THE PRACTICE OF RADIO AND TELEVISION INTERPRETING IN CAMEROON

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ABSTRACT

This paper sets out to depict the practice of radio and television interpreting in Cameroon. Its key objective is to analyse and discuss the practice of this type of interpreting in the country. To achieve its set goal, data were collected from two primary sources: media interpreted audio messages and media interpreted video messages, both broadcast over radio and television channels in Cameroon. From the two sources, 100 excerpts were selected for analysis. A 13-point grid was then employed in the analysis of the collected data. When these media interpreted excerpts were transcribed and analysed, five main findings were arrived at: occurrences of reported discourse, cases of foreignised discourse, frequent use of deceptive cognates, less cumbersomeness of semi-consecutive and non- applicability of analysis criteria to most voice-over media interpreted excerpts. From these findings, it is believed a lot still needs to be done in order to improve on the practice of radio and television interpreting in Cameroon.

Keywords: Radio interpreting, television interpreting, audio/video media interpreted messages, foreignising/domesticating interpreting, voice-over, deceptive cognates.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In my first article on the media interpreting landscape in Cameroon, focus was put on describing media interpreting in general: types practised, profiling of media interpreters, challenges encountered by the latter, possible solutions, to name but these. This second article is zooming in on the media excerpts interpreted over some radio and television channels in Cameroon, with specific emphasis laid on the audio and visual components.

In examining and broaching the practice of radio and television interpreting in Cameroon, this article starts by painting a picture of the background to the study before delving into the review of related literature, which is immediately followed by the statement of the problem and set objectives for the work. How the data are collected, analysed, processed and discussed comes next before outlining the findings. The analysis and discussion of the findings or outcomes will be made, limitations of the study stated, prior to wrapping up the main parts of this article with recommendations and some suggestions for further research.

2.0 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

In mirroring Cameroon‟s colonial, historical, cultural and linguistic landscape, it is a truism that this country is a melting pot of a myriad of languages (Biloa 2004:1; Ethnologue 2022:169). Matter-of-factly, Cameroon first inherited the use of Portuguese and German prior to English and French that are the two official European-imported languages in use in Cameroon today. This fact is further confirmed in Ayonghe and Enow (2013:173) when both authors hold that„„Cameroon is a multilingual country with people from different backgrounds with English and French as official languages. Added to the two languages mentioned above are two widely spoken lingua francae, namely Cameroon Pidgin English and Camfranglais – spoken primarily among the youthful population in the country – and over 275 national languages spoken in several ethnic, linguistic and cultural communities in Cameroon (Ethnologue 2022:169).

Although, more often than not, conference interpreting is generally a very highly strung profession, which must warrant a long and continuous hard-to-bear strain (Herbert 1952:6); radio and television interpreting is likely to be much more complex and pressure-bound.

This complexity is compounded by technological developments that surge regularly and periodically. Besides, the privatisation and multiplicity of media houses in Cameroon and the manner in which interpreting in such houses is done warrant that some study be carried out in this quite daunting field. The visually impaired community are also consciously or unconsciously ignored by media houses that fail to employ media interpreters in the interest of such a category of listeners and viewers.

It is against this backdrop, therefore, that this research is intended to analyse and discuss the practice of radio and television interpreting in Cameroon. Getting to identify from and into which languages the practice is done and how successful it is done is the target of this article.

To conclude, interpreted multi-media events research is still in its infant stages and so needs more research. This fact is underscored by Chiaro (2002:215) who declares that „„multi-media translation in general is still in its early stages and within this field, very little research exists on TV interpreting‟‟.It is therefore evident that the practice of audio and visual interpreting in Cameroon needs to be discussed, especially considering the scarcity or quasi-unavailability of literature on this form of interpreting.

3.0 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In briefly discussing the review of related literature, a definition of media will first be given, given that radio and television interpreting are related to media as a whole. This is closely followed by an outline and cursory discussion of six types of media-related interpreting. Considering the choice place of Venuti‟s twin concepts – domestication and foreignisation – in oral translation, these concepts are discussed.

3.1 The Media

What does the term media mean? According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2010) media refers to the main ways that large numbers of people receive information and entertainment: television, radio, newspapers (print media) and the Internet (facebook, whatsapp, Instagram, Tweeter). Another source earlier defined media as:

une institution ou un moyen impersonnel permettant une diffusion large et collective d'informations ou d'opinions, quel qu'en soit le support: la radio, la télévision, la presse, les livres, la publicité, etc. Il permet de communiquer vers un très grand nombre de personnes sans qu'il y ait possibilité de personnaliser le message (Qu'est-ce que les médias? 2005, para 2).

