

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section provides theories about the research problem. This section is separated into two parts: the theoretical framework and the relevant studies. The first section discusses the theories that are relevant to this study, while the second section includes several studies done in past research on certain topics.

2.1. Interpreting

Interpreting serves as an important process of translating orally between different languages, aiming to bridge the language gap and facilitate effective communication between people who are not fluent in each other's languages. This point of view is supported by Pöchhacker (2005) who stated that interpreting is an activity that enables smooth interaction between speakers of different languages to bridge communication. Furthermore, this standpoint is also supported by Murtiningsih (2020) who asserts that fundamentally, the main objective of interpreting is not merely about converting syntax and semantics from one language to another, but rather, it is about conveying the intended meaning as expressed by the speaker. Overall, the practice of interpreting plays an important role in fostering cross-cultural understanding and harmonious exchanges among linguistically diverse individuals.

Interpreting can be done in various settings, such as conferences, meetings, courtrooms, health care rooms, and international events, and requires different methods and difficulties based on the atmosphere in which the interpretation activity is carried out. There are several types of interpreting for this profession, with varying levels of difficulty. Unfortunately, most research only focuses on these two types of interpreting, including simultaneous and consecutive interpreting. This is also conveyed by Pöchhacker (2012) who stated that historical research on interpreting has predominantly concentrated on consecutive and simultaneous interpreting. However, interpreting encompasses a variety of settings and methods, with the main research focus historically centered on simultaneous and consecutive interpreting.

Simultaneous or consecutive interpreting has different methods and difficulties depending on the interpreter himself in managing the mental load and dealing with it. Besides that, Shao & Chai (2021) stated that simultaneous interpreting is a highly complex and cognitively demanding activity, where the interpreter translates the speaker's speech into another language with a minimal time lag of only a few seconds. In contrast, consecutive interpreting involves the interpreter taking notes as the speaker speaks and then interpreting the speech in sections Al-ogaili (2022) stated that consecutive interpreting involves interpreting segments of speech that can be of different lengths, ranging from a few sentences to a full speech lasting several minutes, then summarized by the interpreter and allowing for note-taking. Therefore, each mode of interpreting requires different skills and strategies, and conference interpreters should be proficient in both types of interpreting modes.

In conclusion, interpreting serves as a crucial facilitator of effective communication between linguistically diverse individuals, bridging the language gap and fostering cross-cultural understanding. The practice of interpreting encompasses various settings and methods, with simultaneous and consecutive interpreting being the primary focus of historical research. Both types of interpreting present different challenges, necessitating distinct skills and strategies for the interpreter to manage the cognitive load effectively. Ultimately, conference interpreters should be proficient in both modes to ensure smooth interaction and harmonious exchanges in diverse and multilingual environments.

2.2. Conference Interpreting

The practice of interpretation to facilitate communication among individuals speaking different languages has been in existence since ancient times. Throughout history, conference interpreting has been employed in diverse contexts, such as diplomatic negotiations, trade meetings, and other significant events involving individuals with diverse language backgrounds. According to Albl-Mikasa (2019), conference interpreting developed after both world wars in Europe (consecutive mode after World War I and simultaneous mode after World War II) and facilitated multilateral peace negotiations. Throughout history, interpretation

has been a crucial practice to enable communication among individuals speaking different languages, and conference interpreting has played a vital role in facilitating multilateral peace negotiations and the formation of international organizations and multinational corporations after the two world wars.

Conference interpreting is a specialized form of interpreting that takes place during conferences, meetings, or large-scale events where participants from different language backgrounds need to communicate effectively. The role of conference interpreting is to facilitate communication between both parties with language limitations by providing accurate and faithful oral translations in line with the original meaning (Jones, 2014). In conference interpretation, the interpreter is also directly part of the party being interpreted, an interpreter must also be able to perform both modes of interpretation namely Simultaneous and Consecutive in a conference.

In addition, being a representative of the interpreted party requires the interpreter to master language skills, culture, cognitive skills, adaptability, and public speaking, the statement is in line with Pöchhacker (2012) that the qualities required to become an effective interpreter include cognitive-intellectual abilities (such as intelligence and memory) as well as moral and affective competencies like tact and discretion. Proficiency in languages general background knowledge, adaptability, and the ability to speak confidently and engagingly in public are also essential. However, effective interpreters require language proficiency, cultural understanding, cognitive skills, adaptability, public speaking ability, and a mix of cognitive-intellectual and moral competencies.

Becoming a conference interpreter entails a set of unique challenges. These challenges, as identified by Christoffels et al. (2006), include the fact that simultaneous interpretation (SI) is a highly complex and cognitively demanding activity. Often, beyond the cognitive burden, interpreters may also face mental strain, leading to feelings of anxiety, panic, or even a mental blank during interpreting, ultimately affecting the produced meaning. As Cai et al. (2023) suggest, interpreters capable of managing psychological challenges such as anxiety

and a lack of confidence are more likely to produce high-quality and accurate interpretations.

Moreover, various challenges frequently arise. In SI, interpreters translate the speaker's speech simultaneously, with a very short time lag of only a few seconds. Similarly, consecutive interpretation can be highly demanding cognitively, involving a complex process of translation within limited time constraints. Thus, interpreters engaged in consecutive interpretation (CI) may experience an equal or even higher level of cognitive load compared to interpreters engaged in simultaneous interpretation (SI) (Lv & Liang, 2019). This is supported by Yu (2017) who stated that the speaking speed of interlocutors can pose a challenge in interpreting activities. Additionally, in interpreting situations, issues arise due to the interpreter's limitations in processing information, errors in managing their processing capacity, and gaps in their knowledge (Bîrsanu & Kanani, 2021). Conference interpretation is a complex and demanding activity, involving both simultaneous and consecutive interpretation, along with challenges related to managing cognitive load and information processing capacity. Effective strategies become essential for successful outcomes.

