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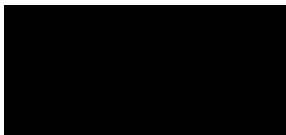


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ABSTRACT

This project is aimed to compare and contrast the two main methods of conference interpreting: simultaneous interpreting and consecutive interpreting. The purpose of the present study was to find out why there is a preference in the world on using simultaneous interpreting instead of consecutive interpreting, and to know if both methods of interpreting go hand-in-hand or complement each other. To do so, the researcher has carried out eleven interviews to professional conference interpreters with different nationalities, studies and work place in order to know about preferences, and experiences. Also, two simulation activities were performed by the interpreters in order to compare the techniques implied in each methodology.

Key words: interpreting, simultaneous interpreting, consecutive interpreting, note-taking technique, curiosity.

RESUM

Aquest projecte està dedicat a la comparació dels dos grans mètodes d'interpretació de conferències: la interpretació simultània i la interpretació consecutiva. El propòsit de l'autora és demostrar i saber perquè al món hi ha la preferència en utilitzar interpretació simultània envers la interpretació consecutiva, i si els dos mètodes de interpretació van de la mà i/o es complementen entre ells. Per tal d'aconseguir-ho, l'autora ha dut a terme diverses entrevistes a intèrprets de conferències professionals amb diferents nacionalitats, estudis i llocs de treball, per tal de saber les seves preferències i experiències. A més a més, s'han dut a terme dues activitats per tal de comparar, entre intèrprets, les tècniques emprades en cada metodologia.

Paraules clau: interpretació, interpretació simultània, interpretació consecutiva, la presa de notes, curiositat.

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1. INTRODUCTION

When the topic interpreting comes up into a conversation, the first thing that comes to people's mind is interpreting in terms of becoming an actor. As can be seen, the world of conference interpreting is not really well-known to society. Interpreting and interpreters are largely anonymous. It is an underrated job, which unfortunately, it is mainly due to the interpreters themselves.

A little-known fact is that interpreting is one of the most ancient jobs in the world. However, it is true that its development was accelerated by 20th century events, such as political conferences or technological advances. The origins of interpreting date back to the end of World War II, when the United Nations organization was founded in 1945 and the most prominent combination of languages was between English and French. This led to the creation of institutions which focused on the formation of interpreters due to the huge demand on people who were skilled in different languages.

Interpreting did not become an independent academic course of study until the 1970s. Until then, interpreting studies were considered part of translation studies. The creation of interpreting studies led to the awareness of other types of translation. From this moment on, interpreting was given the opportunity to be recognized as an independent discipline, and not as a dependent of translation.

Nevertheless, as previously mentioned, the job of interpreting was never given enough importance, this is why society lacks of knowledge about the topic. What's more, it is not even taken acknowledged when a press conferences concludes, and no one present credits the interpreters for their job. As mentioned above, this lack of awareness about the topic is mainly caused by interpreters. One of the most important things about being an interpreter is being inconspicuous to the audience. When a person who has attended the conference returns home having understood the meeting in its entirety, and has not noticed the interpreter, it means the interpreter has done a good job. If the interpreter struggles with the presentation or seems insecure in front of the audience, their insecurity will be more noticeable than the speech they are interpreting. That is to say, they must be inconspicuous when carrying out their task.

As an English Studies student, I have always been interested in the role of interpreting. As a matter of fact, I am looking forward to doing a master in this field. Therefore, I decided to choose my final degree project topic according to what it could

be useful for me in the future. Obviously, whereas people are aware of the simultaneous interpreting, consecutive interpreting is not that well-known, as it is not that commonly used or seen.

Although people are not familiar with the job, simultaneous interpreting is the most common procedure used in conferences. However, there are other methods that can be applied in a conference. This project will be based on describing and comparing the two methods of interpreting: simultaneous interpreting and consecutive interpreting. From their origins to their practices. Moreover, I decided to examine why there is a preference for using simultaneous interpreting rather than consecutive interpreting. I will be explaining in which situations each one is used or is more appropriate than the other, the skills and strategies needed in each case, and last but not least, if being an interpreter requires both methods. To do so, I had the opportunity to get in contact with professional interpreters who had given me the opportunity to delve deeper into the interpreting field and who also gave a more realistic point of view on the project. Finally, I also had the chance to compare, between four interpreters, the symbology used in the consecutive interpreting.

In order to make the comparison between the two interpreting methodologies, some theoretical and historical background is required in order to specify the characteristics and practices of each technique. This will be explained in the following stage.

2. INTERPRETING

According to “La Enciclopedia Catalana” interpreting is “Art d’entendre o de declarar el contingut o el sentit d’un escrit, una llei, una obra d’art, etc., que ofereixi dubtes, o d’explicar els caràcters profunds, els valors essencials, d’una obra, d’un escriptor o d’un artista”. However, cleverly, it also provides three other entries: interpreting in music, in linguistics, and in theatre. In linguistics terms, conference interpreting is called “traducció simultània”.

Secondly, according to “RAE”, interpreting is “la acción y efecto de interpretar”. As in the Catalan version, the Spanish dictionary provides four more entries: “interpretación auténtica, interpretación de lenguas, interpretación doctrinal, y interpretación usual”. However, as English is a high context language, and has a wide range of vocabulary, when we search for the word “interpreting” in the dictionary, it only

makes reference to conference interpreting, specifically simultaneous interpreting. There is difference between interpreting and becoming an actor/actress, because they have two different concepts when referring to each job. When you tell people, you want to become an interpreter, they know you are referring to conference interpreting. When English speaker talk about becoming an actor/actress, they refer to it as “acting”.

It is very easy to group translation and interpreting together. Basically, because from their origins to current times, these two disciplines have been considered as one, or as if one depended on the other, but “Interpreting is not translation” (AIIC, 2020). The main difference between translation and interpreting is that translation is written, interpreting is spoken. According to AIIC, “interpreters are often referred to as ‘translators’ and people are not always aware of the difference between two professions”. To begin with, the main difference between them is that interpreting is spoken, translation is written. Secondly it is their working method. Translators always have the original text in front of them. They have all the time they need; they can search in the internet for words they do not understand, or for parallel texts. What’s more, if any doubt arises, they can ask a colleague or revise the text as needs be. However, for an interpreter is impossible to do so. The only thing that the interpreter does not have is time. In all interpreting techniques the result does not only depend on the interpreter. Obviously, previous preparation is the best the interpreter can do, but the documentation does not depend on them. A good interpreter is someone fast and spontaneous, who maintains discipline in stressful conditions.

There are some people who think “El interprete nace, no se hace” (Bosch March, 2012), meaning that interpreting is such a difficult skill that only a few people are born with the ability to do it. However, there are some others who think that being a good interpreter is something that requires time, years of practice and experience. Nonetheless, they all coincide with the features that an interpreter must master in order to have a professional and successful career.

Linguistic competence: Interpreters divide their languages into: language A (mother tongue), language B (second language with a proficiency level, similar to a mother tongue), language C, D, and so on. For example, in my case, Catalan would be language A, Spanish language B, and English language C.

Ability to summarize and analyse: The key element in interpreting is transmit ideas, not words, without losing the original meaning. On one hand, the ability to analyse

help them identify faster the type of discourse. On the other hand, the ability to summarize helps them in keeping the principle ideas and synthesize the less important ones.

Memory: The interpreter has to be able to retain the information the time needed in order to be able to analyse it. In the case of simultaneous interpreting, memory is needed in order to reproduce a message that has been uttered seconds before, while the discourse moves on. In consecutive interpreting memory is needed to reproduce the message into the appropriate symbols and retain some information, as they do not write down the whole discourse.

General culture: Reading is the best method for staying in touch with what is going on in the world. An interpreter cannot be ignorant of the current affairs or important facts about other countries, such as who the president is, what political party is ruling, or what struggles they are going through. The interpreter is considered the link between the source language and the target language. Hence, the ignorance about something may determine the result of the work done.

How to manage stress: Thinking about failing is what leads to failure. The best thing for an interpreter in order to manage stress in the best way possible is to be prepared, this way, they will feel control of the speech or discourse, and not the other way around.

3. SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETING

Simultaneous interpreting, also known as conference interpreting, is when one or more speakers produce a speech in a language, and one or more interpreters reproduce the same discourse in the audience's languages. The interpreter translates the original speech in real time. It is the most dynamic and natural type of interpreting, appropriate for any kind of conference.

A simultaneous interpreter is an actor hidden at the end of a conference room, away from the crowd, surrounded by the four walls of the booth, and the only thing the audience gets from them is their voice. Simultaneous interpreters are required to have speed and agility in their speaking.

The basic element for achieving success in simultaneous interpreting is working in an environment where the interpreter feels comfortable. This implies working with a partner with who interpreters can be considered a team between each other. The two

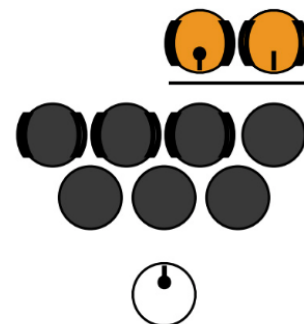
interpreters that work together in a booth are not only meant to be each other's replacement, but they both listen to the speech, and in case the person who is at that moment interpreting misses something or forgets a number, the other interpreter has to help them and whisper the missing data. For interpreters working with the simultaneous method, resting or relaxing a bit is not part of their job. The human factor is entirely necessary in the field. During difficult moments it is when interpreters know if the person, they have with them in the booth, is someone they can consider their team mate and right-hand. Simultaneous interpreting is a stressful job, so if the interpreters fight between each other, or have personal problems between them, they will waste their energy which could be invested in doing a good job.

Working with simultaneous interpreting implies also having appropriate and up to date technological equipment. Working in bad conditions will not only affect the result of the interpreting, but also could frustrate the interpreters, make them uncomfortable, or lose focus.

Simultaneous interpreting can be divided into three types:

3.1. Simultaneous interpreting in a booth

It is the most suitable way for big congresses, specialised seminars, and/or international meetings where two or more languages are used. It is considered the most complicated system technically speaking, however, it is also the one that provides better results, as its translation is done in real time.



Source 1. AICE (2020)

In each booth, there are two interpreters with the same combination of languages, and they work together alternating themselves every twenty-five minutes. In order for the interpreting to work correctly, it is necessary a fully equipped booth with microphones, wireless receivers, loudspeakers, monitors, and a sound technician who coordinates the correct function of each device.

3.1.1. Types of booths

a) One-way booth

Interpreters work in their active language. Therefore, they translate from one or more passive languages into their active language. For example, if

there is a conference where there are three different used (Spanish, Italian, and German), there will be three booths, one for each active language.

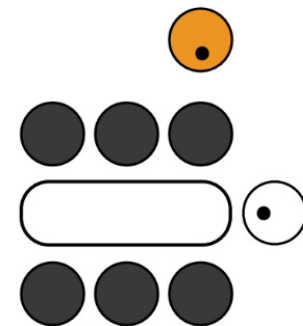
b) Two-way booth

In this case, interpreters work from and into their active languages. Using the same example, if there are three languages used in a conference, there will be two booths, one where it is translated from and into German and Spanish, and another for Italian and Spanish. The same interpreter will be translating from and into the languages of the booth they work in, for the people they need to.

The both-ways system ensures a fantastic quality to the audience, because the professions are totally immersed in the topic of the conference, so they do not have to worry about their lack of information. What's more, it allows the organization a price reduction, as they offered the same service with less interpreters. And last but not least, it requires a completely dominance of the working language both in comprehension and expression.

3.2. *Whispered simultaneous interpreting*

In this case, the interpret whispers to the hearer the sender's message in real time, but without a sound system. However, it requires the ability to provide clarity in the reproduction of the original speech. This type of simultaneous interpreting is usually seen in interviews or short meetings, where all the participants share the same language. In order to work, there should be a maximum of three people who need the speech to be translated.

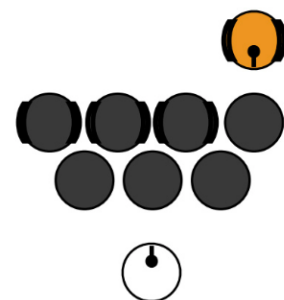


Source 2. AICE (2020)

Acoustic conditions have to be appropriate in order for the clarity of the speech.

3.3. *Simultaneous interpreting with Infoport*

Sometimes, the simultaneous interpreting is done through a system, without a soundproof booth, called the Infoport system. Infoport is a new portable and wireless system known as "la valise". This device includes a transmitter accompanied by a small microphone for the speaker and

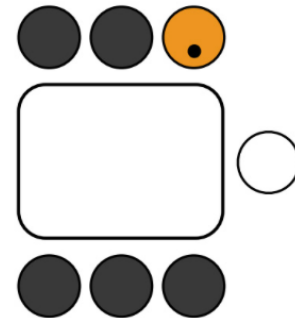


Source 3. AICE (2020)

receivers for the audience. This method is commonly used in small meetings (maximum of 20 people) or tour guides, where there is no need to use a booth or a sound technician. In order for the method to work, the acoustic conditions have to be appropriate in order for the clarity of the speech.

4. CONSECUTIVE INTERPRETING

Consecutive interpreting is commonly known for using the ‘listen, stop, and talk’ technique. The interpreter reproduces the original message once it has been pronounced. The speaker makes pauses in the speech in order for the interpreter to intervene and reproduce the speech in the audience’s language. The speech is long and the speaker tends to stop from time to time in order to let the interpreter to provide a translation. Usually, the speaker and the interpreter have



Source 4. AICE (2020)

planned the timing before the beginning of the speech. In order for the consecutive interpreting to work and ensure a loyal reproduction of the original text, during the speech, they interpreter does not only have to rely in their memories, but also, they have to use what is called note-taking technique. One of the principle factors we have to bear in mind if we want to use the consecutive interpreting method in a conference, is that there will be just one target language.

A consecutive interpreter is requested to have specific abilities. Taking for granted they already control the language and the topic of the conference, their voice has to be clear and nice to be heard, in order for the audience to have a full understanding of the translation. Moreover, their main skills have to be the ability to summarize and being confident on their memory.

Consecutive interpreting is a particular method, because it takes the interpreter away from the comfort zone. They are not isolated. Without a doubt, consecutive interpreting is the method in which the interpreter is the most exposed and vulnerable; they are the speaker’s shadow. Whereas simultaneous interpreters can feel protected by the booth, the consecutive interpreter is next to the speaker and they are perfectly visible. The consecutive interpreter is alone, they do not have anyone next to them who can help them as it happens in simultaneous interpreting. This is why they are suggested to trust

on the speaker and empathize with them. Consecutive interpreters assume the speaker's role and they are visible for all the audience; therefore, visual contact and body language are indispensable. They have to transmit the audience the feeling that they are there to help them understand the message, and not to be an obstacle for the message to be understood.

They are surrounded by several factors that can distract them. For example, flashlights, different people speaking or the general excitement of a conference. Consecutive interpreters have to be able to keep a cool head. It is also important to mention that this can become a double-edge sword. A mistake can be the main cause for a consecutive interpreter to get lost, not only in the speakers' speech but also in their own notes. In fact, they will only be able to ask a doubt to the speaker at the end of the speech, and only if it is a matter of a misunderstanding. For example, if they were talking about millions or billions.

