

**University of Basrah**  
**College of Arts**  
**Dept. of Translation**  
**Second Stage \Morning Classes**  
**Subject: Sight Interpretation**

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**Date:09\12\2020**

Introduction :

“Interpretation” reminds of both consecutive and simultaneous interpretation. Sight translation is the oral rendition of text written in one language into another language and is usually done in the moment. Sight translation is often requested of an interpreter during an interpreting assignment.\* It’s a hybrid of translation and interpretation.

### **What is interpretation?**

The basic definition of *interpretation*, according to the Webster dictionary is the “action of explaining the meaning of something; the way something is explained or understood.”

In terms of language, the definition of *interpretation* should be broader: rendering a spoken or signed message into another spoken or signed language, preserving the register and meaning of the source language content.

It is the spoken or signed language communication between users of different languages. A language interpreter or sign language interpreter must not only quickly and carefully interpret meaning, but also tone and intent of the original message into the target or interpreted language.

### **What is simultaneous interpreting?**

There are actually three primary modes of interpreting: consecutive, simultaneous and sight translation.

1. Simultaneous interpreting: The interpreter listens and renders the message in the target language at the same time as the speaker is speaking.
2. Consecutive interpreting: The interpreter speaks after the source language speaker has stopped speaking.
3. Sight translation: An oral rendition of a written text.

### **How is interpretation performed?**

Often we think of a language being interpreted face-to-face, such as in a court, school or medical facility. However, remote interpreting can also be performed through telephonic interpreting or video remote interpreting.

No matter the format, the interpreter must have excellent language proficiency, be able to quickly analyze and transfer messages between languages and adhere to professional ethics and standards of practice .

At times, interpreters in the field may be asked to use sight translation, the method of orally reproducing a written text in a target language. This method bridges translation and interpretation, and is now considered to be its own mode of interpreting. Legal interpreters are generally expected to work in all three modes (simultaneous, consecutive, and sight translation), and medical interpreters are expected to work using both consecutive and sight translation.

Since sight translation is “two-toned,” that is, requiring both reading and speech, it comes with its own unique challenges, thus requiring somewhat different skills than traditional simultaneous or consecutive interpreting, or written translation. Often, texts to be sight translated are handwritten, which can make them difficult to read. It is a good idea to be prepared for unfamiliar penmanship, and to take the time to decipher unclear writing.

Sight translation requires quick and accurate reading comprehension, so another way to prepare to do this task is by reading a wide variety of literature and other written texts regularly. In addition to reading practice, some online resources provide exercises to increase reading comprehension. An interpreter who is able to read a text quickly and absorb its meaning will be able to provide a better sight translation.

Remember, when interpreting in any mode, that the provider should be present at all times. For example, it would be inappropriate for a nurse to ask an interpreter to sight translate a document while they left the room to do something else. When the provider leaves the room, the interpreter must follow.

Using sight translation for long documents can take a long time, and fatigue the interpreter, leading to error. Because of this, its use should be limited. Some documents, such as materials routinely provided in English, and vital documents, including legal consent forms, may not be appropriate for sight translation by an interpreter without legal certification. They should instead be translated professionally. With questions about when to use sight translation, please contact your SWITS representative.

Sight interpretation is orally providing a version in another language of a written text, such as a complaint, jury charge, or document.

- Focus on the meaning of the word in the context—not the word itself.
- Your delivery is important – Speak loudly and clearly.
- Avoid sudden starts and stops.
- Smooth pacing is important. You should sound as though you are reading a document in the target language.

### Homework 1

1. Define Sight Translation
2. What are your advices for good interpreters.
3. Write an essay on the sight interpretation and sight interpreter.
4. What is interpretation?
5. Choose a short passage(5 lines)and give yourself 20-30 seconds for translation from English into Arabic(orally).After that send this passage to your teacher.