The above definition is re-echoed in the following words:

> The type of interpreting is associated with the context in which interpretation is carried out. There are many types depending on the context or setting: conference interpreting, court or legal interpreting, community interpreting, medical interpreting, signed language interpreting, telephone interpreting, television interpreting, videoconference interpreting and wiretapping and tape transcription (Phelan 2001:6-17). Mary Phelan‟s classification hereinabove remains controversial, given that some scholars posit that community interpreting encompasses court interpreting, medical interpreting, religious interpreting, escort interpreting and sign language interpreting (Gandu 2018:27). This work herein highlights some of the above-mentioned types, which may be vicariously related to the topic under investigation – radio and television interpreting in Cameroon.

3.2 Types of Media Interpreting

In delimiting the scope of this research work earlier on, it was stated that the focus is on audio (radio) interpreting and visual (television) interpreting. It is against this backdrop that this work sets out to discuss four media interpreting-related types: voice-over interpreting, audio interpreting, visual interpreting, signed language interpreting, television interpreting and videoconferencing. These types are in addition to the generally known types of interpreting. It should be emphasised that for information dissemination to access the highest number of people, many channels or media have to be employed. Ayonghe and Enow (2013:173) buttress this stance when they posit that „the need to render information broadcast on television channels across the city to the population is accordingly of paramount importance‟.

1 Voice-Over Interpreting

Voice-over translation is an audiovisual translation technique in which, unlike in dubbing, the actor‟s voices are recorded over the original audio track which can be heard in the background. Pöchhacker (1994:25) holds that it is a rule that interpreting into the target language is "broadcast as a voice-over, with the original speaker still audible in the background". Run on both national and private radio and television channels, voice-over is an information communication technique which is generally understood as a mode of audiovisual translation. Given that one of the main dividing lines between translation and interpreting is the fact the former is written while the latter is oral, it can be stated categorically that voice- over is part and parcel of interpreting. Ayonghe and Enow (2013:173) hold that voice-over is lagging behind because the process is poorly understood by many. They further hold that very little has been published on it in the country, and that explains why very few people come to grips with what it is all about. This probably supports the purpose of this work which comes on the hills of the publication of this article, given that very little has changed on the publication of material on voice-over.

What actually is voice-over interpreting or translation? Voice-over is defined as:

> the faithful translation of the original speech"", which is delivered in an approximately synchronous delivery. It is normally used only in the context of a monologue such as interview response or a series of responses from a single interviewee. The original sound is either reduced entirely or to a low level of audibility. A common practice is to allow the original sound to be heard for several seconds at the onset of the speech and have it subsequently reduced so that the translated speech takes over. This contributes to the sense of authenticity in the translation and prevents a degree of mistrust from developing (Luyken et al 1991:80).

From Luyken and al"s definition, a number of technical points can be highlighted. The first is synchrony or match in the delivery which will likely involve voice time lap synchrony, genre match – male-to-male or female-to-female voice, age match – given the demarcation in the speech of young people and older people. The second is situations when voice-over is used: interviews, in addition to documentaries, news reports, parliamentary debates, conferences and even cinematography (Ayonghe and Enow 2013: 174-176). The third very significant aspect pinpointed is the authenticity of the voice-over. What should make it authentic or original is when mistrust by the audience – major stakeholders of (media) interpreting services – does not set in. These aspects among others will authenticate what this researcher calls voice-over interpreting. Any voice-over interpreting void of the above aspects is tantamount to casting doubt on its authenticity and originality.

Going further in their article, Ayonghe and Enow (idem:177-179) point other linguistic aspects that have to be taken serious for the voice-over interpreting or translation to be successful and quasi-hitch-free. They include, but not limited to the problems of shortening of sentences, persistent use of omissions, and use of deceptive cognates. Shortening of sentences and omission, deliberate or not, can cause loss of meaning or part of the semantic content delivered by the original speaker; whereas the use of false friends or deceptive cognates or deceptive similarities turn to create confusion in the minds of the receivers or users of interpreting services. As such, all the above problems must be avoided in order to render best services to users of media interpreting services and steer clear of misinforming them.

2 Audio Interpreting

Taking cognizance of the fact that audio concerns recorded sound, it can be stated that voice-over takes place or can be performed on both radio and television. Consequently, audio interpreting is connected to voice-over interpreting.

3 Visual Interpreting

Visual interpreting, on its part, is concerned with both sound and pictures. As stated above under voice-over, the various programmes during which voice-over is performed also go with visual interpreting, but for the fact that pictures remain an essential part of visual interpreting. The sense of sight is actively at work in this case.