Maybe it is the method that has evolved the most, as at the beginning, consecutive interpreters only relied on their capacity to retain all the information and twenty minutes speech. Today, the main tool for the method is called note-taking.

4.1. Note-taking technique

The most important reason for the interpreter to take notes in consecutive interpreting is basically in order to have something to rely on. Notes help the interpreter to fill out the gaps. The note-taking method does not mean transforming an oral speech to a written discourse. The notes are used in order to help the interpreter with the key concepts of the presentation; however, the main elements have to be kept in the interpreter's memory. What the interpreters write in their notebooks are basically symbols which help them to keep the order. "Los símbolos que puedan representar una palabra concreta, no corresponden a palabras en contexto, sino a unidades de sentido" (Torres Díaz, 2016). The purpose of note-taking is about writing ideas not words.

Another important aspect about note-taking is the notebook. First of all, it has to be the appropriate size for the interpreter to hold it with one hand, as sometimes there is not supporter to hold it. So, it is recommended to choose a notebook with hard cover. Secondly it must



have the spiral binder in the top of the pages, as it is quicker to turn pages. And finally, a consecutive interpreter must write on one side of the paper, because writing double-sided would delay the translation.

4.1.1. Symbology

The system of symbols has to be created by the interpreter. It is true that the most used are somehow common between interpreters. They may be identical or similar, however, this does not mean that all interpreters have to follow the same system. As previously mentioned, each interpreter must create their own ones. As their professional career evolves, they may be narrowing their speciality. For example, they must have a preference in scientific conferences, or political conferences. The interpreters will not have to create the same symbols because the words in each field will be completely different. Nonetheless, this creation takes practice.

“Note-taking does divert attention from listening and results in a significant degradation of listening quality” (Torres Díaz, 2016). Obviously, all techniques have their advantages and disadvantages. Note-taking may distract the interpreter. If the message is not well comprehended, the transmission of it will not be correct. Here is also where the idea of multitasking takes place, as the interpreter must write while listening to the message.

5. SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETING VS CONSECUTIVE INTERPRETING

Once both methods have already been introduced, in this section I will like to present a closer comparison between both techniques and also a more detailed description of the strategies used in both ways of interpreting and also the differences and similarities between them.

To begin with, when interpreting services are used in a conference, it is important to know the type of conference that would take place in order to use one kind of interpreting or another. On the one hand, simultaneous interpreting is used in congresses and international events, among others. When we use simultaneous interpreting, as it is done in booths and in bigger conferences or meetings such as the European Parliament, people use what is called receiver and they hear the interpreter through the headphones.

Each person attending to the conference has one and they are able to choose the channel in which their language is used. Therefore, there are plenty of booths in which different interpreters translate the conferences in different languages (Spanish, Italian, German, French, Chinese). Simultaneous interpreting, for example, is also used in TV shows, where the interpreter is heard over the voice of the foreign guest. Nonetheless, we also consider simultaneous interpreting the translation that the host receives in the in-ears.



On the other hand, consecutive interpreting is used in bilateral meetings, negotiations, press conferences, interviews, meals, welcome speeches, and also in congress speeches and presentations. Usually consecutive interpreting is used in small meetings, more or less with fifteen or twenty people. This is because consecutive interpreting can only be used when there is only one target language for the speech to be translated. In other words, there is just one interpreter in the room when we use consecutive interpreting, therefore, the audience has to be skilled in only one language.

	SIMULTÁNEA	CONSECUTIVA	SUSURRADA*	INFOPORT**
Congreso, jornada, conferencia	●			
Simposio	●			
Curso / Seminario formación	●	●		
Presentaciones comerciales	●	●		
Juntas y asambleas	●			
Convenciones	●			
Negociaciones		●	●	
Visitas a instalaciones / fábricas		●	●	●
Proyectos, programas y colaboraciones internacionales	●			
Banquete	●	●	●	●
Rueda de prensa	●	●	●	●

Source 5. AICE (2020)

Following on from issue above, choosing the interpreting method has also to do with which one is more appropriate. For instance, simultaneous interpreting is better to use it, for example in court, because the time is very valuable, and it is a technique which enables us not to lose time. In this case, the result is more precise and with more quality. The interpreter is not affected that much physically by the effort and the tension, as the amount of information that they have to retain in their brain is not that large. While in the contrary, consecutive interpreting is considered an art among interpreters. It is a method

in which is better used when we want to be accurate. Consecutive interpreters have more control over the situation; for example, they are able to clarify ambiguities. However, it takes longer to apply, therefore, it is not the best technique when time is more relevant. Not all interpreters accept jobs in which consecutive interpreting is used. The main reason is because simultaneous interpreting is more comfortable and “easy”, because in the booth there are two people who can help each other. A consecutive interpreter is facing danger alone.

Difficulties and strategies for both methods obviously play a big role and they can differ in between them. In each case, the interpreting difficulties will be solved depending on the method is being used. For example, in the case of consecutive interpreting, difficulties will be found on the note-taking technique, whereas the simultaneous interpreting will have more troubles with multitasking. Nevertheless, both types of interpreting have some common ground. Interpreters have to be able to reproduce the same message without mattering the technique used. Both in consecutive and simultaneous, the interpreter plays the most important role in the swap between speakers and audience whose language and culture are different. Here is the reason of why this job is so magical. Cultural references are fundamental. For example, Spanish speakers tend to repeat ideas and for them it will sound completely normal. However, in another language, it will feel like the interpreter is struggling to get more information and this is why they are repeating. For an interpreter it is important to be clear, train their brain, and being able to develop a coherent message.

Nowadays, the evolution of technology has reached all the fields. Obviously in simultaneous interpreting the devices are already used. However, simultaneous interpreting has not always been done with computers, iPad or smartphones. Back in the day, simultaneous interpreting arrived at the meetings/conferences with a bag full of dictionaries and encyclopedias. Nowadays, simultaneous interpreters just need a small bag to carry the essential.

But what happens to consecutive interpreting? Will this effect negatively to the method? Some interpreters change their notes for iPad or tablets. Nonetheless, they may be dangerous, because with a simple click your work can be deleted. Each interpreter uses their own technique; some prefer note-taking, others prefer to record the speakers’ speech and then translate it using simultaneous interpreting.

In the following section, there will be some important elements that need to be present for any interpreter, no matter if they use consecutive or simultaneous. Obviously, each element will be adapted to the technique.

5.1.Preparation

Being an interpreter requires a previous preparation. In the previous days before the conference, the interpreter must take into account the physiological and physical aptitudes in order to be ready during the presentation. An interpreter is required to have a good health, especially with their speaking. So, it is better to rest the voice during the previous days. And also, having good sight and hearing, as while they are listening carefully to the speakers, they also have to be able to see the speakers when they are talking in order to express the same emotion or feeling to the audience.

The interpreter must be updated with all the news in the world. This stage requires years of preparation. When someone decides to become an interpreter, it is when their training on worldwide news, culture and information must begin. This training must develop and increase over the years; it is a process that never stops.

The preparation is divided in three stages:

5.1.1. Before the event

It is important for an interpreter to study the type of event that will take place, the number of languages needed, and the work schedule. Once they have all the information, the interpreters are in charge of providing the event's organization the method of interpreting which suits best of the conference; whether simultaneous, consecutive, or another. Once this is settled, the number of interpreters and the working hours may change. The interpreter also has to gather information about the audience, not only about the languages they speak, but also culture and jobs. This will help them to focus their translation to one direction or another, or it will influence the register.

5.1.2. Documentation

In this stage, the interpreter or interpreters study the subject of the conference, taking into account key words or specialised concepts/terms which the speaker wants to use. Theoretically, the organization who holds the conference is expected to send some information in relation to the event with enough time

before the conference. This documentation includes PowerPoint presentations, websites, list of names, speeches already written, among any kind of relevant information. However, not all the speakers have the generosity to provide the interpreters the material that could be helpful for them in order to give the audience a loyal interpreting. Then, it is when the interpreter has to carry out the research on the topic on their own. However, this is not something interpreters can completely trust on, because they may have found information which may be the speaker does not have any intention on mention it, and explain other important facts the interpreter may not have found.

Why is important to have information about the topic? The interpreter may have to talk about a specific topic which may not have heard before, in which there may be names of important people or some technical vocabulary that needs to be transformed to the target language. Especially for cultural references. For example, a joke or a word play will not be the same in English and in Spanish. The literal translation does not work. Hence, this transformation has to be pre-learned, as it is a topic in which the interpreter is not familiar with. This is why in this phase is so important to notify the interpreter about the topic beforehand.

Usually, the interpreter devotes about two weeks to the preparation of the conference. Therefore, they must be provided with the material in a long period of time, before the press conference takes place.

Moreover, we could divide this stage into two small phases. The first one is considered the passive way of documenting. Interpreters have to rely in their memory and use their own knowledge about history and culture, but also get extra information using newspapers, magazines, encyclopaedias, news, etc. For example, if the interpreter works in a political conference, they may refer to some politicians or polices which were used in past times. Therefore, the interpreter has to know about these issues.

The second small phase is considered the active documentation. Here, basically, the interpreter has to get documentation about the specific terminology used. For example, if it is a scientific conference, they would have to know about scientific terms and concepts.

5.1.3. During the event

Finally, the third and last stage is based on the documentation previous to the conference. The interpreter must arrive in time, before the presentations starts. It is that moment when they can talk with the speakers about doubts or get some extra information.

Moreover, once in the event, the interpreter's advisory team is the one in charge to coordinate the interpreters' team and work as a liaison person. In other words, they have to be aware and solve any kind of need or last change in the conference programme, or update any kind of information. The liaison person is also in charge of the sound check and to give access in the booth to only authorised people.

5.2. *Multitasking*

Although it may seem something really challenging, human beings are constantly multitasking. It is a daily life activity, despite not being aware of it. For example, listening and writing at the same time. However, the level of multitasking that interpreters are exposed to is quite higher than these ones. They must divide their attention into different process: listening, comprehension, and production. The difficult side is that the three process are done at the same time, without not even having to think about it.

Interpreting in general does not mean changing one word to another, it is also about transmitting the audience the same ideas and intentions of the speaker(s). Here is where the main part of multitasking technique takes place. The interpreter does not only have to understand the message, but also comprehend it and provide a loyal reproduction of it. Once the interpreter is able to do the comprehension process, it will be then when the production process will be done. The interpreter will be able to reproduce a clear, coherent and understandable discourse in which the audience will receive as natural and spontaneous.

5.3. *What makes a good interpreter in each method?*

First of all, languages are the key to be a good interpreter. Actually, interpreters must be professionally skilled in the languages; having a small notion of a language is not enough. Secondly, the interpreter must have the ability to create a new message or, in other words, reformulate the original discourse. Therefore, the importance of

languages is fundamental in order for the interpreter not to leave sentences uncompleted or incoherent. And last but not least, the element of surprise. Some speakers usually make references to personal situations, like dreams, passions or they tell jokes. In this case, the interpreter has to show their dominance over the culture of the languages, which are being used in the presentation.

An interpreter is not a machine who just gives the equivalent to each word of the discourse. At the end of the day, interpreters should have a tiny idea of acting. They will be in front of audience towards who they have to transmit the same intentions, tone and purposefulness of the speaker.

As it has been discussed previously, interpreters have to rely on their own memory. As a matter of fact, in their two types of memories: short-term memory and long-term memory. They are the ones that allow them to be and play the role of the interpreter. First of all, short-term memory allows them to perform a conference, whereas long-term memory allows them to keep all the information of each conference they have taken part in for upcoming presentations.

In this section for example we can make a distinguish between a consecutive interpreter and a simultaneous interpreter. In the case of consecutive interpreting, it is also important the capacity to summarize each idea to the correct and appropriate symbol, in order to be loyal to the original discourse and do not give misleading and incoherent sentences. Whereas in simultaneous interpreting the pressure that they feel is obvious. The discourse in the source language will not be repeated and the discourse they have to give in the target language has to be in a short period of time that does not lead to the correction or revision of errors.

The job of the interpreter is based on building bridges in between different languages. It is considered a job for people born already with the skills, as it is considered one of the toughest jobs in the world. The abilities required for the job are so difficult to acquire that it is said that people are born interpreters or not.

5.4. Working hours

Another important factor in interpreting is their schedule. A conference may take just an hour, more than three, or even a whole day. The working hours are also a huge influence in order to choose the best which type of interpreting suits best at the conference that is taking place. For example, using consecutive interpreting takes

longer, as it is used for events in which time is not valuable. Therefore, if the organization previously knows that the conference is supposed to be long, the interpreting technique suggested will be simultaneous.

Each working company of interpreters has their own method and working schedule. However, conferences, general speaking, tend to be similar. For example, if we talk about a short conference, then there is only necessary one interpreter. Nonetheless, if the conference might last about half day at least, then two interpreters are needed. Comparing both methods of interpreting, simultaneous and consecutive, they have the same working hours. The only difference is that consecutive interpreters are recommended to take breaks every hour and a half.

SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETING			CONSECUTIVE INTERPRETING		
Type of working day	Interpreting time	N° of interpreters	Type of working day	Interpreting time	N° of interpreters
Short conference	Max. 90min	1	Short conference	Max. 90min	1
Half day	Max. 4h	2	Half day	Max. 4h	1
Full day	Max. 7h	2	Full day	Max. 7h	1

Obviously, the working hours begin from the start of the conference until the end, without counting the breaks for coffee and lunch. Professional interpreters are asked to arrive at the building where the conference will be held thirty minutes beforehand. Nevertheless, they usually agree with the speakers this factor as some of them use these thirty minutes to clarify some doubts or question they may have about the conference, as it has been mentioned in a previous section.

An important fact is that working a whole day with consecutive interpreting means waking up the next day with the feeling of having a heavy hangover. It is considered more exhausting than simultaneous interpreting.

6. PRACTICAL DIFFERENCES

As a practical part of the project, I wanted to give a more realistic side from inside the interpreting field. Therefore, I divided this section into three practical tasks. The first one is focused on the interpreters' roles and job, the second part is focused on the comparison of interpreting methodologies between interpreters, and finally, the third part is an interview to the coordinator of Translation and Interpreting degree at the *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*.

6.1. From the interpreters' point of view

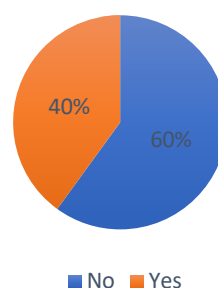
6.1.1. Methodology

In order to have a more realistic point of view and to go deeper into the interpreting field, I decided to interview eleven interpreters and ask them fourteen questions about their job, including their studies, experiences and preferences. I took into account their working place, among which we find European Parliament interpreters, Freelance interpreters, or a MotoGP team Press Officer. Also, I took into consideration the difference between language spoken, not only their mother tongue but also their daily languages. After reading all the interviews (see appendixes) from different interpreters with different nationalities, such as Spanish, French, English, German, Dutch and Arabic, I came up with following conclusions.

6.1.2. Results:

When asked for their studies, I wondered if in order to become an interpreter there was an only path to do so. Most of them have a degree on interpreting, but there are some of them that did not have interpreting as their first option of a future job. Some of them did not even know about the field.

