Wars, languages and the role(s) of interpreters

Jesus Baigorri-Jalon
University de Salamanca

Abstract: Translation and interpreting always consist of an adaption to local needs and local ears. If the military system is made up of a complex network of subsystems we can expect that interpreters were required to adapt to that complexity. With no theoretical preparation they utilised the tools that, according to their common sense, could help approach people from different languages as well as cultures. Interpreters were the gatekeepers in the communication sequence and, under military command but also based on their self social control, they alternated codes and strategies depending on circumstances, always trying to avoid getting drowned in an ocean of words or lost in translation.

Keywords: Interpreters, languages, wars, roles of interpreters, prisoners of war, postwar situation, translation

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Translators and interpreters are also risking their lives as they serve their roles in counterterrorism. The risks were clearly demonstrated by the death of hundreds of language service contractors in Iraq as of 2007. While translators working directly under the government may not be that exposed to terror’s dangers, the bulk of translation service providers who operate as freelancers and contractors serving different governments is gravely exposed to terrorist infiltration and attacks. Qualifications and Duties of Anti-Terror Translators/Interpreters.

Interested to become a translator or inte... The Role of Communication in Peace and Relief Mission Negotiations1. by Victoria Edwards. Then the interpreter's output is more idiomatic and less source-language bound. Peacekeeping negotiations in the field, often employ background interpreting or “chuchotage.” Chuchotage is one-to-one direct translation where the interpreter “whispers” the translation for up to three persons who are to receive the interpretation. UN interpreters provide a communications bridge between the warring parties that allow progress towards peace arrangements. Interpreters for UN Military Observers (UNMO) play a vital role in this process under dangerous, ever-changing conditions that require interpreting skills as well as personal qualities of courage and persuasion.