4 Signed Language Interpreting

According to Phelan (2001:14), signed language interpreting is provided for deaf, hearing-impaired or hard-to-hearing community who cannot understand the original speech. Hard-to-hearing people find themselves in the same situation as people who do not speak the language of the country where they are living. This type of language is received through the visual modality and expressed through manual and non-manual gestures.

Viewpoints vary as to whether to call this type of language 'signed language' or 'sign language'. Isham (1998:231-235) holds that most lay people refer to this language as ' sign language', there is no language called like that. Rather, each Deaf community in the world has its own signed language. As such, there are as many signed languages as there are distinct Deaf communities in the world. For instance, the signed language used in the United Sates and much of Canada is American Signed Language (ASL); it is not readily understandable to a user of the British Signed Language (BSL).

Attitudes towards signed language have changed. Today, signed language is recognised as a language in its own right. This type of language uses gestures of the hand and the rest of the body including the face. A number of signed languages has developed separately in various countries. Within the English-speaking world

American, British and Irish signed languages have all evolved separately. Apart from the developed world, some developing countries have developed their own signed languages: Cameroon Signed Language (source: interview between this researcher and Management of Buea School of the Deaf in 2007).

Much of the work done by signed language interpreters takes place in community settings. They range from doctors' appointments to schoolrooms, weddings, marriage counseling sessions, job interviews, asylum seeking facilities, psycho- therapy, to name but these. What is established is that 'interpreters for the Deaf' or 'signed language interpreters' perform basically the same function as other interpreters: recoding the message in the source language into a target language format for others to understand.

Apart from community settings in which signed language interpreting generally takes place, it should be stated outright that, considering the fact that this is a language in its own right, it is now steadily and regularly used in other areas. Viewers of television channels would agree with this writer that many of such channels do make recourse to signed language interpreters during news broadcast slots and other important programmes or event for instance, burial or funeral ceremony of the late iconic world leader, Nelson Mandela of the Republic of South Africa. Disregarding whether all such signed language interpreters are trained or not, professionals or amateurs in the art of interpreting, remains another issue that needs to be investigated.

5 Television Interpreting

Simultaneous interpreting is provided for television programmes, partly for interviews with foreign guests, just to name a few. Cases in point include politicians, musicians and sportsmen and women. This type of concept, not prevalent in the English-speaking world, is quite common in mainland Europe (Phelan 2001:15).

6 Videoconference Interpreting

According to Phelan (2001:16), videoconference technology is undergoing rapid development. The Internet offers a great deal of potential for live conferencing in the future. As to AT and T Video Center in Atlanta, Georgia, the basic equipment for videoconferencing consists of a camera, codec, monitor, microphone, an equipment control pad at each location and network services to connect the locations. Some multinationals use video conferencing as part of the recruitment process.

The advent of the corona virus (COVID-19) has significantly given a fillip to the use of video conferencing in recent times. In fact, since this pandemic hit the whole world, meetings that usually were organised face-to-face, now hold online. Even interpreters are recruited online and they do not need to mandatorily be present at the meeting venue. The consequences on the way conferences are organised are actually enormous. Not only are meetings held via video conferencing, lectures are also increasingly being held online. This is actually a huge boost to this technology which had hitherto been neglected or relegated to the background. Nowadays, it is rather the order of the day.

4.0 DOMESTICATING AND FOREIGNISING INTERPRETING

These are relevant concepts in interpreting, which either make or mar if appropriately or inappropriately applied. To determine the success, transparency, fluency and originality of an interpretation geared at ensuring excellent or quasi- excellent communication, Venuti (1995) employs two important concepts: domesticating translation and foreignising translation. These concepts are relevant to this work, especially in the analysis of media texts, given that the work focuses on oral translation (interpreting) which of course deals with oral texts.

1 Domesticating interpreting

In translation, domesticating is a term or concept used to describe a translation strategy in which strangeness of a foreign text is reduced to the barest minimum or naught for Target Language (TL) readers or listeners (interpreting). Domestication is ensured by making sure that a foreign text is fluent, transparent and natural to the TL readers or receivers (Venuti 1995:6-7). According to this author, the origin of this concept could be traced far back to Schleiermacher‟s (1838/1963:47; 1838/1977:74) notion of translation, which should leave „the reader in peace, as much as possible‟, and move „the author towards him‟. This therefore implies that the TL listener or viewer of an interpreted media message is expected to receive the foreign text in their own language as though such a text were originally spoken in their mother tongue. If this is respected, communication would be made more effective and efficient.