Here is where I like to highlight what I have discussed at the beginning of the project. Interpreting is underrated and it is not a job really well known. Six of the eleven interpreters I interviewed did not have interpreting in their minds as an option for their future career. Communication, languages, or by change were the bridges that linked them to interpreting.



The following question I asked the interpreters was about their connection with both types of interpreting and also, if they considered that both methods depended on each other. On one hand, some of the interpreters' answer was that consecutive interpreting is considered the basis or the training for simultaneous interpreting. Also, some of them, mentioned the issue of having technical problems with simultaneous interpreting. Hence, this method cannot be used, and they have to change into consecutive interpreting. On the other hand, there were some interpreters who think that these two interpreting methods do not go hand-in-hand in a personal and/or professional level, usually because they may not use one of the methods in their workplace.

As it has been explained in previous sections, one of the main differences between simultaneous interpreting and consecutive interpreting is the situation in which they have to be used. Interpreters agree that simultaneous interpreting must be used in bigger conferences, where more than one language is used. On the other hand, consecutive interpreting has to be applied in small meetings. In cases in which simultaneous interpreting technical equipment cannot be available or installed, consecutive interpreting is taken as the best option for the event. Nonetheless, some of them also considered whispered interpreting as a great substitute.

One thing that caught my attention when I was making research about interpreting is that it was said that sometimes interpreters were not taken into account or were not thanked after doing their job and finishing a conference. I asked this in the questionnaire I sent to the interpreters and they all came up with the same answer. This is a lie. They are actually thanked. Sometimes thanking the interpreters during the acknowledgments is even part of their procedure once the conference or the event is done. It is mandatory.

When asked for the qualities a 'newborn' interpreter must have or someone who wants to focus their life in the interpreting world, one word was present in all the interviews: curiosity. Being an interpreter requires being curious for other cultures and languages. Having the will to know more about another countries. Other qualities that may define an interpreter apart from being dominant in the languages they work with, an interpreter must be someone who likes travelling, someone with stress-resistance, and someone empathic; a person who is able to transmit the same feelings and emotions of the original source. Finally, last but

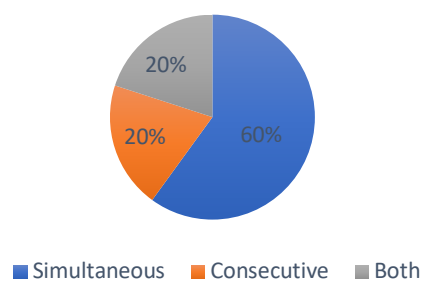
not least, someone who likes teamwork. Interpreting is a job based on relying on you partner or on your team.

Another important element about interpreting is the procedure interpreters follow in order to prepare a conference. Most of the answers describe the same process. Apart from taking into account the material that the speakers, organization or clients provide, they use the internet to collect as much information as possible from the topic, the audience and the speakers. Also, something that was shared by almost all the interpreters, is the creation of a glossary. They write the main technical words or vocabulary that may have to use during the conference.

When interpreters were asked for the best part of their job, they mainly agree on the chance of being able to travel, to meet new people and cultures, teamwork, working in different fields and topics, and also the adrenaline they feel when they are working. I also asked them about the worst part of their job, and although they mainly agree that there is no bad side or that the good things compensate the bad things, maybe the worst part of being an interpreter is when they struggle to understand the speaker(s) due to the complexity of the topic, or their constant change of topic, which might make the interpreting a little bit chaotic. Interpreters are not robots. Freelance interpreters also mentioned the uncertainty of when they will work.

As it is said: practice makes perfection. This is the main advice that interpreters answered when they were asked about what advice they would give to someone who wants to focus their future in the interpreting world. It is a beautiful job, but it requires a lot of patience. Also, they said that interpreters have to believe in themselves, and they should have the motivation to learn and improve languages.

Finally, to end the questionnaire, I asked the interpreters which method, between simultaneous and consecutive, they preferred to use. And as I imagined, the majority take a stance on simultaneous. The main reasons they gave in order to stand in favour with simultaneous interpreting were mainly because for the people they work for or their workplace, consecutive



interpreting is not used. Another important fact is that consecutive interpreting is more the physically demanding, more exhausting. Some said because of some characteristics simultaneous interpreting has, like the speed implied, and teamwork. Consecutive interpreting is a method that implies being in front of the audience, and completely exposed. Therefore, it may not be the perfect ally if you are shy.

6.2. Interpreting activities

6.2.1. Methodologies:

Following with the previous section, I asked the interpreters to do two activities, one about simultaneous interpreting and another about consecutive interpreting. Between the eleven interpreters I interviewed, I divided between them the activities. With these activities, I did not only want to get deeper into the interpreting field and have a more realistic point of view, but also to prove and show that all that has been introduced until now is what really happens when interpreting.

In the case of the simultaneous activity, the aim was to know more about the issue of multitasking and also about the stress that the methodology entails. They were presented with three situations in which an interpreter may be exposed to. They have to answer how would they react if it happened to them. Also, if it was a situation which they have already face in the past, how they reacted and solve it.

Whereas, the consecutive activity was based on the translation of a part of video in which Steve Jobs gives a speech to graduating students at the Stanford University. The interpreters were asked to translate the speech from min 12:16 to 12:43 and attach their notebook notes. The aim of the activity was to compare and contrast their symbols. As it has been previously introduced, consecutive interpreters may not use the same symbols in their translation. There are some symbols which may be considered 'universal', because they may coincide between interpreters, and also because they are words which are more commonly used. Nevertheless, it also depends on the field you work on, your symbols will change, as the concepts in use are different.

6.2.2. Simultaneous interpreting activity results

To being with, the interpreter was asked to explain how an interpreter could or has to react when the speaker tells a joke or uses an idiom, in order not to lose the meaning of the original speech. According to the interpreter, it depends a lot on the context. Obviously, if the answer is clear, they do not hesitate. Nonetheless, in case of doubt, the best option is to generalize the meaning. In some cases, when they use swear words, which tend to be strong, they may try to find an equivalent word in the target language which has the same meaning, but the tone is softened.

Secondly, the interpreter was presented with the situation of having technical problems in a conference. First of all, it is not something that depends on the interpreter, so “calm is the key”. As it is said previously, the interpreter works with a sound technician in the booth, so if there is any kind of problem, the only thing the interpreter can do it to stay calm and do not lose concentration. This way once the problem is fixed, they translate from that point on.

Finally, the interpreter was asked to give an advice to new interpreters in this kind of challenging situations. The reality is that they cannot fight against technological problems. The best thing is an interpreter can do is to take control of their emotions and be confident on what they are saying. Overthinking is useless.

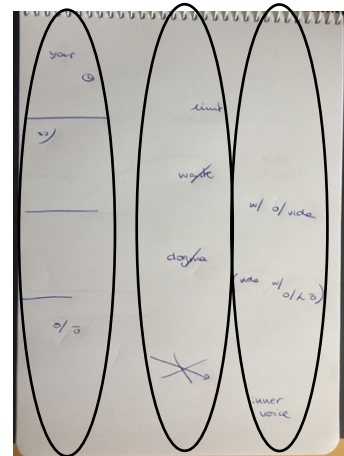
6.2.3. Consecutive interpreting activity results

The transcription of the part of the speech that had to be translated was the following:

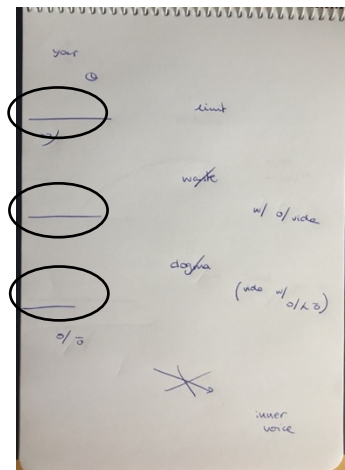
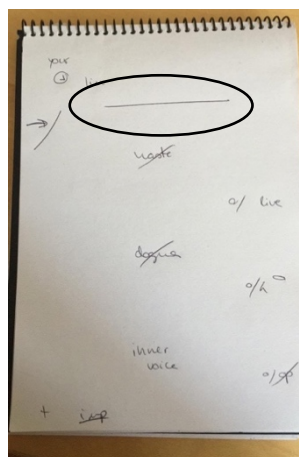
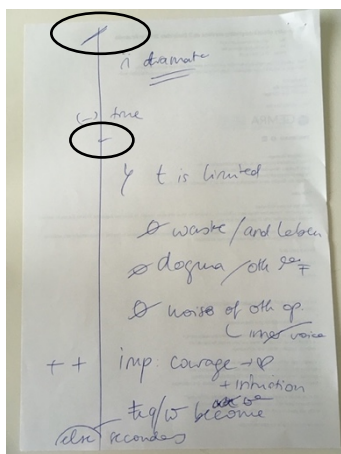
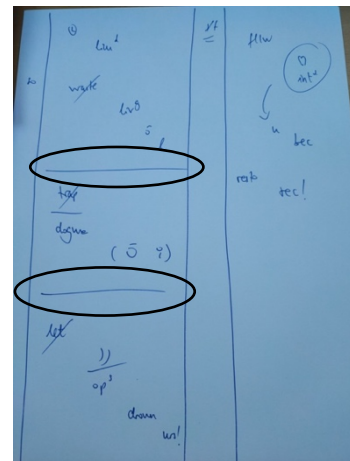
“Your time is limited, so don’t waste it living someone else’s life. Don’t be trapped by dogma – which is living with the results of other people’s thinking. Don’t let the noise of others’ opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.” – Steve Jobs.

If we take a look at the different interpreters’ notes, we already see that the distribution of the notebooks differs. The note-taking technique usually works in three columns: one for the subject, the second for the verb, and the last one for the complements. Some interpreters use the first columns to write not only the

subjects, but also the connectors. However, as well as with the symbols, this may depend on each interpreter. For some interpreters the division may be confusing, and they may think that this has to be memorized. In the example we have, we can see that the interpreters in this case, none of them have the columns drawn. However, if we look closer, we can see the separations in the constructions.



Another aspect that we could analyse before going into the symbology, apart from the columns, interpreters also use horizontal lines in their notes. Following the columns structure, they tend to divide the notebook into three sections. Each section is an idea. This helps the interpreter to know in which moment they have to pause, or in order not to mix information. These lines are also personalized. Some of them just do a short line, some other a line that crosses the whole notebook, and some others do not even use it for the same reason as in the columns; they may be distracting. In our interpreters' notebooks, we can see different examples:



If we focus now on the symbology between the interpreters, we can see some similarities and some differences. In the first sentence: *Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life.* We can see that three of the interpreters

agree on the symbol when they want to make reference to ‘time’: a clock. However, interpreter 1 prefers to use more words than symbols.

Moving on, I think in the following sentences (*Don't be trapped by dogma – which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice*), the importance relies on the negative structure. In the case of our interpreters, the used construction has been divided into the option of using the symbol ‘Ø’ (interpreter 1) or to cross out the word you want to negate: ~~waste, dogma, trapped~~ (interpreters 2, 3, 4).

Finally, the last part of the speech is where the interpreters agree the most. To being with, they all have use the same symbol to translate the word ‘heard’, and they all have written the word ‘intuition’, instead of using a symbol. We have to bear in mind that not all words have a symbology representation. Usually that happens because it is not a common word to be used. Last but not least, we can see that all the interpreters differ in how to end the speech translation. For example, interpreter 1 has not skipped the second-to-last sentence (*They somehow already know what you truly want to become*), as interpreter 4 has done. Then we have interpreter 2 and 3 that they have used similar constructions in the sense that they have been more ‘symbologic’ than interpreter 1. And the last sentence, we can say that there is a draw: interpreter 1 and 4 have used words to express the concept of ‘secondary. And in the other hand, we have interpreter 2 and 3 that have used a number.

6.3. Interview to the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

6.3.1. Methodology

As a last part of the practical part, I decided to have an interview with the *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona*, because they were the first ones in Catalunya to offer a master on Conference Interpreting. I wanted to know their contribution to the separation of interpreting from translation and considering it an independent discipline, and their point of view of both methods of interpreting and their role in the world. The interview was done via skype with the sub-coordinator of the Translation and Interpreting degree, Marta Arumí. It lasted approximately twenty minutes and it was voice recorded. Once finished, I transcribed the interview as it can be seen in the appendixes.

6.3.2. Results

In relationship with the importance between both types of interpreting, according to Marta, the division of the master into two years is not meant to dedicate each year to the practice of each interpreting method, it is because in order to step into the simultaneous interpreting, the consecutive interpreting is used to learn all the techniques which are helpful in the order method. Also, it does not have anything to do with giving more importance or dedicating more time to one or the other, it is because the consecutive method is used as the basis of the simultaneous. Some of the techniques that are required in the consecutive interpreting, can be applied into the simultaneous.

When I asked her about the preference of simultaneous interpreting in front of the consecutive, she reasserted what I had been said in the project, and also by the interpreters “no és una preferència, sinó és que s’ha anat imposant”. Simultaneous interpreting is more practical than consecutive interpreting, because consecutive interpreting makes the conference to be prolonged, “en el fons el que la gent vol es comunicar-se; i comunicar-se de la forma més àgil i més practica, i això ho ofereix millor la simultània” (Marta Arumí). However, this does not mean that because the consecutive method is not really known, it is not used. What’s more, the consecutive interpreting is really important because, for example, the admission test in the European institutions, the first test is on consecutive interpreting and it is an eliminating exam. That is to say, if interpreters do not pass this test, they cannot pass to the following stage.

Finally, relating it with the question that was asked to the interpreters about what advice would they give to someone who wants to be an interpreter, Marta Arumí used the same word, which I personally love: curiosity. According to her, an interpreter “ha de ser una persona curiosa que vulgui sempre saber una mica més”.

7. CONCLUSIONS

As a conclusion to the project, I have to admit that thanks to the research, the interviews and all the information I have gathered, my opinion has completely changed day by day. I do not have the same opinion I had when I started the project and I do not appreciate and comprehend this magical and incredible discipline the same way I did at the beginning.

First of all, I started this project rejecting the idea of people not being aware of the job and their confusion with acting. However, I have to admit that interpreting is acting. The interpreter has to become the speakers' shadow and pass on the same emotions and feelings to the audience. Therefore, they have to become a little bit an actor/actress.

Secondly, one thing that caught my attention when I started the project was that interpreting was not a job really taken into account. In other words, in a conference, speakers usually forget about them and did not even thank them after having done their services. However, I came to the conclusion that this depends on the culture. In Spain, for example, it is common to thank the interpreters as we have seen, which I thought was not even an option. However, not only that, but also that this is a lie. Having read all the interviews by the interpreters, I came up with the conclusion that this was not true. Actually, I would even say that now, after finishing this experience, I do not think interpreters should be thanked for their job, or it would not bother me the same as in the beginning of the project. It is like if they had to be given a special treatment. Everyone in the conference is there doing their job. No one is more than someone else.

Thirdly, this project was really useful for me because I could discover the truth of interpreting. Not only the bright side, but also the dark one. The pressure and stress in which interpreters are exposed is one of the most shocking things I have learned. The sacrifices that the job implies, because by reading the interviews and speaking with the interpreters, I have realized that they gave all the same advice: you have to be ready to live abroad, the years of practice that interpreting requires, not only speaking, but also learning about everything in the world. Being worldwide cultured. I have to confess that I did not expect anything that I have learned. I did not even imagine that consecutive interpreting would be the basis for simultaneous interpreting.

