

TRANSCRIPTIONS:

a tool in the development of adaptive expertise

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Expert performance in interpreting

In 2000, Ericsson invited researchers to attempt to capture the reproducibly superior performance of expert interpreters in order to try to identify how mechanisms that mediate expert interpreting performance can be acquired through training. Almost 20 years later, it seems the exact mechanisms mastered by expert interpreters are yet to be clearly identified.

Adaptive expertise

So, maybe the best we can do is train interpreting students to mitigate and adapt (Setton & Dawrant, 2016) or, in other words, help students develop into adaptive experts prepared to comprehend how procedures work; modify procedures flexibly; and invent new procedures when none are effective. (Hatano and Inagaki, 1986)

The importance of feedback

Practice alone will lead most individuals to plateau early in their journey towards expertise and no practice will lead to improvement without feedback. (Ericsson, 2000)

Who is available to help interpreters on the road to expertise?

Trainers, but only during the interpreter training programme. Peers, during training and, if disciplined enough, afterwards in independent practice groups. The interpreter him/herself, if properly trained to self-assess to avoid plateauing.

The role of metacognition in the development of adaptive expertise

Metacognition, or the awareness and understanding of one's own cognitive processes, maximizes learning. (Moser-Mercer, 2008). Transcriptions of both originals and interpreting performances serve as a basis for a wealth of metacognitive exercises which can be used in class by trainers; inside and outside class by peers and as a lifelong self-assessment tool by interpreters wishing to maintain their high level of adaptive expertise throughout their careers.

How can transcriptions help trainers?

- Time-saver in repeated delayed feedback given on the same speech;
- Basis for consistent feedback more easily accepted by the student;
- Solid assessment of linguistic competence, disfluencies and accuracy.

Paired-up transcriptions of original and interpretation divided into units of meaning allow for accurate assessment of syntax, vocabulary and accuracy.

Original	Interpretation
Merci beaucoup Monsieur le Président	Thank you Mr. speaker
c'est vraiment un honneur pour moi de pouvoir prendre	This is quite an honor to be able to speak in the house
la parole à la Chambre aujourd'hui	today
sur un sujet d'aussi grande importance, je pense que	I'll be speaking about an important subject it's the most
c'est le sujet le plus important de notre ère	important subject of our generation
de parler, de se pencher sur le rapport du GIEC, des	To be able to speak on the United Nations'
	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change report
	UN IPCC
En fait, ce sont 91 scientifiques qui se sont penchés sur	so scientists made a report of 6000 reports
6 000 rapports scientifiques	
puis qui sonnent encore une fois l'alarme	it's not the first time that the IPCC scientists are raising
C'est pas la première fois que les scientifiques du GIEC	the alarm
sonnent l'alarme	
pour nous dire, pour dire à tous les gouvernements à	the it's time to act
travers la planète que c'est le temps d'agir, qu'en fait	
il est minuit moins une. En fait, il est minuit et cinq	it is we should have acted yesterday
On dit que dans 10 ou 12 ans, on va frapper le mur	in 10 or 12 years we'll be hitting a wall
	and it'll be too late

The consequences of longer/shorter EVS can be analysed, if the transcriptions of original and interpretation are time-stamped.

	ORIGINAL		INTERPRETATION
Tempo	Transcrição	Tempo	Transcrição
0'0"	Now last week I explained to you that our emotions are simply indicators that	0'0"	Semana passada eu falei que as emoções são indicações d
	let us know at each and every moment if what we're thinking in that moment		sobre o que estamos pensando no momento se está nos a
	is pushing us further away from what we want or closer to what we want		afastando do objetivo.
0'13"	and if it's pulling us further away from what we want we're gonna experience	0'20"	se afasta vamos ter uma emoção que é uma experiência n
	negative emotion		
0'18"	so negative emotion is not something that needs to be squashed or needs to	0'25"	que é uma mensagem útil
	be avoided, rather it's a very useful messenger		
0'26"	In today's video I'd like to focus on something called a sense of entitlement	0'28"	Hoje vamos focar em em em sense of entitlement
0'32"	Now when we think of a sense of entitlement we think of somebody like Paris	0'37"	e quando pensamos nisso é como Paris Hilton que é exiger
	Hilton somebody who's really demanding and kind of a brat		
0'42"	Now in its pure form a sense of entitlement is simply a positive expectation	0'43"	na realidade o merecimento é uma expectativa positiva.

