

First Steps of Interpreting: The History Overview.

Гончарова Ю.Л.

Россия

Донской государственный технический университет (ДГТУ)

Goncharova J.L.

Russia

Don State Technical University (DSTU)

jl.goncharova@gmail.com

Калинина В.В., Сафонова А.С.

Россия

Донской государственный технический университет (ДГТУ)

Kalinina V.V., Safonova A.S.

Russia

Don State Technical University (DSTU)

Kalininalera1259@rambler.ru

Safonova.alina2012@ya.ru

In today's world we can't imagine our life without interpreting. It holds a great importance in relationships between different countries, especially in trade. For instance, gas supply to Chinese. As we know, politicians don't know all languages, so they need interpreters who help them to negotiate with representatives of other countries. It seems quite interesting for us to make an overview of the history of interpreting and how it developed through the centuries.

Interpreting has been in existence ever since man has used the spoken word. It has always played a vital role in the relationships between people of different origins since the beginning of mankind. Thus, the first written proof of interpreting dates back to 3000 BC, when the Ancient

Egyptians had a hieroglyphic signifying "interpreter". In fact, interpreting didn't linger only in Ancient Egypt, it began to spread around the world. The next use of interpreting occurred in Ancient Greece and Rome. For both the Ancient Greeks and Romans, learning the language of the conquered people was considered very undignified. Hence, slaves, prisoners and ethnic hybrids were forced to learn multiple languages and interpret for the nobility.

This situation was maintained until the Paris Peace Conferences in 1919, when politicians started to use other languages with French, the official language of diplomacy. This cleared the way for multilingualism.

Further, with the growing importance of good business relations, people noticed that gestures were no longer enough. That is when an interpreter made his or her first steps.

It should be noted, that the Ancient Greece and Rome weren't the last places where interpreting was used. In contrast, it continued to spread due to number of factors. The first was religion. The people of many different religions have journeyed into international territories in order to share and teach their beliefs. For instance, in the 7th and 8th centuries AD, many Arabs were in West Africa in order to trade. Along with the commerce, the Arabs introduced Islam to the Africans, and Arabic, the language of the Koran, became ever more important. At this rate, interpreters assisted in spreading the word of the Koran to the local villages.

Another factor was the Age of Exploration. With so many expeditions to explore new lands, people were bound to come across others who spoke a different language. One of the most famous interpreters of early 16th century was the interpreter of Mexican descent, who served Cortés on his crusades. Her name was Doña Marina, also known as "la Malinche." At those times interpreters served as a connection between the native population and the explorers. Therefore, they have played a large role in the formation of the world that we know today.

What is more, people began to use different languages during the Age of Discovery. At his first voyage, Christopher Columbus noted that this Arabic and Hebrew-speaking interpreter was not very useful in communicating with the Indians. As a result, he decided to capture some Native Americans and teach them Spanish so they could help him as interpreters. The same happened with the Spanish that were held captive by the natives: they learned the language and culture and later served as interpreters.

As we see, interpreting has glorious past, but let's turn back to the present days. In today's world of globalization, the partnership between countries has become more and more wide-spread, so such foreign languages as English and Chinese have become popular.

Clearly, English has been considered to be the first global language around the world. However, there has been a steady growth of the demand for interpreters with other European and Asian languages. Increasing trade with Asian countries provokes the necessity in replenishment of the ranks of interpreters, mastering Chinese, Japanese and Korean languages. Nowadays according to the statistics, Chinese is becoming more popular as a second language in politics.

In any case, it is the language of the country that is trending to become the next global superpower. China has the world's biggest industrial economy, and a multi-millennial cultural heritage. Chinese is a UN (United Nation) language[1].

In terms of the most wide-spread fields of application of interpretation we can mention tourist agencies, institutes for scientific research, wedding agencies, law firms, trading firms working with foreign partners. And it is not the sufficient employment list for highly qualified interpreters. Cultural and trade relations with different countries are so wide, that competent professionals are required in almost every field of modern society.

Also, today, we have different computer programmes that help interpreters in their work. For instance, Trados 3.0, DeJaVu Interactive, SDLX 3.0, Transit и TermStar, WordFisher 4, IBM TranslationManager 2.0. Nonetheless, technology does not stand still. For instance, one of the latest innovations in interpreting is telephone interpreting services for situations where two or more people who can't speak the same language need to communicate from different locations. The latest technology allows to deliver real time remote telephone interpreting in over 200 languages anywhere. Thus, the telephone interpreting service is exceptionally important in corporate trade and the legal industry[2].

In conclusion, we would like to say that interpreting is highly required in our modern age. It is also one of the most challenging professions in the world. Along with the mastery of foreign languages, interpreters often demonstrate proficiency in a number of specific subjects. This kind of job is highly valued and required.

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Internet resources:

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2. Todaytranslations ISO 27001 DATA SECURITY: Telephone interpreting: [Internet resource]//URL: <http://www.todaytranslations.com/telephone-interpreting/>