In terms of the practical part, I was personally looking forward for this part because I had the idea in mind since the first day and I wanted it to work. I had been reading books about consecutive interpreting, which had examples of consecutive

interpreters' notes. But I wanted to do my own and analyse each of them. I have come up with the conclusions that each interpreter has their own way of taking notes. I do not think it would be a good idea to have just one method of doing the note-taking technique. Consecutive interpreting is a very fast, and exhausting job in which interpreters should feel the most comfortable possible. Also, as I had mentioned before, symbols depend on the field you work with. Someone that works for a TV show may not have to translate the same symbols that an interpreter that works in the European Parliament.

At the beginning of the project I had two principle aims that I wanted to achieve: to know why simultaneous interpreting is more used than consecutive, and if these two methods depended one on the other. In the first case, I came up with the conclusion that there are three main reasons why simultaneous interpreting is more commonly used. First of all because it is more practical than consecutive, especially because it does not take as long as the consecutive method, and secondly because consecutive interpreting is not as much asked for as simultaneous interpreting in the market, and finally because interpreters have a preference for simultaneous. In the question if they depended one on the other, I would say so. Some interpreter in the interviewed considered that for them they do not go hand-in-hand. However, after gathering all the information, I have to say that in some way they do depend on each other. First of all, consecutive interpreting is the basis for simultaneous interpreting, therefore, without learning consecutive, you may not be able to be fully prepared for simultaneous. And secondly, for technical problems. If the event has problems with receivers or microphones, consecutive interpreting has to be applied, and this could not be possible if the interpreter is not prepared.

To end up this project, there is a word that could sum up this experience, and it has been used for the interpreters I have interviewed as an advice to people who want to become an interpreter. This word is: curiosity. And there is nothing I can agree more. Being an interpreter means being curious for other cultures and languages. Having the will to know more about other countries. What's more, I will like to add being respectful to the other(s) culture(s) and/or language(s). There is nothing more generous than feeling that someone has taken the time to learn about your culture.

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APPENDIXES

Appendix A: Interview interpreter 1

Información personal:

- **Nombre:** Irene Aneas Garrido
- **De donde eres:** Terrassa, Barcelona
- **Lengua maternal:** español
- **Lengua diaria:** español, catalán, italiano
- **Cuantas y que lenguas hablas:** español, catalán, inglés, francés, italiano y ‘un poco’ de alemán.
- **Tus estudios:** Grado en Traducción e Interpretación y Máster de Periodismo Deportivo.
- **¿Cuándo fue la primera vez que trabajaste como interprete?** Julio de 2015.
- **Tu trabajo actual:** Jefa de prensa de un equipo del mundial de motociclismo (Leopard Racing) e intérprete (como autónoma, cuando surge algo).

Aquí tienes unas preguntas para contestar:

1. **Se dice que no es necesario hacer la carrera de interpretación para ser interprete, aunque sea la mejor o la recomendada. ¿Cuál fue tu camino para ser interprete?**

Nunca quise dedicarme a la interpretación, pero descubrí que ‘se me daba bien’ de rebote, al acabar la carrera. Yo creo que sí es necesario hacer la carrera, allí te enseñan a saber cómo y cuándo, te ponen en contexto, practicas. Cuando estás en cabina descubres que todo lo que te enseñaron en la carrera tenía su qué.

2. **¿Que te hizo decidirte por esa disciplina? ¿Fue siempre tu primera opción?**

No se me pasó nunca por la cabeza. La interpretación simultánea era una optativa y a mí nunca me llamó la atención, pero por una serie de factores, si quería entrar a trabajar en Movistar+ MotoGP (mi sueño), debía ser a través de ello. Resulta que, sin saberlo, se me daba bien la simultánea.

3. **¿La interpretación consecutiva y la interpretación simultánea van mano a mano para ti? ¿Tienes formación en los dos métodos?**

En la carrera solo hice consecutiva y luego me he pasado 4 años haciendo simultánea. Tengo alrededor de 3.000 horas de directo acumuladas. Para mí no van de la mano. La consecutiva es relajada y te da margen de maniobra, mientras que la simultánea requiere de una concentración y una capacidad resolutive impresionantes.

4. Para ti, ¿cuándo es mejor utilizar interpretación simultánea y cuando consecutiva?

Consecutiva para eventos pequeños o para un público reducido. Simultánea para medios de comunicación, grandes eventos que abarquen a muchas personas, etc. Ejemplo: televisión, congresos grandes, comunicados de última hora en cualquier medio...

5. ¿Cuántos años llevas trabajando en este campo? ¿Dónde y para quién has trabajado?

Soy intérprete simultánea desde 2015, me dediqué a ello ‘full time’ desde 2015 hasta finales de 2018, y desde finales del 18 hasta ahora, lo hago de manera ‘puntual’ cuando me llaman. He trabajado para Movistar+MotoGP, Sony Music (para el artista italiano Marco Mengoni) y para el Hormiguero, en el programa 2.000 con Will Smith (aquí hice simultánea de español a inglés, al oído de Will Smith, solo me oía él).

6. Se dice que se tiende a no agradecer a los intérpretes una vez han terminado su trabajo. ¿Alguna vez se te ha dado las gracias al terminar una conferencia una vez se ha terminado?

Este tipo de cosas hacen que no sienta la profesión del intérprete como muchos otros. Yo creo que es un trabajo como otro cualquiera, que a cada persona se le da bien algo y que no hay motivo alguno por el que el intérprete deba recibir un trato especial. Hay muchas profesiones que yo no podría hacer porque carezco de capacidades y conocimiento, y no creo que la mía sea nada súper especial. Yo siempre he sentido que se valoraba mucho mi trabajo, pero jamás me ha gustado recibir ‘trato especial’. Al acabar, yo siempre sentía que cumplía con mis funciones, y nada más.

7. ¿Qué cualidades debe tener un interprete?

Más allá del conocimiento de la lengua y del ámbito al que vas a dedicar tu servicio: fortaleza, mente fría, capacidad de improvisación y resolución, soltura, firmeza y mucha seguridad en uno mismo.

8. ¿Cómo te preparas para una conferencia?

Estudio el contexto, preparo vocabulario, escucho/leo artículos relacionados...

9. Para ti, ¿qué hace un buen intérprete?

Aquel que es capaz de transmitir incluso los sentimientos de la persona que está traduciendo. Aquel que se transforma en el personaje.

10. ¿Qué es lo que más te gusta de tu trabajo? ¿Y lo que menos?

Lo que más, interpretar momentos ‘importantes’ de crisis, conflictos, cosas ‘difíciles’. Lo que menos, interpretar números o interpretar a alguien que cambia mucho de discurso sin sentido. Eso hace que te pierdas y no mola.

11. ¿Cuál ha sido tu peor experiencia como intérprete?

Interpretar personajes que hablaban tan mal el inglés que no se entendía. O interpretar momentos tristes.

12. ¿Cuál ha sido tu mejor experiencia como intérprete?

A día de hoy, mi debut, el Sepang Clash entre Valentino Rossi y Márquez, y mi última interpretación hasta ahora: la de Will Smith. La primera y la última, las mejores de mi vida.

13. ¿Qué consejo darías a alguien que quiere ser intérprete?

Que se aleje del mundo elitista de la interpretación, que confíe en si mismo y que cree su propio estilo. Hay que renovar la profesión.

14. ¿Qué prefieres, interpretación simultánea o consecutiva?

Simultánea, sin duda.

Appendix B: Interview interpreter 2

Personal information:

- **Name:** Antoine Brigitte
- **Where are you from:** Belgium
- **Mother tongue:** French
- **Daily life language:** French.
- **How many languages and which ones do you speak?** French, English, Danish, Dutch, and Italian.
- **Studies:** Translation and interpreting
- **When was the first time your worked as an interpreter?** September 2002
- **Your current job:** Staff interpreter

Here you have several questions to answer.

- 1. It is said that there is no need to take the interpreting path in order to become an interpreter, although it is the best way. How did you become a professional interpreter?**

Via traditional path master in interpreting.

- 2. What make you become an interpreter? Interpreting studies always caught your attention?**

Met an interpreter at a student fair to find the job of your dream. I didn't know the job at that time.

- 3. Do simultaneous interpreting and consecutive interpreting go hand-in-hand for you? Are you skilled in both methods?**

Unfortunately, I work 100% in simultaneous, but I have always enjoyed consecutive very much.

- 4. For you, when simultaneous interpreting has to be used, and when is better to use consecutive interpreting?**

Simultaneous always best, because speedy.

5. How many years have you been working in the field? Where or for who have you worked?

18 years. European Farm trade Union – Freelance – accredited freelance – University professor – staff interpreter.

6. It is said that speakers tend to never thank an interpreter after finishing their job in a conference. Have you ever been thanked or taken into account in a presentation?

90% meetings end up by thanking the interpreters.

7. What qualities an interpreter should have?

Be curious, stress resistant and friendly.

8. How do you prepare for a conference?

Read documents if any and/or about the topic online.

9. For you, what makes a good interpreter?

Curiosity.

10. What do you like best about your job? And least?

No daily routine – intellectual challenge. No negative point really.

11. Which was your worst experience as an interpreter?

Meeting in Mexico where the technique really has let us down.

12. Which was your best experience as an interpreter?

Too many to tell.

13. Which advice would you give to someone who wants to become an interpreter?

Just do it, but you really have to love it otherwise it might be a torture.

14. What do you prefer, simultaneous interpreting or consecutive interpreting?

Used to prefer consecutive but now that I only work in simultaneous, I'd rather do simultaneous.

Appendix C: Interview interpreter 3

Personal information:

- **Name:** Berta Thorngreen-Boehm.
- **Where are you from:** Austria.
- **Mother tongue:** German.
- **Daily life language:** German, French, and English.
- **How many languages and which ones do you speak?** I am also fluent in Danish (thanks to my husband). Dutch, Swedish and Czech are rather passive languages. It takes me always some days to reactivate them.
- **Studies:**
- **When was the first time you worked as an interpreter?**
- **Your current job:**

Here you have several questions to answer.

1. **It is said that there is no need to take the interpreting path in order to become an interpreter, although it is the best way. How did you become a professional interpreter?**

I studied French and English at the interpreting department of the university of Vienna. First translating and then interpreting. I graduated in 1976 and started working for the European commission in 1977. Later I became a freelance interpreter mainly, but not exclusively for the European institutions.

2. **What made you become an interpreter? Interpreting studies always caught your attention?**

I wanted to study foreign languages, but I did not want to teach. So, there were not so many options left.

3. **Do simultaneous interpreting and consecutive interpreting go hand-in-hand for you? Are you skilled in both methods?**

Yes, I am skilled in both methods, but 95% of my professional activity was simultaneous interpreting for the European Institutions.

4. For you, when simultaneous interpreting has to be used, and when is better to use consecutive interpreting?

For a big audience with many active and passive languages there is no other option than simultaneous. For small groups, consecutive is all right, though more time consuming. Whispering is another option.

5. How many years have you been working in the field? Where or for who have you worked?

40 years for the European Institutions, plus occasionally for the free market (Unions, European associations, EU Workers Councils).

6. It is said that speakers tend to never thank an interpreter after finishing their job in a conference. Have you ever been thanked or taken into account in a presentation?

The people you work for usually thank you, but sometime you get the feeling that they don't really mean it. Especially when the delegates would not have needed you. As a German speaker, I work often for Germans and Austrians, who are quite fluent in English themselves. There you have a big advantage as Spanish speaker. Your people (still) really need you and they are most grateful. At reception the Spanish delegates usually invite their interpreter to their table, because they often feel uncomfortable speaking foreign languages.

7. What qualities an interpreter should have?

Endurance for the studies. Ability to absorb contents quickly. Get the meaning of an oral contribution. Don't translate word for word.

8. How do you prepare for a conference?

Read the documents, when available. At the European Parliament for instance you have a meeting preparation site in the intranet.

9. For you, what makes a good interpreter?

Somebody who understands the essential content of an oral contribution and presents it in the target language in correct, pleasant and convincing way. Better to bring 90% nicely and not 100% in a hectic, maybe confusing way.

10. What do you like best about your job? And least?

The colleagues, the international ambience. Interpreting is well paid for, much better than translating. Least I liked the feeling of being superfluous.

11. Which was your worst experience as an interpreter?

At a Council of Finance Ministers, I was interpreting from Swedish into German. I mixed up the numbers 7 and 20. They sound similar in Swedish. The President of the meeting got furious and shouted at the Swedish minister: this cannot be true, last time pledge already 20 million. How can you pull back 7 million without further explanations? It was all my fault and most embarrassing, but no patient died.

12. Which was your best experience as an interpreter?

One day, the German meeting secretary came to me during the coffee break and said: "I am so happy that you are again working for us today, because last time I listened to the tape of the German booth and your translation was so crystal clear, that I could use it directly for my meeting report." Otherwise, it was always gratifying when people were really dependent on my work and followed closely. When there were waving towards the booth and laughed at every joke.

13. Which advice would you give to someone who wants to become an interpreter?

Do it, if you don't mind to live in Brussels. Study something complementary like law, economics or media & communication. I think, out of 10 graduated interpreters only 2 or 3 can live on it exclusively. But there is no reason, why you shouldn't be one of the happy few!

14. What do you prefer, simultaneous interpreting or consecutive interpreting?

Simultaneous.

Appendix D: Interview interpreter 4

Personal information:

- **Name:** Asma
- **Where are you from:** France
- **Mother tongue:** French and Arabic
- **Daily life language:** French
- **How many languages and which ones do you speak?** 4
- **Studies:** Diploma in Conference Interpreting
- **When was the first time you worked as an interpreter?** 1993
- **Your current job:** Conference Interpreter

Here you have several questions to answer.

1. **It is said that there is no need to take the interpreting path in order to become an interpreter, although it is the best way. How did you become a professional interpreter?**

I attended an interpreting school

2. **What made you become an interpreter? Interpreting studies always caught your attention?**

Chance

3. **Do simultaneous interpreting and consecutive interpreting go hand-in-hand for you? Are you skilled in both methods?**

Yes, and yes

4. **For you, when simultaneous interpreting has to be used, and when is better to use consecutive interpreting?**

Simultaneous is preferable in most situations, except when there is a negotiation involved, in which case, consecutive will give more time to the parties to think.

5. **How many years have you been working in the field? Where or for whom have you worked?**

Since 1993, for a variety of world and regional organisations

6. It is said that speakers tend to never thank an interpreter after finishing their job in a conference. Have you ever been thanked or taken into account in a presentation?

Yes, I have been thanked. Thanking interpreters for a job well done is a custom, and as all customs, it is sometimes forgotten.

7. What qualities an interpreter should have?

Good language skills, good interpreting skills that can only be learnt at a good interpreting school, quick thinking, an inquisitive mind, a capacity to learn huge amounts of new information quickly, good memory, vast general knowledge and nerves of steel.

It is a hard job to do, and even harder to do well.

8. How do you prepare for a conference?

Exhaustive research of the subject to understand it, then I the move onto the linguistic aspect.