2. Foreignising or Minoritising Interpreting

This is actually the direct opposite of domesticating interpreting seen above. To foreignise a translation and interpreting is a term which Venuti (1995:19) uses to refer to a type of translation and interpreting in which a target text (TT) produced deliberately breaks from target conventions by retaining „something of the foreignness of the original‟ (Shuttleworth and Cowie 1997:19). Hence in translation and interpreting, TL conventions can be inadvertently or advertently flouted.

This means that the TL receivers or listeners are provided with an alien text. The alienness of such a text to the TL readers or listeners would obviously mean that effective and efficient communication would be truncated somehow or found wanting. In such a scenario, the needs of the parties in negotiation would likely not be met.

From the foregoing, it is established that domesticating interpreting and translation would ease communication. On the other hand, foreignising it would thwart or hamper communication, to the detriment of the parties involved in the negotiation.

5.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Given the bilingual and hyper multilingual nature of Cameoon, it is but obvious that media interpreting, especially radio and televison interpreting, has been going on in this country for quite a long time now. This can easily be traced back to the historical past of Cameroon. In spite of the presence of a plethora of language brokers or ombudsmen in Cameroon, a pilot study and participant observation have revealed that radio and television interpreting is carried in ways that leaves much to be desired. Consequently, one is tempted to think that the actors behind the scene – media „interpreters"- do not know how to go about it satisfactorily. This seemingly myopic knowledge of what interpreting is, especially a highly strung type – radio and television interpreting – is the trigger in the researcher"s mind who sets out to make a between-the-line and microscopic scrutiny and discussion of interpreted media messages broadcast over radio and television channels in Cameroon.

6.0 OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of this paper is to analyse and discuss the practice of radio and television interpreting in Cameroon. Having cursorily described the media landscape in Cameroon, profiled media interpreters and described the types of media interpreting in Cameroon in a previous article (Werebesi 2022: 33-43), this one intends to focus specifically on media interpreted data, analyse and broach the selected excerpts. The criteria used in the analysis and discussion process are outlined later in this article under methodology.

7.0 METHODOLOGY

The corpora for this work are collected from two primary sources: interpreted audio data and interpreted video data done by media interpreters over a select number of radio and television channels in Cameroon.

1 Audio Recordings

The audio recordings used in this work were collected from three radio channels: one public radio channel, one private radio channel and one gospel radio channel. For each of these radio channels or stations, the researcher set out to collect interpreted media messages, irrespective of the length of each audio. The essence is to identify who does the interpreting, whether it is done by a hybrid interpreter or journalist, translator, a trained in-house or institutional interpreter, a professional interpreter just called in to come and do the job and leave, among others.

The radio stations shortlisted were CRTV Yaounde, Equinoxe radio in Douala and any Gospel radio station. From the outset, the intention was to collect ten (10) recordings from each of these radio stations for analysis. It should be stated right away that accessing or collecting the required number of recordings was extremely challenging a task, daunting to the extent that sometimes, it was almost quasi- impossible to collect even one recording.

The quasi-impossibility of collecting the required data was caused by the fact that the stations consulted dreaded to what extent the confidentiality of the information collected from them would be ensured. Secondly, they also expressed the lack of time to get to the archived information. This state of affairs led the researcher to make recourse to either personally recording any interpreted media material or contacting other colleagues to do that. Candidly, such an exercise was a herculean task.

2 Video-taping

As for video-taping, same as with audio recordings, three media channels were targeted: one public television channel, one private television channel and one gospel television channel. For each of these channels, the researcher set out to collect interpreted media messages, irrespective of the length of each video. The aim was also to identify those carrying out the interpreting, whether it is a hybrid interpreter or journalist, a trained in-house interpreter, among others.

The channels earmarked were CRTV, Equinoxe TV and Glory Christ Channel. From the outset, the intention was to collect ten (10) videos from each of these channels. The hurdles encountered in accessing or collecting the required number of videos were similar to those faced in collecting audio recordings above. The case of videos was even more complicated and impossible, in spite of the energy and determination invested in this exercise.

The impossibility of collecting the required videos was caused by the fact that the staff of the stations consulted dreaded the confidentiality of the information collected from them. Sometimes, they categorically refused to provide the researcher with the videos. They also expressed the lack of time to get to the archived information, as stated earlier. This state of affairs pushed the researcher to resort to either personally video-tape any media interpreted material or contact other colleagues to do that. In fact, a colleague in Douala who made countless attempts to Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV), Equinoxe TV, or even Radio Balafon, was of enormous help. Enormous help because the numerous attempts to these stations were fruitless. This inability to collect the needed data triggered a fresh idea in the researcher"s mind; that of resorting to personally video-taping any media interpreted material broadcast on those TV channels. Admittedly, video- taping any useful media interpreted material warranted a lot of concentration, availability, especially when such material is being broadcast on television.

