Sight Translation—practicing the basic skills

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Objectives

- To identify similarities and differences between Translation & Sight Translation (ST)—some key challenges
- To identify basic skills to render a fine ST
- To introduce activities that will help enhance ST skills
- To identify additional tips and resources that can help develop and enhance ST skills
What would be a working definition of a translation?

- A thought
- An idea
- A point

...that is transferred in writing from one language into another, without loss of meaning, tone, register and purpose.
What would be a working definition of Interpreting?

- A thought
- An idea
- A point

... that is transferred *verbally* from one language to another, without loss of meaning, tone, register and purpose
What is Sight Translation?

It’s the Oral Translation of a Written Text
What are some usual challenges of Translation?

Linguistic

Choosing a Translation Technique:

- Acronyms
- Cognates
- Concepts/Structures in SL that do not exist in TL
- Parts of Speech Sequence
- Cultural Adaptation
What are some usual challenges of Interpreting?

*Non-Linguistic*

- Time constraints
- Distractions
- Lack of time to consult immediate terminology
Some usual challenges especially important in Sight Translation

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Linguistic</th>
<th>Non-Linguistic</th>
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<td>‘Normalization’</td>
<td>Time Constraint – flow/pacing</td>
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<td>False Cognates</td>
<td>Lack of resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acronyms</td>
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<td>Concepts that do not transfer well into TL (i.e. cultural differences)</td>
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<td>Ambiguities</td>
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<td>Phonetic flow</td>
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An ideal sight translation ...

... is the base for interpreting and translation: thus a critical starting point for whomever is interested in either fields.
Focusing on Skills for Sight Translation

Fast reading skills/Reading Comprehension

Use passive knowledge
- to anticipate meaning
- make connection between facts

Language specific problems
- Parts of speech sequence – Chunking & Parsing
- Tone
- Register

Dealing with unknown words
- Focus on the message of sentence/paragraph rather than word meaning
- Guess meaning of the word using contextual clues

Dealing with long sentence structures
- Chunking & Parsing
- Focus on meaning rather than structure
- Paraphrasing
Activity #1 on Fast Reading/Reading Comprehension

Do not read text on hand out until instructed

Answer the following questions:

1) What is the text about?

What kind of surgery is this in regards to?

What part of the human anatomy is this in regards to?

Is physical Activity restricted?
Questions continued

- What is the name of the pads that are placed in the nose?
- Why are these pads placed inside the nose?
- How can it me remedied?
- How many hours are to be expected before transferring form PACU to ODC?
- How many nights is it recommended to sleep on your back after surgery?
- What should be avoided during one week following the surgery?
- How many specific pre-cautionary measures are delineated in the text?
- What are they?

Now go back and read the text thoroughly
Activity #2
Using passive knowledge to anticipate meaning

*Instructions:*

1. Please read the article filling the missing words with what you think is the most appropriate words based on your prior knowledge of the topic described by the text.
Activity #3
“Chunking” & “Parsing”

For example: Endoscopic surgery can also be utilized for removal of polyps nasal masses and sometimes straightening the septum to improve nasal airflow.

Example of Parsing for Spanish as TL:

Surgery endoscopic can also be utilized for the removal of polyps/masses nasal and sometimes to straighten the septum to improve airflow nasal
Activity #4 Prediction based on contextual clues

This morning I did not have any time to drink my gxvrey. All day I felt so tired and mjewy and my head really lsrwn. Finally around 3 o’clock in the dsplomw I realized I was experiencing some sort of withdrawal of hdrtsmng and I decided to drink a diet swipx.
Activity #5 Paraphrasing

Instructions:

Use the steps you have practiced with the previous activities and re-state the text in your handout # 4 using your own words. You may change the register, but NOT the meaning.

Finally Sight Translate the text in your TL!
Possible real-world problems to face

- Text written by hand
- Ungrammatical sentence structure
- Poor punctuation
- Incoherent or poorly organized text
- Interpreting visual-aided text (i.e., graphs, tables, pictures or diagrams)
Reflections and Questions