9. For you, what makes a good interpreter?

7+ 8, no exception.

10. What do you like best about your job? And least?

Being able to learn new things, the stress of simultaneous interpreting, even after all these years.

11. Which was your worst experience as an interpreter?

Preparing for a very difficult judicial assignment and discovering once I was at the meeting that I had been sent the wrong documents

12. Which was your best experience as an interpreter?

Some meetings are more meaningful to participants than others, and being part of a meeting that can truly help people is the greatest satisfaction of all.

13. Which advice would you give to someone who wants to become an interpreter?

Work on their languages to bring them to a professional level, read a lot on different topics, take an interest in current issues...then hope that they have the cognitive and personality traits required.

14. What do you prefer, simultaneous interpreting or consecutive interpreting?

Both, for different reasons.

Appendix E: Interview interpreter 5

Personal information:

- **Name:** Joke Jochum
- **Where are you from:** Erfurt, Germany
- **Mother tongue:** German
- **Daily life language:** German
- **How many languages and which ones do you speak?** German, French, Spanish, English
- **Studies:** Diplom-Dolmetscherin (MA Conference Interpreting), University of Heidelberg, Germany
- **When was the first time you worked as an interpreter?** I graduated in November 2008 and started my first job in January 2009.
- **Your current job:** Freelance (EU accredited)

Here you have several questions to answer.

- 1. It is said that there is no need to take the interpreting path in order to become an interpreter, although it is the best way. How did you become a professional interpreter?**

I did the classical path. This was before the Bologna reform, so it was a 5-year cursus, first 2 years translation/interpretation together, and then a specialization in conference interpreting. Nowadays I think it would be best to do a non-linguistic Bachelor and then a Master in Conference Interpreting.

- 2. What made you become an interpreter? Interpreting studies always caught your attention?**

Yes. I have known that I wanted to be an interpreter since I was 12. I just love languages and wanted to work WITH and not ABOUT them.

- 3. Do simultaneous interpreting and consecutive interpreting go hand-in-hand for you? Are you skilled in both methods?**

I am but do mostly work in simultaneous mode now. Though I think consecutive is a very good training for quite a lot of skills needed in simultaneous.

4. For you, when simultaneous interpreting has to be used, and when is better to use consecutive interpreting?

Simultaneous always has the time advantage. Nobody gets bored because everything takes two times as long and either you understand both languages and get to hear everything two times, either you don't and you don't understand a word for quite some time. Consecutive is good when you don't have the possibility for the technical equipment or when the rhetoric is important.

5. How many years have you been working in the field? Where or for who have you worked?

2 years permanently employed with a French-German-Spanish procurement centre in Switzerland.

10 years as a freelance interpreter on the German private market and for the Institutions of the European Union.

6. It is said that speakers tend to never thank an interpreter after finishing their job in a conference. Have you ever been thanked or taken into account in a presentation?

Yes, that's not my feeling. In my experience we are thanked in about 70% of the cases in simultaneous. In consecutive people tend to be amazed by what we do and come by after the presentation to have a look at the notes.

7. What qualities an interpreter should have?

Self-confidence, organizational skills, adaptability, quick thinking

8. How do you prepare for a conference?

I go through the documents, mark unknown names and concepts and do a vocabulary list.

9. For you, what makes a good interpreter?

Being able to analyse quickly and summarize things in a confident tone. A broad general knowledge helps.

10. What do you like best about your job? And least?

The variety of subjects and people.

11. Which was your worst experience as an interpreter?

It's always a bad feeling when you know you didn't understand something and you know your customers know. Tends to happen a lot with non-native speakers in the EU.

12. Which was your best experience as an interpreter?

To accompany a milk farmer from Burkina Faso during his 3-week stay in Germany with talks every day (consecutive!).

13. Which advice would you give to someone who wants to become an interpreter?

Don't be afraid, don't listen to the people with the horror stories about the profession, think about which market you'd like to be on and invest in a third language if your choice is the EU.

14. What do you prefer, simultaneous interpreting or consecutive interpreting?

Consecutive.

Appendix F: Interview interpreter 6

Personal information:

- **Name:** Jonathan Pocock
- **Where are you from:** United Kingdom
- **Mother tongue:** English
- **Daily life language:** German
- **How many languages and which ones do you speak?** I speak German, French, Spanish and Italian in addition to English.
- **Studies:** BA (Hons.) Languages, Interpreting & Translating
- **When was the first time you worked as an interpreter?** September 1991
- **Your current job:** Freelance

Here you have several questions to answer.

- 1. It is said that there is no need to take the interpreting path in order to become an interpreter, although it is the best way. How did you become a professional interpreter?**

Taking a bachelor degree in Interpreting and supplementing it by doing voluntary interpreting in univ. vacations

- 2. What made you become an interpreter? Interpreting studies always caught your attention?**

The attraction of dealing with foreign cultures and the challenge of rendering ideas in one language into another under time pressure

- 3. Do simultaneous interpreting and consecutive interpreting go hand-in-hand for you? Are you skilled in both methods?**

Yes, they enrich one another but I no longer do consecutive as there is no demand for it on my markets.

- 4. For you, when simultaneous interpreting has to be used, and when is better to use consecutive interpreting?**

Simultaneous for multilingual, large-scale contexts; consecutive for very small settings, usually between two people.

5. How many years have you been working in the field? Where or for who have you worked?

Since 1991. Mostly international organisations- UN, EU, EPO, Council of Europe

6. It is said that speakers tend to never thank an interpreter after finishing their job in a conference. Have you ever been thanked or taken into account in a presentation?

Yes, that happens sometimes

7. What qualities an interpreter should have?

Finely tuned antennae to understand “le non-dit” , innate curiosity to constantly learn new fields of knowledge, ressourcefulness and stamina.

8. How do you prepare for a conference?

Reading texts in depth, possibly learning more about the participants.

9. For you, what makes a good interpreter?

See 7.

10. What do you like best about your job? And least?

I love the variety, challenge, contact with colleagues from around the world. The constant travel and increasing (unnecessary) bureaucracy are wearing.

11. Which was your worst experience as an interpreter?

Being ill-prepared through no fault of one’s own-we have no opportunity to explain our situation.

12. Which was your best experience as an interpreter?

Realizing that we had made a difference to people’s understanding and hence perception of what were, until then, complete strangers from a country the participants knew nothing of.

13. Which advice would you give to someone who wants to become an interpreter?

Only regard it as an additional source of work-the profession is in profound change and only highly technical work will survive or interpretation between exotic languages.

14. What do you prefer, simultaneous interpreting or consecutive interpreting?

Simultaneous.

Appendix G: Interview interpreter 7

Personal information:

- **Name:** Katharina Schmid
- **Where are you from:** Germany
- **Mother tongue:** German
- **Daily life language:** German (with my children and other mothers from their kindergarden, friends/family from Germany), Spanish (with my husband 80%), English (the remaining 20% with my husband, with the majority of friends from Brussels), French (in shops and with locals).
- **How many languages and which ones do you speak?** German, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese fluently, basic knowledge of Italian and Dutch/Flenish.
- **Studies:** Interpreting degree from University of Applied Sciences Cologne (Fachhochschule Köln), Germany
- **When was the first time your worked as an interpreter?** 2005
- **Your current job:** Conference Interpreter (freelance) (on occasion I also do translations)

Here you have several questions to answer.

- 1. It is said that there is no need to take the interpreting path in order to become an interpreter, although it is the best way. How did you become a professional interpreter?**

Interpreting studies/degree (see above) in 2004. Language combination German A, English B and French C, later on I added Portuguese (2008) and Spanish (2019) as C languages.

- 2. What made you become an interpreter? Interpreting studies always caught your attention?**

I first studied languages (in Cologne, my home town) to become a secondary school teacher, but found the studies too theoretical. For French for example we studied a lot of medieval French, the history of grammar and so on but hardly spoke any French or learned about how it was spoken in present times, and for

English it was similar. So, I looked for a way to apply languages in practice and came across the interpreting degree in Cologne.

3. Do simultaneous interpreting and consecutive interpreting go hand-in-hand for you? Are you skilled in both methods?

Yes, absolutely. There might always be a technical failure which would require to switch from simultaneous to consecutive. Also, I enjoy the more direct way of working in consecutive.

4. For you, when simultaneous interpreting has to be used, and when is better to use consecutive interpreting?

Simultaneous (with booths or at least chuchotage) is pretty much a must as soon as there is more than one language pair, otherwise it becomes too long and complicated. I think where “the personal touch” is important, consecutive should be first choice. It is also helpful in tense or very complex situations, because it allows you to speak to clients/listeners directly.

5. How many years have you been working in the field? Where or for who have you worked?

Since 2005, but it took me until 2008 to be able to make a living with interpreting only (i.e. without having to do translation or any other additional jobs). I started out in Germany and then moved to Brussels in 2008. I have been working for both the European Institutions and the private market since then, with several breaks due to maternity leave. I was also on staff for the European Commission’s interpreting service (SCIC) from 2011 to 2014.

6. It is said that speakers tend to never thank an interpreter after finishing their job in a conference. Have you ever been thanked or taken into account in a presentation?

Yes ☺ In the European Institutions that is standard procedure so to speak, but I have also been thanked during private market jobs, I would say in at least 60% of cases. However, real feedback that goes beyond a quick thank you is not as frequent.

7. What qualities an interpreter should have?

Quick thinker, resilience to stress, ability to extract the main message/synthesize quite quickly, not someone who needs a big audience because we always work in the background, team player.

8. How do you prepare for a conference?

I read the agenda/documents if available, I do research to better understand the background of the topics in question and/or to find out about the meaning behind technical terms, I draw up a list of vocabulary, I look up the speakers and try to find photos of them so I can quicker identify them at a conference (sometimes also necessary to find out whether it will be a man or a woman ;-))

9. For you, what makes a good interpreter?

Someone who is easy to listen to, stays calm, and obviously gets the message across.

10. What do you like best about your job? And least?

1. To see and hear my working languages and European culture(s) on a daily basis, the teamwork, that I get an insight into such a wide variety of topics.
2. That we are sometimes treated like robots, and that often the speakers don't really care about communicating well, they just read their prepared statement/power point presentation at breakneck speed.

11. Which was your worst experience as an interpreter?

At the beginning of my time in Brussels, a French trade union representative who spoke way too fast and with an incredibly strong southern French accent. I had to interpret him while a very experienced colleague, German/French bilingual listened to me and probably thought I was absolutely useless... (in a similar situation now I would just ask the colleague to take over, if I thought he/she would do a better job, but at the time I didn't have the courage).

12. Which was your best experience as an interpreter?

Various consecutive assignments because they really made me feel like I was part of the team, a simultaneous assignment for the executive bureau of the international trade union federation, because I really felt interpreting made a difference (for example, I translated some of the Latin American delegates who

sometimes face death as a consequence of being a trade union member, and by giving them a voice and making them heard among Europeans they were able to get support and financial help).

13. Which advice would you give to someone who wants to become an interpreter?

To have a very good think about it, because although it is a very interesting and often rewarding job, it can also be quite frustrating, especially when working for the big “machine” that are the European Institutions. Also, I am (unfortunately) not sure that the job is future proof, given that more and more meetings/events are simple held in English without any interpreting. Especially after the current crisis, the profession will definitely change a lot: remote interpreting (ie interpreting for video conferences, conference calls etc) was already on the rise before Corona, but will now probably take a quantum leap.

14. What do you prefer, simultaneous interpreting or consecutive interpreting?

I think I have a slight preference for consecutive, maybe 45% simultaneous versus 55% consecutive.

Appendix H: Interview interpreter 8

Personal information:

- **Name:** María Dolores Guindal
- **Where are you from:** Madrid, Spain
- **Mother tongue:** Spanish
- **Daily life language:** Spanish
- **How many languages and which ones do you speak?** Spanish (native), English (C2), German (B2-C1), French (B2)
- **Studies:** BA in Translation and Interpreting, MA in International Trade
- **When was the first time you worked as an interpreter?** 2010.
- **Your current job:** Conference Interpreter EN/ES, Translator and Trainer

Here you have several questions to answer.

- 1. It is said that there is no need to take the interpreting path in order to become an interpreter, although it is the best way. How did you become a professional interpreter?**

In my BA program there were two itineraries and I took the one for interpreting. Then I took several private courses in simultaneous interpreting to receive feedback from professional interpreters and focus on specific areas of improvement.

- 2. What made you become an interpreter? Interpreting studies always caught your attention?**

I wanted to do something related with communication. Before I knew of this BA program, I wanted to be a news reporter. The minute I learned about Translation and Interpreting I knew I wanted to interpret, although translating is something that I enjoy too.

- 3. Do simultaneous interpreting and consecutive interpreting go hand-in-hand for you? Are you skilled in both methods?**

In my opinion consecutive interpreting without notes is the foundation of interpreters' training. You have to master memory and analysis techniques to be

able to be a good interpreter. Consecutive with notes would be the next step and then, ultimately, simultaneous interpreting. I don't think you can be a good simultaneous interpreter if you haven't learned how to interpret consecutively. I am trained in both methods but I hardly use consecutive professionally, so my note-taking is a little rusty.

4. For you, when simultaneous interpreting has to be used, and when is better to use consecutive interpreting?

I am a big advocate for simultaneous interpreting, because I think it saves time and it creates a feeling of direct exchange between the speakers. Consecutive would be my go-to technique if the right technical equipment for SIM weren't available.

5. How many years have you been working in the field? Where or for whom have you worked?

I've been a professional interpreter since 2010. I've worked for agencies in the past, but for the last 5 years I've only worked for direct clients or booth mates. Some of my end clients include Toyota, Google, Escuelas Católicas, Instituto de la Mujer, Ministerio de Igualdad, Ministerio de Agricultura.

6. It is said that speakers tend to never thank an interpreter after finishing their job in a conference. Have you ever been thanked or taken into account in a presentation?

I have been thanked many times, particularly by seasoned speakers who have worked with interpreters before.

7. What qualities an interpreter should have?

Like for any job, an interpreter should be meticulous, professional, flexible, self-motivated, organized, PUNCTUAL.

8. How do you prepare for a conference?

I first go through the documents provided directly by the client. I detect areas where I need more information and find it online. Then I create a long glossary including all terms found during the documentation process. Lastly, I create a 20-term glossary that I will use during the assignment with the most relevant terms that I'm likely to forget.

9. For you, what makes a good interpreter?

Probably all professional interpreters are good interpreters. What separates good interpreters from excellent interpreters is their willingness to keep practising and improving all the time.

10. What do you like best about your job? And least?

I love learning about new topics that would be out of my area of interest otherwise. I love working with other interpreters. I don't necessarily like the constraints of working for international institutions. I really enjoy working for Spanish private companies.

11. Which was your worst experience as an interpreter?

I once had to interpret at a conference on new-born respiratory diseases and the client had not provided enough information. It was quite a disaster.

12. Which was your best experience as an interpreter?

I've had many good experiences. Every time I know my job was well done. I remember particularly a conference where I could help my English-speaking boothmate, who was a veteran in the profession, because I had prepared really really well.

13. Which advice would you give to someone who wants to become an interpreter?

Train specifically for it and never stop practising. If you can receive quality feedback from other professional interpreters, do. That will help you improve significantly.