It is worth stating that all the videos analysed for the purpose of this research work were video-taped by either this researcher or the colleague in Douala. At least, for the videos, contrarily to the audio recordings, thirty of them were video-taped, that is ten (10) per TV channel. The length of each varies from one interpreted material to the other, with some being less than a minute while those on Glory Christ Channel lasted between three to ten minutes.

3 Data Analysis and processing Criteria

The target of this section of the work is to state the data analysis employed, and then to describe the data analysis procedures. As for the data analysis procedures, the collected data are examined in two stages. Firstly, questionnaire-related data are analysed separately. This is followed by the analysis of audio and visual media data garnered from both radio and television channels.

4 Audiovisual data collection sampling method used

The data were collected from about sixty (60) videos and audios (thirty videos and thirty audios) from Cameroon-based radio and television stations, both private and public. From these videos and audios, one hundred (100) excerpts were extracted and transcribed for use in this research work. Fifty-one (51) of these excerpts are from videos whereas forty-nine (49) are from audios. Given that both audios and videos were media interpreted messages or news items, the analysis grid used for videos is the same one applied to audios since both are concerned with real media interpreting practice situations.

In analysing these excerpts, the following aspects are taken into consideration: source text (ST) to determine the source language of the text, context of production of the analysed text, element(s) of interest to the researcher, media interpreting type: video or audio, brief description of identified element(s), intended meaning, comparative analysis of source (ST) and target text (TT), value judgment: appropriately or not appropriately interpreted, interpreter‟s method: theories: mass media, interpreting, discourse analysis) and strategies: macro and micro, proposed solution, researcher‟s method: theories: mass media, interpreting, discourse analysis) and strategies: macro and micro, and justification of researcher‟s method.

The above points are summarised in a 13-point analysis grid used in examining the excerpts transcribed from the source language (SL) into target language (TL) as seen below:

1. Source text (ST).
2. Context of production.
3. Elements of interest(s).
4. Media type: Audio or video.
5. Brief description of identified elements.
6. Intended meaning.
7. Comparative analysis of ST and TT.
8. Target Text.
9. Value judgment: appropriately or not appropriately interpreted.
10. Interpreter‟s method: Theories and strategies employed.
11. Proposed solution.
12. Researcher‟s method: Theories and strategies.
13. Justification of researcher‟s method.

These characteristics are used by the researcher to paint a picture of media interpreting practice in Cameroon. Analysing these data will enable the researcher to better describe the practice of radio and television interpreting in the country. Some excerpts exemplifying how the above grid is used will be presented for easy understanding.

8.0 FINDINGS

The analysed collected data spawn a number of findings:

1. In the course of interpreting, media interpreters resort to reported discourse, a practice that is completely unprofessional.
2. There are many cases of foreignised excerpts and renderings.
3. Media interpreters use many deceptive cognates when media-interpreting into English language.
4. Semi-consecutive is less cumbersome compared to other types of interpreting.
5. This article is a bed nest to further research given that it is the very first on the audiovisual media interpreting practice in Cameroon.

9.0 ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

As earlier stated, the focus herein is on analysing media interpreted data done over a select number of radio and television channels. From a total of 100 media interpreted excerpts, the five findings below are identified, analysed and broached: occurrences of reported discourse, cases of foreignised discourse, frequent use of deceptive cognates, less cumbersomeness of semi-consecutive and non- applicability of analysis criteria to most voice-over media interpreted excerpts.

1 Occurrences of Reported Discourse

In interpreting, the interpreter never reports as a journalist does in broadcasting. Contrarily to professional practice, there are cases of reported speeches or interpreting, which is a clear pointer to lack of professionalism or training as indicated above. It should be underscored that professional practice obligates the interpreter to put the shoes of the speaker as they interpret. This means that phrases such as he said that…., the man/woman said that…., as the woman was saying…., to name but these, are completely disallowed in professional practice. Rather, the interpreter in the above examples should use the first-person singular 'I' as the speaker. Below is what a great scholar intimates to buttress the above point:

> The conference interpreter, in a way, becomes the delegate they are interpreting. They speak in the first person when the delegate does so, not translating along the lines of "He says that he thinks this is a useful idea…". The conference interpreter must emphasize with the delegate, put themselves in someone‟s shoes, espouse their cause (Jones (2002:5).

Nonetheless, similar phrases like "says the speaker" can be uttered if the interpreter discovers that the speaker has said something which should be a glaring mistake or opposite of what is intended, which, if let go or interpreted normally by the interpreter, would be as if they themselves committed the mistake. After uttering such a statement, the interpreter has the latitude to correct it or not (Jones 2002:109-110). From the analysed data, the reported statements found therein do not fall in this category of speaker‟s mistakes.

