of the time during the interpreting process. It revealed that the skipping approach was used roughly 67% of the time, the incomplete sentence method was used 11% of the time, and the message abandonment strategy was used 22% of the time. Due to the abundance of superfluous words and phrases that slowed down the procedure, it may be inferred that the translator frequently used the skipping approach throughout the field inquiry. To get to the point, the interpreter chose to use the skipping technique. Despite the extensive use of skipping techniques, the fundamental meaning of each phrase was neither altered nor diminished.

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