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Encoding and Decoding Challenges in Consecutive Interpreting: Insights from Student Training Programs

Abstract

Novice interpreters face significant challenges in mastering the components of Consecutive Interpreting due to the multiple difficulties they encounter during training. They must first learn how to understand spoken messages and practice the skills of encoding, note-taking, decoding, and orally interpreting those notes to spoken messages. This study investigates the key challenges faced by student interpreters in the consecutive interpreting course by examining four basic elements, including comprehension, encoding notes, decoding written notes, and providing final delivery. This study included a sample of students from the Translation Department, where data were obtained from 409 students through a structured questionnaire using the Likert scale rating system. The training of student interpreters faces significant obstacles in all areas, with note-taking and comprehension having become major obstacles to academic progress. Poor comprehension skills cause additional obstacles at all different stages of interpretation. The research emphasizes the need for specialized teaching methods to be implemented to improve interpreter training by managing targeted challenges. The findings of the research contribute to translation studies by providing concrete pedagogical strategies for both teachers and trainees, and even curriculum developers who seek to enhance students' abilities to deal with consecutive interpreting tasks.

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