An example of reported interpreting or discourse is found in the target text (TT) in Excerpt 1 hereinafter:

Excerpt 1

1.1	Source text (ST)	Et ils les ont reçus. Et ils ont vraiment cru.		
1.2	Context of production	Preaching through the radio		
1.3	Element(s) of interest	Et ils les ont reçus. Et ils ont vraiment cru.		
1.4	Media type: Audio or video.	Audio: Semi-consecutive		
1.5	Brief description of identified element(s)	Entire text		
1.6	Intended meaning	To give the outcome of the messages preached		
1.7	Comparative analysis of ST and TT	TT reported speech contrary to the source text that is direct speech.		
1.8	Target Text (TT)	And he says they have received them. And they have truly believed.		
1.9	Value judgment: Appropriately or not appropriately interpreted	Not appropriately interpreted		
1.10	Interpreter's method:	Theories	Mass media	Authoritarianism
			Interpreting	Skopos
			Discourse analysis	Language in use
		Strategies	Macro	Domestication
			Micro	Omission
1.11	Proposed solution	And they received them. And they truly believed		
1.12	Researcher's method:	Theories	Mass media	Authoritarianism
			Interpreting	Interpretive
			Discourse analysis	Language in use
		Strategies	Macro	Domestication
			Micro	Reformulation
1.13	Justification of researcher's method	Reformulation quite necessary in this excerpt in order to eliminate the reported speech, which is completely unprofessional in interpreting.		

From the above excerpt, it is obvious that the media interpreter has not espoused the speaker's position as propounded by Jones' excerpt above.

Source Text: Et ils les ont reçus. Et ils ont vraiment cru.

Target Text: And **he says** they have received them. And they have truly believed. Researcher's proposed solution: And they received them. And they truly believed.

The media interpreter is not supposed to use „**he says**" as if they were journalists. As earlier stated, the reported speech is a pointer to lack of professionalism, or ignorance about what professional interpreting implies.

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2 Cases of Foreignised Discourse

In analysing the audios and videos collected purposefully for the study, numerous cases of foreignisation were identified – French statements left uninterpreted during news broodcast in English as seen in some of the media interpreted excerpts. Such cases could have been caused by two possible reasons. Firstly, the lack of professional or deontological knowledge that warrants the professional to domesticate any message in the interest of the receivers, while taking into account their cultural setting in order to ensure effective communication; otherwise the target population will be left wanting and the intended impact of the speaker''s message on them absent. So, cases of uninterpreted excerpts for the English- speaking audience (listeners and viewers) abound when we listen to and watch media interpreted messages over the radio and television in Cameroon.

Secondly, foreignisation is likely as a result of ignorance on the part of the media interpreter. The latter seems to underestimate the extent of the damage caused to effective communication by freely leaving French statements uninterpreted whereas the messages are intended for an English-speaking audience (see Excerpt 2 below).

Excerpt 2

2.1	Source text (ST)	Etre toujours ardent au travail. Ne négliger aucune matière pour obtenir tous les résultats.		
2.2	Context of production	14th Edition of Excellence: Papeterie Nono		
2.3	Element(s) of interest	Etre toujours ardent au travail. Ne négliger aucune matière pour obtenir tous les résultats.		
2.4	Media type: Audio or video.	Video		
2.5	Brief description of identified element(s)	Entire text		
2.6	Intended meaning	To encourage students to continue working hard so as to always have excellent results		
2.7	Comparative analysis of ST and TT	Not applicable		
2.8	Target Text (TT)	Not applicable		
2.9	Value judgment: Appropriately or not appropriately interpreted	Not applicable		
2.10	Interpreter''s method:	Theories	Mass media	Not applicable
			Interpreting	Not applicable
			Discourse analysis	Not applicable
		Strategies	Macro	Foreignization
			Micro	Omission
2.11	Proposed solution	To always be hardworking. Not to neglect any subject in order to obtain good results.		

2.12	Researcher"s method:	Theories	Mass media	Development communication
			Interpreting	Interpretive
			Discourse analysis	Language in use
		Strategies	Macro	Domestication
			Micro	Reformulation
2.13	Justification of researcher"s method	Interpreting the omitted sentence provides the recipients with complete message.		

