

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This section provides a wide-ranging description of the study. It consists of the background, formulation of the problem, operational definitions, the aim of the study, and significance of the study.

1.1. Background of the Study

The role of interpreters has become exceedingly crucial in today's world since it is characterized by rapid technological advancements and widespread globalization. This development is not only revolutionized the way we communicate but also fostered international collaboration among individuals from diverse backgrounds and language origins. According to Yoga (2019), the utilization of communication and information technology in the present era serves not only as a means of communication and information exchange but also as a facilitator of global collaboration. Therefore, the role of interpreters is very important in bridging global communication between people who have different backgrounds and languages.

For this research context, there are two interpreters who have played a crucial role in interpreting meetings and conferences involving the Higher Education Quality Assurance Agency (AQAS) in one of the universities in Tasikmalaya. This collaborative effort aimed to navigate the complex landscape of institutional accreditation processes. The conference brought together stakeholders from vastly different backgrounds, each offering unique perspectives and insights. Interpreters served as bridges, enabling these diverse voices to be heard and understood. This statement aligns with Jones (2014) who stated that interpreters convey equivalent meaning and may modify the original text as necessary for the audience's ease of comprehension without altering its original meaning. These two interpreters in Tasikmalaya played a significant role as bridges to navigate the complexity of the accreditation process and enable diverse perspectives to be understood and mutually agreed upon. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that interpreters often encounter limitations in their capacity to fulfill their roles

effectively. The challenges they face can be diverse, ranging from the complexity of the subject matter being discussed to the real-time pressure of translation. Furthermore, interpreters themselves may not always be fully aware of the specific difficulties they encounter in performing their duties. According to Mankauskiene (2018), in some cases, interpreters may not even be aware of the challenges they face, making it difficult for them to enhance their skills. In summary, interpreters frequently face diverse challenges in fulfilling their roles effectively, often unaware of the specific difficulties, which can hinder skill improvement.

This study explores the experiences of English-language interpreters who are responsible for translating from English to Indonesian during meetings and conferences. The research also examines the challenges they face and the solutions they use. The goal of this research is to provide insight into the nuances of conference interpretation in the context of international collaboration, especially within the framework of institutional accreditation processes

This research complements some previous research related to this topic. One research example was conducted by Benacherine (2022) from Tamanghasset University in Algeria, who explored the challenges faced by consecutive interpreters in political settings, particularly during press conferences. This research employed a descriptive-analytical methodology and analyzed video recordings of political press conferences featuring President Obama and the Emir of Kuwait. Data were collected from video recordings, and transcribed speeches were compared to interpretations to identify challenges. The analysis revealed factors influencing interpretation quality, including cognitive saturation, language-specific issues, and speaker influence, while also identifying strategies used by interpreters to overcome these challenges. However, this study primarily focused on factors affecting interpretation quality rather than the focus on challenges and solutions. Therefore, recommendations from this research were made to expand the study to address challenges and potential solutions that can be developed.

The current study focuses on diving into in-depth information with a focus on exploring the challenges faced by interpreters with different participants and places than previous studies during real interpretation and the development of

possible solutions. The indicators of Information Processing Theory by Riquelme (1994) that serve as the foundation for the design of the interview guideline. Through this thesis, the researcher expects the contribution to the ongoing conversation about conference interpreting and help advance the field in a meaningful way.

1.2. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the background above, the researcher addressed a research question “What are the challenges experienced by the English interpreters during the conference interpreting and its solution?”

1.3. Operational Definitions

To avoid misunderstanding the terms set out in this study, the researcher provides the definitions related to this study, such as:

- 1.3.1 Interpreting** : In this research, interpreting referred to the process of oral translation from English to Indonesian, aimed at bridging language gaps and facilitating effective communication at a conference in Tasikmalaya, Indonesia.
- 1.3.2 Conference Interpreting** : In this research, conference interpreting refers to the activity of translating English into Indonesian during conference activities, specifically in the context of a general presentation at a meeting or conference held at one of the universities in Tasikmalaya with the Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programmes (AQAS).
- 1.3.3 English Interpreters** : English interpreters in this study are proficient individuals who have English as their second language and are highly fluent in their native language, Indonesian. They were participants in a meeting organized by a university in Tasikmalaya, in collaboration with AQAS. The English interpreters' role was to facilitate effective communication by

translating from English to Indonesian during the conference.

1.4. Aim of the Research

The purpose of this study is to find out the challenges experienced by the English interpreters during the conference interpreting and its solutions.

1.5. Significances of the Study

1.5.1. Theoretical Contribution

This study adds evidence about the challenges faced by English interpreters when interpreting in conferences, to prepare future researchers who will research related topics.

1.5.2. Practical Contribution

This research provides an overview and solutions from the participants' experiences to be able to provide solutions to other interpreters in interpreting activities, especially in conference interpreting activities so that other interpreters can learn to apply the solutions that have been given so that interpreting activities in conferences will minimize obstacles, especially for novice interpreters, or other professional interpreters.

1.5.3. Empirical Contribution

This research can help to improve the experience for the author on the topic under study or translation and interpretation as well as the experience for the researcher in academic writing.