

STRATEGY OF SPEECH COMPRESSION IN SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION FROM UZBEK INTO ENGLISH

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Simultaneous interpretation (SI) serves as a bridge in multilingual communication, especially in diplomatic, political, and international organizational settings. Unlike consecutive interpretation, SI demands that the interpreter listens to the source language while simultaneously speaking in the target language. The inherent time lag and cognitive overload require interpreters to adopt efficient strategies to cope with dense speech. One such strategy is speech compression, which allows interpreters to reduce the verbal load without omitting critical information.

When working from Uzbek to English, interpreters often encounter redundancy, honorifics, long descriptive clauses, and indirect expressions. Given English's more concise nature and preference for straightforward structure, the strategy of speech compression becomes not only useful but often essential. This paper aims to analyze this strategy in depth, incorporating linguistic and cultural dimensions and supported by examples and academic literature.

Uzbek is an agglutinative language where meaning is constructed through a sequence of suffixes, often creating long, elaborated words or phrases. Additionally, Uzbek syntax allows for flexible word order and frequent use of redundancy and politeness strategies. English, on the other hand, is an analytic language that emphasizes clarity, brevity, and fixed word order. For example: Uzbek: "Hurmatli mehmonlar, bugungi anjumanda ishtirok etayotganingizdan benihoya mamnunmiz va sizlarga o'z minnatdorchiligimizni bildiramiz."

Compressed English: "We warmly thank our guests for attending today's conference." The compression removes redundancy ("benihoya mamnunmiz") and culturally expected politeness formulas while retaining the essential meaning. These are routine in Uzbek but would sound unnecessarily formal or repetitive in English. As pointed out by Kalina (2005), language-specific factors such as wordiness or syntax flexibility often dictate interpreter strategies. In this sense, Uzbek's linguistic richness becomes a challenge when reformulated into a more economically expressive language like English.

Gile's Effort Model (1988) emphasizes that simultaneous interpretation consists of three efforts: listening and analysis, production, and short-term memory.

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When the total demand exceeds the interpreter's processing capacity, errors or omissions may occur. Compression helps reduce this demand. For instance, during a high-speed speech from an Uzbek political figure, the interpreter may compress segments like: Uzbek: "Bugun biz, yangi O'zbekiston taraqqiyoti yo'lida, xalqimiz bilan birgalikda, yangicha fikr va yondashuvlar asosida harakat qilmoqdamiz." Compressed English: "Today, we are advancing a New Uzbekistan with fresh ideas and public cooperation." Here, the interpreter omits redundant elements ("birgalikda", "yangicha fikr va yondashuvlar asosida") that are stylistically important in Uzbek but unnecessary in English. Omission of Redundancies and Repetitions Uzbek speakers often repeat ideas for emphasis. In English interpretation, these are usually omitted unless vital for rhetorical impact. Lexical Simplification Replacing complex or culturally embedded terms with more general or accessible English equivalents. Example: Uzbek: "Oqsoqollarimizning duosi bilan ishlarimiz barakali bo'lsin." English: "May our efforts be successful." Nominalization and Condensation Turning verbs or clauses into noun phrases for brevity. Uzbek: "Ular bilan hamkorlik qilish orqali yangi imkoniyatlarga erishish mumkin." Compressed English: "This cooperation offers new opportunities."

Anticipation and Prediction Experienced interpreters anticipate sentence endings or common phrases and begin interpreting before the full clause is spoken.

Reordering

Due to differences in sentence structure, interpreters often rearrange sentence components to produce natural-sounding English. Cultural and Contextual Awareness Interpreters must maintain the speaker's intent and the cultural tone. Uzbek speech is often rich in metaphor, proverb, and indirectness. While these may be compressed or adapted, the meaning must not be lost. Example: Uzbek: "Harakatda – baraka." Possible English Equivalent: "Effort brings success." Literal translation would confuse English listeners. A compressed proverb preserves meaning while adjusting cultural framing.

Furthermore, political or religious references must be handled delicately. Interpreters must know when to compress, omit, or find parallels without offending either side or misrepresenting intent. The boundary between compression and omission is thin. Over-compression can result in distortion. According to Pöchhacker (2004), interpreters have a responsibility to deliver an equivalent message, which includes tone, register, and content. Training in compression strategy should focus not only on linguistic technique but also on ethical decision-making. Should a metaphor be replaced or explained? When is it acceptable to omit a formal address?

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These questions require not just fluency but professional judgment developed through experience and reflection.

Speech compression is an essential strategy in simultaneous interpretation from Uzbek into English. Given linguistic and cultural disparities between the two languages, interpreters must balance brevity with fidelity. Compression techniques—such as omission, condensation, generalization, and restructuring—help reduce cognitive load and ensure smooth delivery. However, ethical boundaries must be respected, and cultural nuance must be preserved. Future training programs for Uzbek-English interpreters should incorporate targeted instruction on speech compression, supported by real-world practice and corpus-based analysis.

References:

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