3 Occurrences of Deceptive Cognates in Discourse

The third general outcome is lack of professional training that pushes media interpreters to sometimes spew French words or deceptive cognates in an English audio or video simply because such words exist in English language, which contextually will distort the intended message. This is instanced in words like culpable instead of guilty in excerpt 3 and plume (pronounced like plumb) in lieu of feather in excerpt 4 below. Such cognates go a long way to create confusion in the minds of the target audience. Such misunderstanding is likely caused by lack of training, lack of preparation and lack of split second processing of received information. Such a problem can easily be warded off or reduced to the barest minimum if a trained interpreter is employed for the job.

Excerpt 3

3.1	Source text (ST)	C"est pourquoi, celui qui mangera le pain et boira la coupe du seigneur indignement sera coupable du corps et du sang du seigneur		
3.2	Context of production	Preaching during Church Service.		
3.3	Element(s) of interest	…coupable….		
3.4	Media type: Audio or video.	Audio: Semi-Consecutive		
3.5	Brief description of identified element(s)	Adjective		
3.6	Intended meaning	To state the disadvantages of taking holy communion while bearing grudges against someone.		
3.7	Comparative analysis of ST and TT	Both ST and TT contain the same message		
3.8	Target Text (TT)	That is why, he who eats the body and drinks the cup of the Lord, if not worthy, is culpable of the blood of Christ.		
3.9	Value judgment: Appropriately or not appropriately interpreted	Appropriately interpreted, but for linguistic interference		
3.10	Interpreter"s method:	Theories	Mass media	Authoritarianism
			Interpreting	Linguistic
			Discourseanalysis	Language in use
		Strategies	Macro	Foreignization
			Micro	Syntactic linearity
3.11	Proposed solution	That is why, he who eats the body and drinks the cup of the Lord, if not worthy, is guilty of the blood of Christ.		

3.12	Researcher's method:	Theories	Mass media	Authoritarianism
			Interpreting	Linguistic
			Discourse analysis	Language in use
		Strategies	Macro	Domestication
			Micro	Linguistic
3.13	Justification of researcher's method	Deceptive cognate corrected to ease understanding by the Target Language recipients		

Excerpt 4

4.1	Source text (ST)	On retrouve les plumes sur la tête…..		
4.2	Context of production	Akoultang Dance in the East Region		
4.3	Element(s) of interest	On retrouve les plumes sur la tête…..		
4.4	Media type: Audio or video.	Audio: voice over		
4.5	Brief description of identified element(s)	Indefinite articles and a noun		
4.6	Intended meaning	To state how Akoultang dancers are dressed		
4.7	Comparative analysis of ST and TT	Not applicable		
4.8	Target Text (TT)	You can find theplumes on the head, the broom, the bark of trees all around the waist, the skirts made of raffia, mixed animal skins.		
4.9	Value judgment: Appropriately or not appropriately interpreted	Not applicable		
4.10	Interpreter's method:	Theories	Mass media	Social responsibility
			Interpreting	Syntactic linearity
			Discourse analysis	Language in use
		Strategies	Macro	Foreignization
			Micro	Reformulation
4.11	Proposed solution	You can find feathers on the head, broom, bark of trees all around the waist, skirts made of raffia, mixed animal skins.		
4.12	Researcher's method:	Theories	Mass media	Development communication
			Interpreting	Semantic-Comunicative
			Discourse analysis	Language in use
		Strategies	Macro	Domestication
			Micro	Reformulation

| 4.13 | Justification of researcher‟s method | Reformulation imperative here in order to ensure fluency and better communication, especially given that maintaining the word „plume‟ and the repeated use of the definite article will be confusing and unnecessary. Furthermore, the pronunciation of plume by the media interpreter sounded like the fruit plumb, which creates more confusion in the minds of target audience, hence replacing it simply with feathers that would be easy to understand and void of confusion. |

4 Less Cumbersomeness of Semi-Consecutive

The fourth overall finding is that one type of interpreting, which is semi consecutive interpreting, is easier and less cumbersome to interpret than the others. This is verified from all the semi consecutive excerpts found in the data. Indeed, out of a total of forty-one (41) excerpts (21 videos and 20 audios), sixteen (16) of them were correctly interpreted, hence giving room for the criteria for the data analysis grid to be applied to the fullest. That is why the 16 excerpts mentioned hereinabove do not have cases of proposed solutions to imply that something went wrong with the media interpreter‟s version. Furthermore, the questionnaire-sourced data also reveal that 36.7% of the media interpreters contacted consider semi consecutive to be less stressful compared to others, although the latter occupies a second position after simultaneous interpreting. Semi consecutive excerpts register lesser cases of omissions. Can this be caused by the interpreter-consciousness of the speaker, preparation on the interpreter‟s part, or the fact that the interpreter is so versed with Gospel messages to the extent that interpreting is made easier? Or could the better performance be triggered by the fact that the chunks spoken by the speaker were short, reasonable and straightforward not to give room for any omissions. Several reasons can be advanced for this state of affairs. One may be that posited by Gandu (2018:25) who holds that this category of interpreters – community interpreters – is more apt to interpret "dialogue-like" interactions than speeches. They routinely interpret into and out of both or all their working languages. However, further research can shed light on this scenario.