In conclusion, Interpreting has been practiced since ancient times to facilitate communication among individuals speaking different languages. Conference interpreting, with its challenges in managing cognitive load and information processing, requires effective strategies for successful outcomes.

2.3. Challenges and Solutions in Interpreting Faced by English Interpreters

English is a widely familiar language across the globe and commonly serves as the medium of communication in international conferences and other multilingual settings due to its extensive usage. As Fang (2017) stated English has become a global lingua franca, spreading worldwide and enabling communication among people from diverse language backgrounds. Although most people can speak English, not everyone can master and understand it well, which Bîrsanu & Kanani (2021), highlighted that those who speak English do not necessarily have a good understanding as well. Thus, interpreters who understand the cultural, and

language context and can make equivalent meaning adjustments are needed to be able to facilitate formal communication in conference or meeting activities.

Interpreting from one language to another requires at least an understanding of both languages and their cultures to overcome language challenges. The challenges faced by interpreters can vary depending on the language used. For example, English is known for its extensive use of idioms, phrasal verbs, and technical vocabulary that may not be familiar, making it challenging for interpreters during interpretation. As highlighted by Nurfauziyah (2017), unfamiliar vocabulary can impede interpreters in interpreting speakers' messages. Additionally, English has complex grammar and syntax rules that distinguish it from other languages. For instance, English typically follows the subject-verb-object (SVO) word order in sentences and uses specific grammar rules, such as the use of auxiliary verbs to form interrogative and negative sentences. This aligns with Gile's (1995) that some of these challenges include dealing with the syntactic complexity of English, which can differ from other languages, as well as managing the high cognitive load associated with frequent switching between English and other languages.

Therefore, interpreters working with English need to have extensive knowledge of the relevant language and culture and continuously update their skills and knowledge to address the specific challenges of English interpreters. Dealing with colloquial idioms and cultural references that are difficult to interpret effectively in a cross-cultural environment is a particular problem for English interpreters (Wit et al., 2021). Verb phrases are frequently used in English and are difficult for foreign speakers to understand.

The importance of the interpreter's role in bridging multinational communication with various potential challenges, such as misperceptions and difficulties in conveying ideas, is the focal point of attention. To address these challenges, several interpreters adopt a teamwork approach, both technically and psychologically, as emphasized by Murtiningsih & Ardlillah (2021), they underscore that effective teamwork with fellow interpreters is a solution to overcome the limitations of memorization. Alghail & Mahfoodh (2016) also

support this concept by stating that assistance and the presence of interpreter partners can facilitate the interpreter's understanding of the discussion topics.

Furthermore, one of the main challenges that often hinder the information processing of interpreters is the limitation in recognizing unfamiliar accents. The findings of Chang & Wu (2014) indicate that accents are considered a major challenge in translation. Therefore, confirmation with the speaker is deemed the appropriate decision to ensure the accuracy and completeness of information. Russell (2010) also highlights the importance of confirmation and clarification as necessary steps to ensure the information received by interpreters is comprehensive and accurate. Considering interpreters cannot make assumptions, confirmation becomes the key to ensuring the success of the interpretation process.

In summary, English serves as a global lingua franca in international conferences, enabling communication across diverse language backgrounds. However, varying levels of mastery among speakers present challenges. Interpreters play a crucial role in overcoming language obstacles, including idioms and complex grammar. Challenges faced include the need for extensive language knowledge, cultural understanding, and continuous skill development. Teamwork among interpreters is highlighted as a solution to overcome memorization limitations. Recognizing unfamiliar accents is a significant challenge, emphasizing the importance of confirming information with speakers. In essence, interpreters' roles are pivotal in facilitating effective communication amid diverse challenges.

2.4. Study of the Relevant Research

Several studies have been conducted to examine the challenges and coping strategies of interpreters in various contexts. The first research was conducted by Arumí Ribas (2013), who used a preliminary study approach and employed a post-translation questionnaire to collect data. The questionnaire aimed to collect information about the translators' profiles, the difficulties they faced while translating, and the strategies they used. The results showed that the two groups exhibited similarities in the way they overcame the problems. Moreover, both novice and advanced translators reported difficulties in understanding the original

speech, which was identified as the main challenge during the listening phase for both groups.

Another research related to this topic was conducted by Bîrsanu & Kanani (2021) entitled "Consecutive Interpretation Challenges" which focused on the researcher's experience regarding some unexpected problems and challenges they faced as an official Interpreter in interpreting from English to Albanian and English to Romanian in a conference context. A case study is the research design used in this study to analyze specific examples and unexpected challenges in Albania, and the results of this study are some challenges faced by researchers or interpreters related to time pressure, terminology, and mental load, the researcher also emphasizes that each case must be different in the level of difficulty as well as the solution.

Last, there was a research conducted by Al-Harahsheh et al. (2020) that involved 50 senior Translation students in a Consecutive Interpretation course at Yarmouk University, Jordan. Its objective was to identify challenges faced by trainee interpreters during CI sessions and propose strategies to overcome them. Gile's Effort Model was used to analyze data collected during the first semester of the 2018/2019 academic year through training materials and a questionnaire. The study found linguistic, memory, note-taking, note-reading, and reproduction problems as challenges faced by trainee interpreters. Proposed strategies include intensive language training and practical skill development focusing on language proficiency in both source and target languages.

These studies provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by interpreters and the strategies they employ. They underscore the importance of training, language proficiency, memory skills, note-taking techniques, and the utilization of task-based approaches in interpreter education to enhance interpreters' coping strategies and overall interpreting performance.