

University of Jordan
English Department

Course Title: Consecutive Interpretation

Course Code: 1502746

1- Course Description

This course aims at training translation learners in on-site translation by requiring them to render an interpretation of a spoken text after hearing it in appropriate language chunks. The students will also be trained to deal with the basic problems and psychological constraints associated with this type of translation. Training will be from Arabic into English and vice versa.

2- Introduction:

Interpretation in general refers to the process of orally translating and converting a message from the source language into the target language.

Two key elements are needed in consecutive interpretation: *note-taking* and *memory*. Note-taking is a crucial element in the interpreting process. The quality of the work done depends on it far more than on any other factors. The way in which the notes are taken may even remedy various deficiencies in the interpreter. Equally important in the interpreting process is *memory*, another characteristic feature of successful consecutive interpreters. The object of notes is often viewed as a supplement for memory.

The most difficult aspects of interpreting are:

- a. accuracy of meaning
- b. speed of interpreting

c. length of interpreted texts

All three aspects must be accomplished. Therefore, in this course, students have to gradually reach a point where they can manage to cope with these problems. Students will be trained in learning how to analyze a message presented to them orally at increasing speed, to strip this message of all superfluous linguistic forms, and then to express it in their target language in the same way as a native speaker of that language would have presented this message spontaneously. Also, to gradually proceed from interpreting short texts to rather lengthy (approximately 5-minute long) texts.

When is consecutive interpretation used?

It is used whenever a high degree of accuracy is required, e.g., in drafting committees, in legal negotiations, in high-level political talks between heads of state, and in official speeches.

3- Text material

A collection of articles will be available to provide the theoretical background for the course material. In addition, tape-recorded materials on different topics and from various disciplines will be available for drilling and actual interpreting purposes throughout the semester.

References

- Bowen, David. *The Intercultural Component in Interpreter and Translator Training*. Ph.D. dissertation, 1985.
- Seleskovitch, Danica. *Interpreting for International Conferences*, 1978.

- Weber, Wilhem K. *Training Translators and Conference Interpreters*, 1984.

4- **Course Schedule**

The basic component in this course is training and first-hand involvement in actual interpreting. However, there will be room for some theoretical background based on some selected articles on the subject. The bulk of the course, namely the practical component, will be heavily emphasized in the regular lab sessions where students will be directly involved in the process of live interpreting. In addition, students will be directed to accomplish home interpreting drills and assignments on a day-to-day basis between regular weekly class sessions.

5- **Assessment**

Evaluation in this course will depend on memory span and note-taking techniques in addition to knowledge of general and technical terminology, and aptitude for working rapidly, yet correctly, under time constraints. Reading assignments will also be included. The tests into foreign language will be graded on the basis of, clarity, completeness, and grammatical correctness, but the overriding criterion must always be the accuracy of meaning. Grading will be distributed as follows:

i.	Mid-term Exam:	30%
ii.	Class work:	
	Quizzes & Assignments	30%
iii.	Final Exam	40%