14. What do you prefer, simultaneous interpreting or consecutive interpreting?

I prefer simultaneous because I do it more often and I am more used to it. Also, because I am an introvert and I feel protected by the booth.

Appendix I: Interview interpreter 9

Información personal:

- **Nombre:** Montserrat Sardà
- **De donde eres:** Tarragona
- **Lengua materna:** catalán/español
- **Lengua diaria:** catalán/español
- **Cuántas y que lenguas hablas:** catalán, español, alemán, inglés, francés y griego moderno.
- **Tus estudios:** Licenciatura en Traducción e Interpretación, Licenciatura en Derecho y Máster en Interpretación de Conferencias.
- **Cuando fue la primera vez que trabajaste como interprete:** de manera profesional, a comienzos de 2012. Antes hice algún voluntariado y prácticas a raíz del máster.
- **Tu trabajo actual:** Intérprete de conferencias y traductora autónoma.

Aquí tienes unas preguntas para contestar:

1. **Se dice que no es necesario hacer la carrera de interpretación para ser interprete, aunque sea la mejor o la recomendada. ¿Cual fue tu camino para ser interprete?**

Me licencié en Traducción e Interpretación y rápidamente vi que quería dedicarme a la interpretación, por lo que una vez finalizados mis estudios, y tras pasar un tiempo en el extranjero para reforzar los idiomas, decidí cursar el Máster de Interpretación de Conferencias en La Laguna.

Allí adquirí las herramientas para poder interpretar. No me imagino lanzarme al mercado de la interpretación sin unos estudios previos. Por supuesto, hay compañeros que han llegado a la profesión por otras vías (por ejemplo, porque cuando empezaron no existían los estudios de interpretación o estos eran muy limitados), pero habiendo opciones como las actuales, me parece la mejor manera.

2. **¿Que te hizo decidirte por esa disciplina? ¿Fue siempre tu primera opción?**

Empezó a atraerme ya antes de matricularme en Traducción e Interpretación y, de hecho, lo hice precisamente por la segunda disciplina. Traducir me gusta mucho y es un ejercicio genial para complementar la interpretación, pero son actividades muy distintas. La interpretación te da una adrenalina increíble, sufres mucho estrés, pero la recompensa es inmediata. Ves a tu público que consigue comunicarse al momento, interactúas con ellos, puedes aprender de muchos temas distintos y conoces a gente de lo más interesante.

3. ¿La interpretación consecutiva y la interpretación simultánea van mano a mano para ti? ¿Tienes formación en los dos métodos?

En los cursos de interpretación, se empieza por la consecutiva porque se considera la base de la simultánea. Ahí puede haber quien discrepe, pero si sigues unos estudios reglados, como en mi caso, acabas formándote en ambas modalidades. Por otra parte, hay intérpretes a quienes no les gusta la consecutiva: la toma de notas es una técnica específica que a lo mejor no han podido perfeccionar, o no les gusta el hecho de estar expuestos a grandes públicos o bajo los focos de los medios de comunicación, por ejemplo. Prefieren la simultánea, que es la modalidad dominante. En mi caso, me gustan y me siento cómoda en las dos.

4. Para ti, ¿cuándo es mejor utilizar interpretación simultánea y cuando consecutiva?

La consecutiva es ideal para eventos de corta duración y en situaciones que se asemejan a un enlace (bilateral), o cuando las particularidades del evento no permiten o dificultan la instalación del equipo necesario para la simultánea. Para el resto, lo más recomendable y habitual es la simultánea.

5. ¿Cuántos años llevas trabajando en este campo? ¿Donde y para quien has trabajado?

Empecé a trabajar a finales de 2011 como traductora e intérprete autónoma, pero no fue hasta 2015 cuando logré una cartera de clientes de interpretación más o menos sólida. Es una profesión de fondo, es muy difícil o casi imposible empezar a interpretar de hoy para mañana. Hay que tener paciencia y perseverancia, respetar las condiciones de tu mercado para no perjudicar al sector y saber decir no a aquellas ofertas que no cumplen unos estándares mínimos. Esto es difícil, sobre

todo cuando uno comienza, tiene muchas ganas de interpretar y las ofertas escasean.

Mi mercado de trabajo habitual es Barcelona y alrededores, aunque ocasionalmente también interpreto en el resto de España y, en los últimos años también y cada vez más en el extranjero, normalmente en la UE, si bien he realizado encargos en América del Norte, África y Oriente Medio.

En mi cartera de clientes predominan los clientes privados (empresas y agencias de eventos), aunque una fuente importante de trabajo para los intérpretes somos los propios compañeros. A veces, trabajo para agencias de confianza y, desde 2018, también para un organismo internacional. Por motivos de confidencialidad, no puedo dar nombres.

6. Se dice que se tiende a no agradecer a los intérpretes una vez han terminado su trabajo. ¿Alguna vez se te ha dado las gracias al terminar una conferencia una vez se ha terminado?

Sí, ¡muchísimas veces! En grandes congresos, donde participan muchas personas en su organización, es habitual que se haga una ronda de agradecimientos, intérpretes incluidos, y en la consecutiva, donde el intérprete es mucho más visible que en la cabina, normalmente también.

Sin embargo, no es ninguna obligación y a mí en particular no me molesta ni ofende en absoluto que no se agradezca. Para mí, la mejor muestra de agradecimiento es que el cliente vuelva a contactarme para otros eventos, ya que ello significa que está satisfecho con mi trabajo.

7. ¿Qué cualidades debe tener un intérprete?

Además de las más obvias, como el excelente dominio de idiomas extranjeros y (no lo olvidemos) maternos y la técnica de interpretación, creo que hay que saber aguantar el estrés, ser capaz de mantener la calma en situaciones de tensión, saber encajar críticas y ser muy humilde. Siempre habrá intérpretes mejores que nosotros, a quienes debemos ver como una oportunidad para aprender, pero sobre todo, no hay que querer ser más importante que el ponente ni buscar ser el centro de atención.

Por otra parte, creo que la curiosidad es fundamental. Un intérprete trabaja en ámbitos muy distintos. Poder interpretar hay que entender primero, y un tema se entiende mejor si te has leído algo al respecto previamente, si viste un documental, si un día te llamó la atención y buscaste en Wikipedia...

8. ¿Cómo te preparas para una conferencia?

Un intérprete debe prepararse siempre, para todos los eventos. Aunque sean temas que conocemos o eventos en los que ya hemos interpretado antes. Nunca sabes con qué te vas a encontrar. Obviamente, el bagaje ayuda, pero no es suficiente. Por eso, siempre hay que pedir al cliente los posibles materiales que se vayan a utilizar. El grueso de la preparación la hago sobre los materiales que me proporcionan. Si esto no es posible, porque no hay materiales o no los consigo, busco vídeos en YouTube de los ponentes para saber de qué y cómo hablan, leo artículos que traten el tema o publicados por los ponentes... Y, por descontado, me preparo un glosario (nuevo, si es un tema que no he abordado antes, o sobre la base de glosarios anteriores). En cualquier caso, el método de preparación depende mucho del tipo de evento. Por ejemplo, para un festival de cine donde tuve que interpretar a un director, mi preparación consistió en ver la película de la que iba a hablar, pero además me leí muchas entrevistas con él para conocer mejor su obra. En cambio, para unas formaciones técnicas que hago de forma recurrente en una fábrica, me tengo que estudiar el manual de instrucciones de la máquina.

9. Para ti, ¿que hace un buen interprete?

Creo que ya he cubierto esta pregunta en respuestas anteriores, pero resumiendo, diría que un buen intérprete es alguien que, además de dominar la técnica de interpretación y sus idiomas de trabajo (extranjeros y maternos), es una persona curiosa, con ganas de aprender, que soporta bien el estrés y tiene resistencia, que sabe trabajar en equipo y respeta a sus compañeros, y es humilde.

10. ¿Qué es lo que más te gusta de tu trabajo? ¿Y lo que menos?

Lo que más me gusta es el trabajo en sí. Me apasiona, disfruto de la adrenalina. También el hecho de trabajar con muchas personas distintas, tanto de ponentes/participantes, como de compañeros de cabina. Te da la oportunidad de adentrarte en muchos temas. También me gusta el hecho de poder viajar.

La parte más negativa es que en algunos eventos nadie piensa en la interpretación hasta el último momento y todo se organiza con prisas, no tienes materiales, no dispones de tiempo suficiente para prepararte todo lo que te gustaría, etc. Por otra parte, tampoco es agradable la incertidumbre de no saber cuándo trabajarás. Con los años, es más fácil hacerte una previsión, pero es un mercado que cambia rápidamente y que está sujeto a muchos factores externos. Precisamente la situación actual de pandemia lo ha puesto de manifiesto: de marzo a julio se han cancelado absolutamente todos los eventos, y está por ver que se pueda retomar la actividad a partir de septiembre.

11. ¿Cuál ha sido tu peor experiencia como interprete?

Es difícil decir una. Creo que los momentos más duros son al principio, cuando uno tiene más inseguridad y le falta rodaje. En todas las profesiones es normal necesitar “horas de vuelo”, pero la particularidad en interpretación es que cuando un cliente te contrata, contrata a un profesional y no hay margen de error. Estás (o deberías estar) en igualdad de condiciones que tus compañeros de cabina que llevan años en el oficio, y eso añade presión, te sientes más observado. Con el tiempo, ves que la mayoría de compañeros son comprensivos y que están dispuestos a echarte una mano si te ven en apuros, porque al final todos han pasado por lo mismo, pero es cierto que los primeros encargos suelen ser duros.

12. ¿Cuál ha sido tu mejor experiencia como interprete?

Tampoco aquí puedo elegir un único momento. La interpretación me ha dado incontables buenos momentos. Me gusta mi trabajo. Hay días en los que parece que todo fluye, te sientes bien con el tema, con tu producción, y todo va de cara. El cliente queda encantado y te lo dice. Esos días salgo pletórica del trabajo.

También es cierto que la interpretación me ha permitido viajar a países que quizás, de otro modo, no habría tenido la posibilidad de visitar, y en la interpretación he forjado amistades muy buenas.

13. ¿Que consejo darías a alguien que quiere ser interprete?

Primero, que se especialice en interpretación mediante la formación reglada, porque lanzarse al mercado sin unas bases me parece muy atrevido y tiende a salir mal. Luego, que sea paciente, que no espere empezar a trabajar al día siguiente de graduarse y que tenga una actividad alternativa que le asegure una fuente de

ingresos. Muchos intérpretes se dedican también a la traducción o a la docencia, por ejemplo. Esto le ayudará a sobrellevar las épocas de poco trabajo y podrá permitirse decir no a ofertas de trabajo en malas condiciones.

14. ¿Qué prefieres, interpretación simultánea o consecutiva?

Las dos. Como decía, cada una es idónea para formatos distintos. En la cabina estás menos expuesto, trabajas codo con codo con el compañero y te puedes ayudar recíprocamente. En consecutiva, aunque seáis dos, el compañero no puede ayudarte, tienes a todo el público pendiente y eso también te hace más sujeto a críticas. Pero me parece emocionante y se visibiliza mucho el trabajo del intérprete.

Appendix J: Interview interpreter 10

Información personal:

- **Nombre:** Natalia Gascón
- **De donde eres:** Zaragoza
- **Lengua materna:** Español
- **Lengua diaria:** Español
- **Cuántas y que lenguas hablas:** español, inglés, alemán y francés.
- **Tus estudios:** Grado en Traducción e Interpretación con inglés y alemán (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid) y Máster en Interpretación de Conferencias con inglés, alemán y francés (Universidad de La Laguna)
- **Cuando fue la primera vez que trabajaste como interprete:** 2016
- **Tu trabajo actual:** Traductora e intérprete freelance y docente de interpretación consecutiva y simultánea en Universidad San Jorge (Zaragoza).

Aquí tienes unas preguntas para contestar:

1. **Se dice que no es necesario hacer la carrera de interpretación para ser interprete, aunque sea la mejor o la recomendada. ¿Cual fue tu camino para ser interprete?**

En mi opinión, ya que ahora sí que existen estudios específicos en interpretación de conferencias (no como hace 100 años), la formación especializada en interpretación es altamente recomendable. De hecho, en mi caso, el factor determinante que me llevó a especializarme en la interpretación fue la realización de un Máster especializado en Interpretación de Conferencias.

2. **¿Que te hizo decidirte por esa disciplina? ¿Fue siempre tu primera opción?**

Siempre me había llamado la atención la rama de la interpretación y me parecía una vertiente mucho más dinámica que la traducción. Además, lo veía como un reto al que me quería enfrentar y tenía claro que quería dedicarme profesionalmente a la interpretación de conferencias en un futuro.

3. **¿La interpretación consecutiva y la interpretación simultanea van mano a mano para ti? ¿Tienes formación en los dos métodos?**

Para mí, un buen dominio de la consecutiva es algo fundamental como paso previo a empezar con la simultánea. Dominar la consecutiva significa ser capaz de tener una gran capacidad de análisis y síntesis, algo que es esencial en simultánea.

En mi caso, domino ambas técnicas y a nivel profesional trabajo con ambas modalidades, aunque es mucho más frecuente el uso de la simultánea.

4. Para ti, ¿cuándo es mejor utilizar interpretación simultánea y cuando consecutiva?

La simultánea se debe utilizar en contextos de conferencias y congresos (larga duración) y la consecutiva en contextos como presentaciones de libros/exhibiciones/ruedas de prensa, visitas de campo y, en general, en todos aquellos lugares donde no se disponga de medios técnicos para realizar una simultánea. Asimismo, también se puede utilizar la consecutiva en negociaciones entre clientes.

5. ¿Cuántos años llevas trabajando en este campo? ¿Donde y para quien has trabajado?

2 años de manera profesional (desde la finalización del Máster). Trabajo para todo tipo de clientes: clientes directos, organismos internacionales, diputaciones provinciales y agencias especializadas.

6. Se dice que se tiende a no agradecer a los intérpretes una vez han terminado su trabajo. ¿Alguna vez se te ha dado las gracias al terminar una conferencia una vez se ha terminado?

No estoy de acuerdo. En mi caso, me ha sorprendido gratamente ver cómo los asistentes o los clientes se han acercado en persona a darme la enhorabuena por mi trabajo como intérprete. En otras ocasiones, al término de una conferencia, la persona encargada de concluir la jornada ha expresado unas palabras de agradecimiento a los intérpretes señalando a nuestras cabinas y hemos recibido un caluroso aplauso por parte del público.

7. ¿Qué cualidades debe tener un intérprete?

Capacidad de análisis y síntesis, buenos conocimientos lingüísticos, memoria, concentración, capacidad de negociación, curiosidad, ganas de aprendizaje constante, resiliencia, tolerancia al estrés y a las críticas, paciencia y, por último,

capacidad para improvisar y buscar soluciones (importante no agobiarse cuando hay problemas técnicos o algo se sale del guion preestablecido) y capacidad para trabajar bajo presión.

8. ¿Cómo te preparas para una conferencia?