5 Non-Applicability on Most Voice-Over Excerpts

Conversely to what obtains with semi-consecutive above, voice-over, for instance, has a total of thirty-one (31) excerpts out of which seven (07) media interpreter‟s versions were reformulated, whereas twenty-our (24) others were simply not applicable. The non-applicability is mostly in cases of voice-over, where either source texts are not audible at all, not audible enough, or where the target text is partly interpreted or completely omitted. In such cases proper, the analysis of the collected data is quasi-impossible because all the criteria have not been met to enable this happen, as seen in Excerpt 5 below.

Excerpt 5

5.1	Source text (ST)	…apporter leur expérience dans le développement….
5.2	Context of production	Anti- COVID-19 donation at Nkongsamba Central Prison
5.3	Element(s) of interest	Not applicable
5.4	Media type: Audio or video.	Audio: voice over

5.5	Brief description of identified element(s)	Not applicable		
5.6	Intended meaning	Not applicable		
5.7	Comparative analysis of ST and TT	Not applicable		
5.8	Target Text (TT)	We can still contribute to the development of the town of Ngongsamba.		
5.9	Value judgment: Appropriately or not appropriately interpreted	Not applicable		
5.10	Interpreter"s method:	Theories	Mass media	Social responsibility
			Interpreting	Skopos
			Discourse analysis	Language in use
		Strategies	Macro	Domestication
			Micro	Reformulation
5.11	Proposed solution	Not applicable		
5.12	Researcher"s method:	Theories	Mass media	Not applicable
			Interpreting	Not applicable
			Discourse analysis	Not applicable
		Strategies	Macro	Not applicable
			Micro	Not applicable
5.13	Justification of researcher"s method	Not applicable		

10.0 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Embarking on a nascent area of this nature was not a smooth sail in the sea. Indeed, investigating the practice of radio and television interpreting, with focus on the audio-visual component of media interpreting was fraught with some hurdles. These setbacks were generally of three types. Firstly, to access media interpreting books or articles was herculean a task to overcome. The next was having access to audio-visual data needed for the study was quasi-impossible. Lastly, analysing the garnered data was also quite challenging, especially as some of the source texts of some voice-over audio and videos were not available to enable a proper and objective assessment of the interpreted portions under analysis.

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

From the forgoing state of affairs on the practice of media interpreting practice in Cameroon, five recommendations are worth highlighting.

1) Having established that a quasi-totality of media interpreters is untrained, a dire need for them to undergo formal training in interpreting basics is highly recommended.

2) Government and proprietors of media houses, schools of interpreting and journalism should encourage them to staff to enroll for some crash courses in interpreting schools in order to improve on the quality of radio and television interpreting practised in Cameroon.

3) It is also recommended that the above players in the above recommendation to employ trained interpreters to serve in their media houses, especially interpreting from one language to another is required.

4) The above stakeholders should co-opt or employ professionals to mentor the untrained media interpreters so as to bolster interpreting services proffered to viewers and listeners to television and radio programmes.

5) Staff of media houses should cooperate with researchers who request for archived audios and videos for research purposes. If done, research results would be more impacting and worthwhile.

To further this research paper on the practice of radio and television interpreting in Cameroon, future researchers can work on the following areaars:

➢ The practice of sign language interpreting in Cameroon on radio and television channels in Cameroon: strengths, challenges and prospects.

➢ Given that audiovisual interpreting practice in Cameroon examined in this paper was mono-directionally discussed – French into English – carrying out research on media interpreting of other language pairs is highly encouraged: English into French, French/English into Arabic or vice-versa, among others.

If the above recommendations and suggestions for further research are considered by the main stakeholders and authorities involved in the training and use of interpreting services, and future researchers, this will go a long way to salvage the pitfalls witnessed in radio and television interpreting practice in Cameroon.

12.0 CONCLUSION

In this article emphasis was put on broaching the practice of radio and television interpreting in Cameroon. After analysing the transcribed media interpreted 100 excerpts, five main findings were arrived at: occurrences of reported discourse, cases of foreignised discourse, frequent use of deceptive cognates, less cumbersomeness of semi-consecutive and non-applicability of analysis criteria to most voice-over media interpreted excerpts. From these findings, it is believed that much work needs to be done in order to improve on the practice of radio and television interpreting in Cameroon.

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