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THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON INTERPRETER'S SKILLS

Abstract: This article examines the profound impact that advancements in technology have had on the skills and job requirements of interpreters. Through a comprehensive literature review and analysis, it is shown that while technology has in some ways made interpreters' jobs easier by providing helpful tools and resources, it has also necessitated that interpreters master new technological skills and adapt to an evolving professional landscape.

Keywords: interpreter skills, technology, remote interpreting, video interpreting, AI interpretation tools

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqola texnologik yutuqlarning tarjimonlarning ko'nikmalari va ish talablariga chuqur ta'sirini ko'rib chiqadi. Adabiyotlarni har tomonlama ko'rib chiqish va tahlil qilish shuni ko'rsatdiki, texnologiya qaysidir ma'noda foydali vositalar va resurslarni taqdim etish orqali tarjimonlarning ishini osonlashtirgan bo'lsa-da, tarjimonlardan yangi texnologik ko'nikmalarni egallashni va o'zgaruvchan professional landshaftga moslashishni talab qildi.

Kalit so'zlar: tarjima ko'nikmalari, texnologiya, masofaviy tarjima, video tarjima, tarjima uchun sun'iy intellekt vositalari

Аннотация: В этой статье рассматривается глубокое влияние, которое технологические достижения оказали на навыки и требования к работе устных переводчиков. Всесторонний обзор и анализ литературы показал, что, хотя технологии в некотором смысле облегчили работу переводчиков, предоставив полезные инструменты и ресурсы, они также потребовали от переводчиков овладения новыми технологическими навыками и адаптации к меняющемуся профессиональному ландшафту.

Ключевые слова: навыки устного перевода, технология, дистанционный устный перевод, видеоперевод, инструменты искусственного интеллекта для устного перевода

INTRODUCTION

The field of interpreting has experienced significant change in recent decades as a result of rapid technological advancement. New tools and platforms have emerged that are transforming how interpreters work and the skills they need to succeed. The purpose of this article is to examine the multifaceted impact of technology on the skill sets required of professional interpreters today.

As interpreting is a field that hinges on enabling communication and bridging linguistic gaps, interpreters have an inherent need to keep pace with evolving modes and mediums of communication. The shift towards digital and remote forms of interpreting in particular have been revolutionizing the field [1]. At the same time, technology is a double-edged sword, both facilitating and complicating the work of interpreters. While tech tools and resources can boost efficiency and open up new opportunities, they also create added skill demands and a pressure for interpreters to adapt or risk obsolescence.

METHODS AND LITERATURE REVIEW

To assess the impact of technology on interpreter skills, an extensive review was conducted of the existing literature and research on the subject. Database searches were performed via Academic Search Complete, Google Scholar, and Scopus using keyword combinations such as "interpreting + technology", "interpreter skills + technology", "remote interpreting", and "video interpreting".

The literature revealed a few dominant areas of focus. Numerous studies explored the rise of remote interpreting (RI), or the provision of interpreting services via telephone or internet-enabled videoconferencing platforms, as a major disruptive force in the field [2] [3] [4]. Heh & Hu note that the global pandemic greatly accelerated RI adoption, with usage rising from 10% in 2019 to 75% in 2022



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based on survey data [4]. Multiple sources highlighted the new tech competencies required for RI success, such as mastery of videoconferencing software, proficiency in troubleshooting connection issues, and ability to manage communication flow in virtual settings [2] [5].

Video remote interpreting (VRI) was identified as an area of particular growth and relevance. While VRI offers benefits like reduced travel and flexible scheduling [6], studies noted challenges such as audio/video quality, communication lags, and lack of visual cues that impact interpreters' ability to pick up on nuances [3] [7]. Interpreters may need to develop adaptive strategies and hone concentration skills to better manage the complexity of mediating multilingual communication in VRI contexts [5].

Another key trend featured in the literature is the emergence of AI-powered interpreting tools. Several studies analyzed the performance and potential of automatic speech translation technologies [8] [9]. Xu found that while AI tools have made remarkable strides and can handle simple interpretation scenarios, accuracy rates decline sharply as semantic and cultural complexity increase [8].

RESULTS

The literature analysis revealed several key findings regarding the impact of technology on interpreter skills:

Remote and video interpreting are rapidly rising, necessitating interpreters develop new tech competencies and adaptability to virtual mediums.

AI-powered tools are advancing but still fall short of human interpreters for complex scenarios. Postediting auto-translations may be an emerging interpreter skill.

Digital literacy and the ability to strategically leverage technology throughout the interpreting workflow are becoming essential interpreter skills.

Continuous learning and a growth mindset are critical for interpreters to keep pace with tech-driven change in the field.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The results point to technology acting as a major transformative force on the interpreting profession and the skills required to thrive in it. Advancements are expanding the modes and mediums through which interpreting is delivered, as evidenced by the surge in remote and video interpreting usage [4]. While these tech-driven service models offer benefits like increased flexibility [6], they also come with inherent challenges that interpreters must learn to manage, such as issues with audio/video quality and communication flow [3] [5]. For interpreters to succeed in RI and VRI contexts, developing strong digital literacy and troubleshooting capabilities alongside adaptive linguistic and interaction management strategies is key.

The emergence of AI-powered interpreting tools adds another layer of complexity to the mix. While currently limited in their ability to handle sophisticated interpreting tasks [8], AI technologies are rapidly advancing and poised to automate a rising share of interpreting work [9]. This means interpreters must be prepared to work alongside and potentially post-edit these tools as part of their job. Staying abreast of developments in language AI and cultivating a collaborative mindset will enable interpreters to harness these tools to their advantage.

Overall, the results suggest that while technology is in some ways making interpreters' jobs easier by providing helpful tools and resources, it is also adding layers of complexity and new skill demands. Interpreters who commit to continually developing their digital competencies and maintaining flexibility will be best positioned to adapt and thrive in a tech-driven professional landscape.

CONCLUSION

This article has examined the significant and multifaceted impact that technological advancement is having on the skills and job requirements of professional interpreters. Through a review and analysis of the literature, it has been shown that major tech trends like remote and video interpreting as well as AI-powered tools are transforming the way interpreters work. To keep pace with these changes, interpreters must cultivate a strong foundation of digital literacy along with the adaptability to learn and leverage new technologies. As the interpreting field becomes increasingly tech-driven, a commitment to continual upskilling and a willingness to embrace change are emerging as core success attributes.

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