Hago una labor de documentación exhaustiva y me preparo para el tema específico que se tratará en la conferencia con la documentación que me proporciona el cliente (PowerPoint, archivos...). En caso de no recibir documentación por parte del cliente por motivos de confidencialidad, realizo una documentación por mi cuenta para explorar el tema en profundidad y me preparo glosarios en las lenguas de trabajo. Considero que una buena preparación es vital para garantizar un servicio de calidad.

9. Para ti, ¿que hace un buen interprete?

Un buen intérprete es una persona con aptitudes específicas para realizar el trabajo de interpretación, que posee un gran dominio de sus lenguas de trabajo y que se sabe adaptar a cada situación.

10. ¿Qué es lo que más te gusta de tu trabajo? ¿Y lo que menos?

Lo que más:

- Todos los conocimientos que me aporta. Siempre estoy inmersa en un aprendizaje constante, no solo gracias a lo que aprendo propiamente en las conferencias, sino también gracias a todo lo que me aportan mis compañeros de cabina (consejos, trucos, experiencias, etc.).
- Posibilidad de viajar y trabajar en otros lugares. Conocer a personalidades importantes.
- Constante mejora de las lenguas de trabajo mediante ampliación de vocabulario, expresiones lingüísticas, etc.

Lo peor:

- Estrés cuando se acumulan los encargos de interpretación y cuando no se recibe documentación por parte del cliente y la conferencia va a ser especializada.

- Estacionalidad: el trabajo se acumula en X meses del año, por lo que es importante realizar una buena distribución de los ingresos y tener en cuenta que habrá meses en los que no haya encargos de interpretación.
- Cancelaciones de última hora (por eso mismo, considero necesario incluir una cláusula en los presupuestos de interpretación en la que se especifique que el intérprete tendrá derecho a recibir un 100% de los honorarios de interpretación si la cancelación se produce con X días de antelación).

11. ¿Cuál ha sido tu peor experiencia como interprete?

Conferencia internacional sobre inmunoterapia contra el cáncer. Fue una jornada muy especializada, muchas horas de trabajo (jornada completa de 8h) y no habíamos recibido absolutamente nada de documentación para poder prepararlo. La documentación previa que hicimos tanto mi compañera de cabina como yo fue insuficiente para la magnitud de especialización del evento. Además, hubo otro factor de dificultad añadida: algunos participantes disponían de muy poco tiempo para hacer sus presentaciones, lo que los llevó a hablar muy rápido y a condensar mucha información en muy poco tiempo.

12. ¿Cuál ha sido tu mejor experiencia como interprete?

Trabajar en consecutiva en una entrega de premios a escritores y que el presentador de la gala dijera que habría que dar otro premio a la intérprete por su gran trabajo. Al concluir el evento, la gente del público se acercó a darme la enhorabuena por mi trabajo, me dijeron que había conseguido transmitir una gran fuerza con mis palabras, que había conseguido emocionarles al narrar el relato del escritor, y para mí supuso un gran reconocimiento y enorme satisfacción.

13. ¿Que consejo darías a alguien que quiere ser interprete?

Que persiga su sueño con todas sus fuerzas y que, aunque los comienzos sean difíciles, que no se rinda porque seguro que merecerá la pena, ya que la interpretación es una profesión preciosa que te aporta mucho más de lo que imaginas.

A nivel más práctico, que practique todo lo que pueda para hacerse cada vez más bueno y que así pueda hacer frente a las dificultades que se le vayan poniendo por el camino.

14. ¿Qué prefieres, interpretación simultánea o consecutiva?

Simultánea.

Appendix K: Interview interpreter 11

Personal information:

- **Name:** Peter Groeninck
- **Where are you from:** Belgium
- **Mother tongue:** Dutch
- **Daily life language:** Dutch
- **How many languages and which ones do you speak?** English, French and Italian.
- **Studies:** Ma in Interpreting
- **When was the first time your worked as an interpreter?** 1998
- **Your current job:** Conference interpreter / Lecturer in conference interpreting

Here you have several questions to answer.

1. **It is said that there is no need to take the interpreting path in order to become an interpreter, although it is the best way. How did you become a professional interpreter?**

Ma in Interpreting.

2. **What make you become an interpreter? Interpreting studies always caught your attention?**

Yes, from late adolescence I wanted to become a conference interpreter.

3. **Do simultaneous interpreting and consecutive interpreting go hand-in-hand for you? Are you skilled in both methods?**

They go hand in hand and I provide both.

4. **For you, when simultaneous interpreting has to be used, and when is better to use consecutive interpreting?**

Consecutive only for short meetings in small groups. Simultaneous for all the rest.

5. **How many years have you been working in the field? Where or for who have you worked?**

20 years. EU-institutions, private market, trade unions, police.

6. It is said that speakers tend to never thank an interpreter after finishing their job in a conference. Have you ever been thanked or taken into account in a presentation?

Often. At SCIC it is 'mandatory' for the chairman to welcome and thank the interpreters.

7. What qualities an interpreter should have?

Language skills (passive/active), long concentration spans, stress-resistance and willingness to travel.

8. How do you prepare for a conference?

I look up the vocabulary.

9. For you, what makes a good interpreter?

Language skills (passive/active), long concentration spans, stress-resistance and willingness to travel. And pleasant to listen to

10. What do you like best about your job? And least?

The variety and the travelling.

11. Which was your worst experience as an interpreter?

Reports at SCIC by staff colleagues.

12. Which was your best experience as an interpreter?

Every day is a new day.

13. Which advice would you give to someone who wants to become an interpreter?

Patience.

14. What do you prefer, simultaneous interpreting or consecutive interpreting?

Simultaneous.

Appendix L: Simultaneous Interpreting exercise:

Here you have some situations in which an interpreter may be exposed to. How would you react if it happened to you? Also, if it is a situation that you have already faced in the past, could you please tell me what happened and how you solved it?

- 1. Imagine you are in a conference and the person you are translating tells a joke, or uses an idiom. How would you react and translate it in order not to lose the original meaning?**

If I know the equivalent, I will say it immediately without hesitating. If I know it, but I can't remember the exact words, or for some reason I doubt, I tend to generalize the meaning. Confidence is the key in these situations. Context plays a big role though.

Can you describe a real case from your own experience?

When I used to translate MotoGP riders, I remember many times they use swear words or a very strong slang and as I was working for the Spanish TV and we had a 'code', I always need to find a decent equivalent because I couldn't reproduce some bad words. So for example, for 'don't touch my balls' I used to say 'no me toques las narices'. I would say I had to find the balance in-between the original words and the media I was working for. When they said 'son of a bitch', my words were 'malnacido', 'cretino'. It didn't affect the speech and I knew many newspapers took headlines from my words in Spanish, so I guess my decision in those moments played a tricky role and I had to be very coherent.

- 2. If there are technical issues, for example the microphone does not work, or you do not hear the speaker properly, how would you solve it?**

You always need to have an audio person next to your booth. So, first, contacting to him through the button. It doesn't depend on me, so the only thing I can do is to not lose my concentration, nerves, etc. Calm is key. Then, once the problem is fixed, you just need to translate from that point on. It wasn't my mistake, so I just carried on with the speech.

Can you recall a real situation where you had a technical problem? Can you describe the problem and what you did?

Many, many times. Sometimes we received the original signal from Japan, Australia, Qatar... And we were based in Barcelona. It just happened that there was an important delay. Or the signal was low, or with a lot of noise due to the motorbikes on track. I would describe myself as an adaptable interpreter because I was never afraid of those things. I always got the maximum, believed in myself and didn't doubt of the little I heard. If I heard just a bit and I was pretty sure of what they were saying, I translated a full speech. If I didn't hear anything, for example, I made a little pause and then continued.

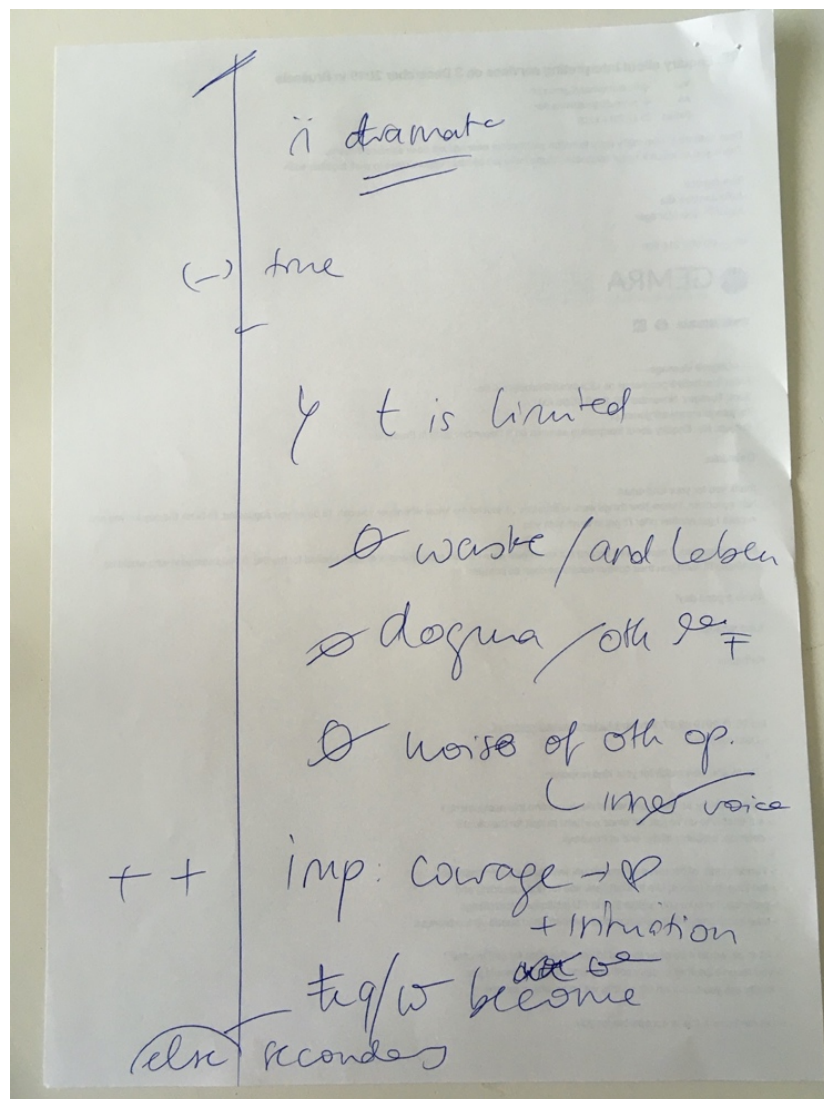
- 3. Which advice would you tell to upcoming interpreters in these kinds of situations?** You can't control the things that don't depend on you and you can't fight against technology. So, take control of your emotions, don't let fear interfere in your mind and just carry on with a lot of confidence. Do not overreact and forget overthinking, that's just useless. The important moment is just 'now'.

Appendix M: Consecutive interpreting exercise 1

This consecutive exercise consists in translating a specific part of the video in which Steve Jobs gives speech to graduating students at the Stanford University. Please translate the speech from min 12:16 to 12:43, and attach your notebook notes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFi4zNJ7AxQ>

Interpreter 1: Katharina Schmid

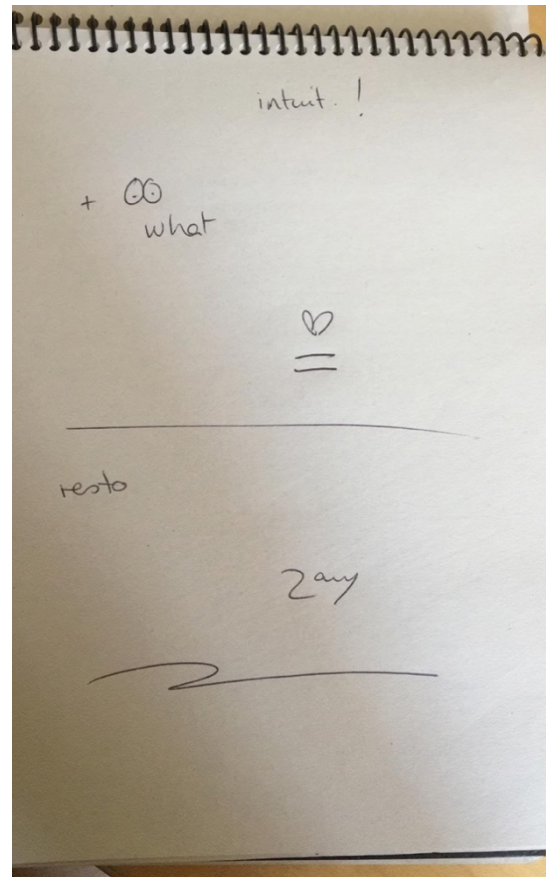
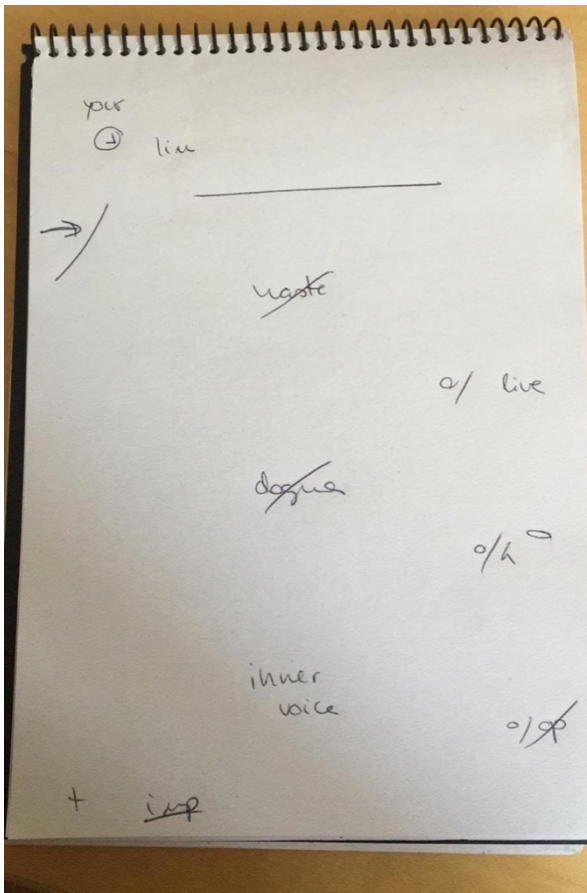


Appendix N: Consecutive interpreting exercise 2

This consecutive exercise consists in translating a specific part of the video in which Steve Jobs gives speech to graduating students at the Stanford University. Please translate the speech from min 12:16 to 12:43, and attach your notebook notes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFi4zNJ7AxQ>