The comparison of two interpretations of the same original elicits a broader range of interpreting solutions.

Original	Interpretation 1	Interpretation 2
Merci beaucoup Monsieur le Président	Thank you Mr. speaker	Thank you very much
c'est vraiment un honneur pour moi de pouvoir prendre	This is quite an honor to be able to speak in the house	it's an honor for me to be able to take the floor here in
la parole à la Chambre aujourd'hui	today	the house today
sur un sujet d'aussi grande importance, je pense que	I'll be speaking about an important subject it's the most	on such an important topic I think it's the most important
c'est le sujet le plus important de notre ère	important subject of our generation	topic of our era
de parler, de se pencher sur le rapport du GIEC, des	To be able to speak on the United Nations'	so talking about the report
	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change report	
	UN IPCC	
En fait, ce sont 91 scientifiques qui se sont penchés sur	so scientists made a report of 6000 reports	91 scientists looked at 6000 scientific reports
6 000 rapports scientifiques		
puis qui sonnent encore une fois l'alarme	it's not the first time that the IPCC scientists are raising	and this isn't the first time that scientists come together
C'est pas la première fois que les scientifiques du GIEC	the alarm	
sonnent l'alarme		
pour nous dire, pour dire à tous les gouvernements à	the it's time to act	to tell governments around the world that it's time to act
travers la planète que c'est le temps d'agir, qu'en fait		-
il est minuit moins une. En fait, il est minuit et cinq	it is we should have acted yesterday	it is the last minute
On dit que dans 10 ou 12 ans, on va frapper le mur	in 10 or 12 years we'll be hitting a wall	they say that in 10 years we are going to hit a wall
	and it'll be too late	

How to transcribe?

MS Word and Google docs dictation tools, dictation.io and other online voicerecognition tools; various apps.

How can transcriptions help students?

- Transcriptions are revealing of one's cognitive processes;
- Reality check leads to readiness to accept feedback;
- Objective assessment helps identify the focus of further practice.

Salient problems can be highlighted, analysed and discussed. e.g. awareness-raising on the use of fillers, positioning of pauses etc.

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Different problems highlighted in different colours provide a clear indication of the focus of further practice.

contece quando você não dorme o <mark>suficiente</mark> isso me surpreendeu muito eu sei ente acorda se sentindo um pouco <mark>grogue irritado mas</mark> há perigos fisiológicos falta de sono recorrente primeiro a gente perde a <mark>produtividade no trabalho</mark> na u vou falar um pouco sobre ir dirigir com sono a gente não tem desempenho es cognitivos tão bom quanto quando a gente está dormindo bem se de descobrir que durante o sono o corpo produz hormônios que vão permitir ê mantenha um peso saudável então quando você está com falta de sono <mark>você</mark> mais apetite e tende a ganhar peso houve um es estudo recentemente com es em uma clínica de sono e o que eles fizeram era tocar uma campainha quando entes estavam em sono profundo não o suficiente para acordá-los mas para tirásono profundo e todos os paci pacientes depois de dois ou três noites disso n com índices de açúcar elevados então isso leva a um grande problema na nossa de que é o sobrepeso a obesidade e intolerância à glucose a gente tam um outro na também é a dor física se você tem uma dor física crônica uma das coisas que ode fazer é dormir b<mark>em os insones *crônicas* têm um risco maior de te</mark>r uma psicológica no futuro <mark>eles</mark> têm menos qualidade de vida <mark>a saúde em geral</mark> é pior a u o custo da saúde e isso tudo junto aumenta a mortalidade esse aqui é um

Conclusion

Transcriptions are a powerful metacognitive tool students can use to work smarter and not only harder -- towards developing effective interpreting solutions that will eventually help them build adaptive expertise. Practitioners can also benefit from transcriptions to self-assess and ensure their performances are as consistent as possible. An option worth exploring is asking candidates to transcribe their own renditions at exams. Aside from prosodic features, the resulting transcriptions can serve as a basis for undisputably accurate assessments of their performances.

References:

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