Interpreter 2: Olga Sanmiquel

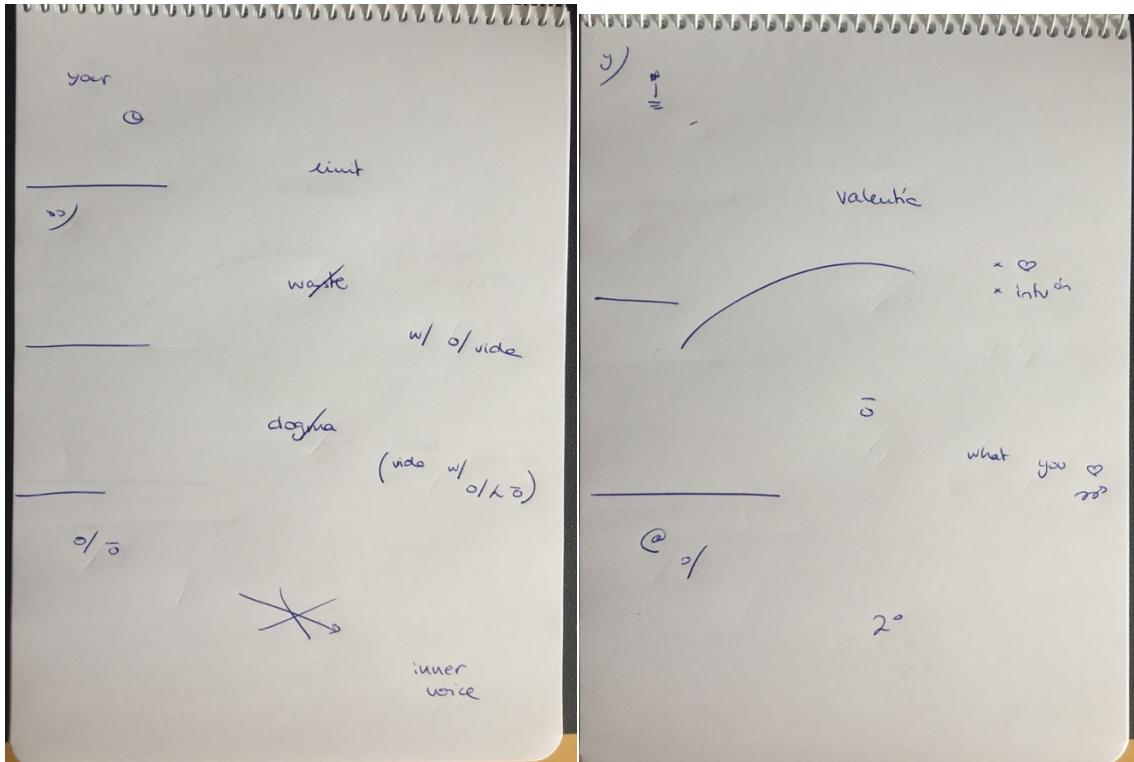


Appendix O: Consecutive interpreting exercise 3

This consecutive exercise consists in translating a specific part of the video in which Steve Jobs gives speech to graduating students at the Stanford University. Please translate the speech from min 12:16 to 12:43, and attach your notebook notes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFi4zNJ7AxQ>

Interpreter 3: Laia Llinàs

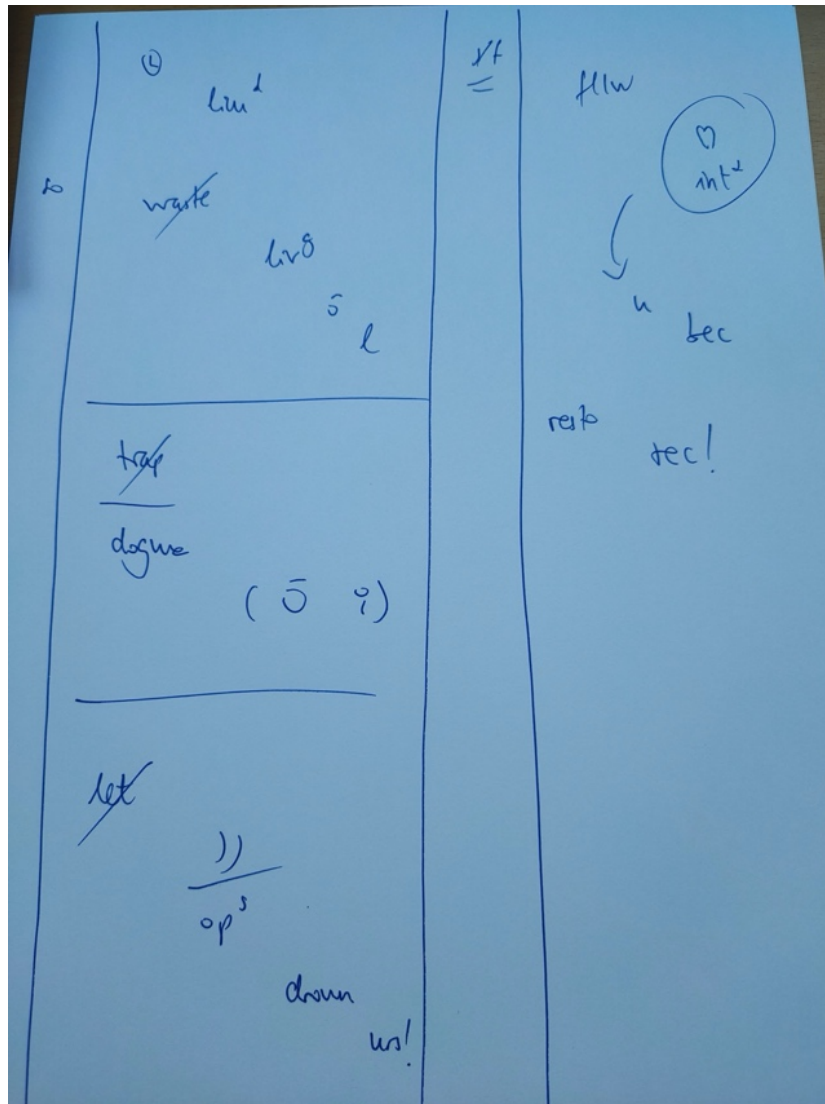


Appendix P: Consecutive interpreting exercise 4

This consecutive exercise consists in translating a specific part of the video in which Steve Jobs gives speech to graduating students at the Stanford University. Please translate the speech from min 12:16 to 12:43, and attach your notebook notes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFi4zNJ7AxQ>

Interpreter 4: Natalia Gascón



Appendix Q: Interview Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

1. Sou la primera institució a Catalunya que inicia un màster dedicat a la interpretació de conferències. Què us va portar a iniciar aquest màster? Què es sent? Quins factors, objectius o prioritats teniu?

La facultat de Traducció i Interpretació de la UAB és la primera facultat de Traducció i Interpretació a l'Estat Espanyol. L'antiga escola universitària de traductors i intèrprets, actualment conegut com a facultat, es va crear l'any 1973, i a partir de l'any 80 ja es va iniciar un màster de interpretació de conferències a la UAB. En aquells moments era un postgrau que durava dos anys i així va ser fins els anys 90, de fet molts dels intèrprets que van treballar als Jocs Olímpics de Barcelona, es van formar en aquell màster.

Aquest postgrau de dos anys, a mitjans del 95-96 es va deixar d'oferir i a l'any 2002-2003 es va crear un nou màster que es deia "Màster de Traducció i Interpretació i Estudis Interculturals". Dins aquest màster hi havia una branca d'interpretació. Aquest màster es fa fer fins el 2016, però era un màster de 60 crèdits ESTS, i després de 10 anys llargs d'estar-lo oferint, ens vam adonar que un màster d'interpretació de conferències necessita de moltes hores de pràctica dels estudiants i que volíem apostar pel model més europeu de oferir un màster de dos anys. És un model que, aquí en el nostre context universitari, no es dona gaire. Després vam estar dos anys treballant-hi i vam deixar d'oferir el que estàvem oferint. Vam estar dos anys estructurant i replantejant coses, i a l'any 2018 vam presentar el que estem oferint ara que és el màster universitari d'Interpretació de Conferències.

Per tant tot bé d'aquesta evolució. El màster actual no ha sortit del no res, sinó que es remunta a altres formacions que havien existit prèviament a la UAB.

2. Està dividit en dos anys: un per la interpretació simultània i l'altre dedicat a la interpretació consecutiva. Creieu que tenen la mateixa importància? Necessiten/Requereixen el mateix temps per aprendre-les?

No és ben bé així. El màster comença amb tècniques d'interpretació, es fa una setmana molt intensiva de tècniques generals de la interpretació, i el que és la consecutiva pròpiament dita comença un cop el màster ja porta un parell de mesos funcionant. Primer els alumnes han d'aprendre altres tècniques que son prèvies a la consecutiva.

Lavors la consecutiva s'inicia al primer semestre del primer any i ja no es deixa fins al final. I la simultània s'inicia al segon semestre del primer any. No és que es faci un any una cosa i un any l'altra, sinó que s'inicia primer amb tècniques, després amb la consecutiva i finalment amb la simultània. El segon any ja es combina consecutiva i simultània que són dues grans modalitats de la interpretació.

No és que una requereixi més temps per aprendre que l'altra, ni són temes de durada, sinó que la consecutiva serveix com a base per a la simultània. Algunes de les tècniques que et permet la consecutiva després es poden aplicar a la simultània, sobretot perquè la consecutiva requereix molt anàlisis de la informació i tens més temps per dedicar a aquest anàlisis. Mentre que la simultània vas més restringit de temps i per tant està bé haver-ho practicat abans.

3. Perquè creieu que avui en dia hi ha preferència per la interpretació simultània i es deixa més de banda la consecutiva?

No és una preferència, sinó és que s'ha anat imposant. La simultània és molt més pràctica que la consecutiva, el que suposa és que després que l'orador s'atura, l'intèrpret fa la seva intervenció. Això vol dir que la durada de la conferència s'allarga molt més perquè és l'original més després la interpretació.

Amb la simultània això no passa, perquè passa en la mateix moment. Lavors quan hi ha conferència multilingües, és a dir, que intervenen diferents llengües, pensar en consecutiva és impossible, perquè hi hauria d'haver un a interpretació per a cada idioma (anglès, francès, alemany, italià) i això s'allargaria moltíssim.

Així que és una qüestió de que la simultània és molt més pràctica que la consecutiva. Tot i així, la consecutiva es continua fent servir. Perquè les rodes de premsa d'esports, entrevistes, en caps d'estat i de govern es continua utilitzant la consecutiva. Però clar, en el fons el que la gent vol es comunicar-se; i comunicar-se de la forma més àgil i més practica, i això ho ofereix millor la simultània.

4. Creieu que la interpretació simultània i la consecutiva depenen una de l'altra? Per exemple, si en una conferència està previst utilitzar la interpretació simultània, però hi ha problemes tècnics, l'intèrpret ha d'estar preparat per realitzar la consecutiva en cas que no es pugui dur a terme la simultània?

La formació que han rebut els intèrprets formats de màsters d'interpretació aproximadament des dels anys 80, saben fer consecutiva. Després estan les

preferències dels intèrprets. Una cosa és que tu com intèrpret prefereixes més fer simultània, però això no vol dir que en un moment donat puguis fer consecutiva.

De fet la consecutiva continua sent tan important, perquè a les proves d'accés a les institucions europees, tan per treballar de freelance a les institucions, com per treballar d'intèrpret funcionari, la primera prova que es fa és la consecutiva i és eliminatòria. És a dir, si ja no aprofites les proves de consecutiva ja no passes a fer les proves de simultània. Per tan, això indica quin pes té la consecutiva en la formació d'un intèrpret o el valor que se li dona.

5. Tinc entès que els exàmens son corregits per intèrprets professionals que treballen, per exemple, al Parlament Europeu. En quins aspectes creieu que això pot beneficiar a l'estudiant?

Beneficia molt. Nosaltres al màster tenim un conveni de col·laboració amb el Servei Comú d'Interpretació de Conferències de la Comissió Europea, no del Parlament Europeu. I també tenim un conveni amb la Oficina d'Interpretació de Llengües del Ministeri d'Afers Exteriors del Govern Espanyol. Llavors, amb aquestes dues institucions aquest conveni el que materialitza és que ens ofereixen classes virtuals, ve algun professor d'aquestes institucions fa una estada de dos dies i fa classes als estudiants, els corregeix i els avalua.

Finalment, aquest màster també s'avalua amb un examen final on també hi ha participació de funcionaris i/o representants de les institucions europees i del ministeri d'afers exteriors. Això és important perquè és un màster "professionalitzador". És a dir, és un màster enfocat a la pràctica, tot i que la teoria és molt important, però està enfocat a la pràctica, i que aquestes persones avaluin als estudiants serveix perquè l'endemà de que un estudiant ha aprovat aquest màster, s'ha de poder integrar en el món professional i poder treballar com intèrpret. D'aquesta manera ajuden molt a marcar el criteri del món professional i a part d'això aporten molt perquè d'aquesta manera els estudiants, a través d'aquestes persones que venen, coneixen el funcionament d'aquestes institucions, o què han de fer si volen presentar-se a les oposicions d'aquestes institucions.

També és important mencionar la col·laboració que tenim amb una agrupació d'intèrprets d'aquí Barcelona que és AIB, que fan una feina molt important de mentoratge d'acompanyament dels estudiants. Sobretot en el segon any, cada

estudiant té un mentor que és un intèrpret professional del context de Barcelona, que li fa el seu seguiment i això està enfocat a la integració professional després del màster.

6. Formeu els alumnes per saber com han de preparar una conferència? En cas afirmatiu, quins són els elements bàsics de la preparació prèvia a una conferència?

Si, de fet els alumnes, en el segon any sobretot, reben docència per part d'un especialista en terminologia, en tecnologies de la interpretació i la traducció, en relació a la preparació de glossaris, com a eines tecnològiques que poden fer servir per facilitar la vida als intèrprets. En aquests últims anys, estem posant molt èmfasi en les noves tecnologies, per exemple hem començat un projecte que té a veure amb la presa de notes amb Ipad. Hem rebut finançament de la comissió europea precisament per poder comprar una sèrie d'Ipads i tot un sistema per poder començar això.

7. Per vosaltres, què fa un gran intèrpret?

El primer que ha de tenir es molta curiositat per saber què passa al món. I no només al món, sinó ha de ser una persona curiosa que vulgui sempre saber una mica més; que vegi un titular i el/la porti a llegir l'article. També ha de ser una persona que tingui entusiasme per la professió, ja que no és fàcil, ni des del punt de vista de la formació, ni des del punt de vista de la integració al món laboral, per tant tenir entusiasme per la professió és molt important. Ha de ser una persona amb molta constància, perquè la formació no és fàcil, ha de tenir molt sentit del treball i de l'esforç, perquè per molt que es tinguin les matèries primes, és una formació difícil.

Després hi ha una sèrie de matèries primes que en diem "matèries de l'intèrpret" que s'han de tenir, que bàsicament són un bon nivell de les llengües amb les quals treballarà, no només de les llengües estrangeres, sinó també de la llengua materna.

Finalment hi ha tot una sèrie de elements com l'atenció, la concentració, o l'autocontrol, que tot això és en què pot incidir molt la formació, perquè la formació no només ha d'ensenyar tècniques, sinó també ha d'ensenyar com l'intèrpret s'ha de gestionar i/o auto-controlar.

8. Quin consell donaríeu a un estudiant de grau que vol dedicar-se a la interpretació?

El consell seria que abans d'emprendre un màster, que hagi fet un bon treball amb les llengües, perquè si comences un màster amb unes llengües bastant sòlides et pots dedicar realment a aprendre a ser intèrpret. Si les llengües fluixegen, abans de poder-se dedicar a ser intèrpret hi ha un salt que s'ha de cobrir de comprensió de la llengua i això dificulta molt.