

Modes of Interpreting and Digital Pen Technology

Marc ORLANDO, Monash University


2013 – 2015 Research Project



Research Project



- 2013 – 2015
- Monash University and Oncall Interpreters and Translators
- Aims at investigating the use of digital pen technology (the Livescribe Smartpen) in training and research and its implementation in interpreting curricula and interpreting practice.

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- More specifically, the project aims at comparing interpreting performances delivered in two different modes, namely the “traditional” consecutive mode and the new dual hybrid mode, *Consec-simul with notes*, whereby the interpreters performing in a *consecutive* setting can interpret *simultaneously* from their notes as well as from playing back the recorded source speech.
 - It specifically focusses on comparing the interpreting performances of professional interpreters on the basis of various indicators.

Use of Digital Technology in the Profession

- Various fora and sites online report on the use of digital technology in interpreting practice
- #IntJC The Interpreting Journal Club
- Websites for Translators.
- Interpreting.info.
- Endless Possibilities Talks.

“...those in the profession who are not aware of digital devices like the Smartpen somehow choose to be left behind”.



Martin Esposito (UK)



Esther Navarro-Hall (USA)

Need for Research

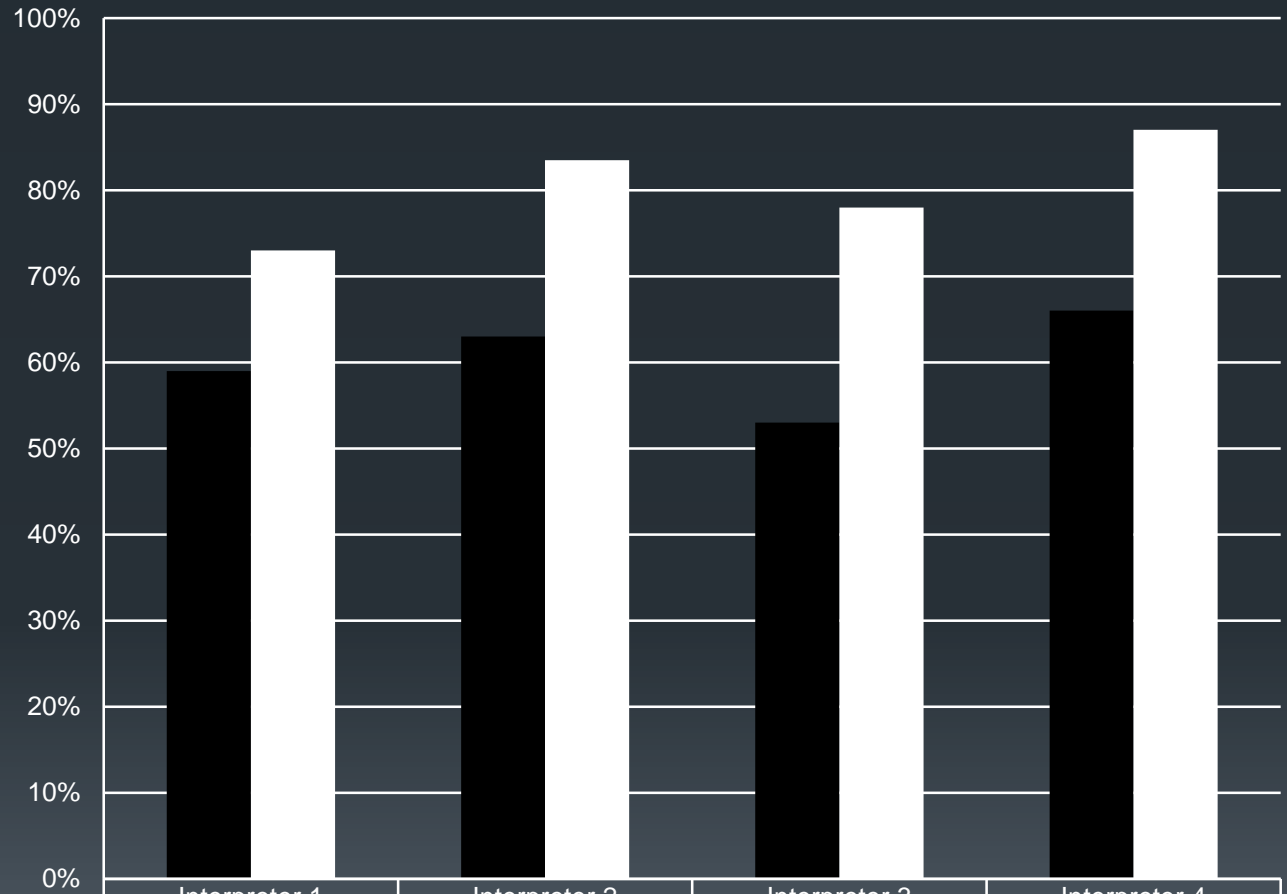
- Digital pens are currently used during training in the development of note-taking systems (Orlando, 2010 and 2014-in press), and offer very valuable features for trainers and trainees in allowing assessment of the process of note-taking during a consecutive interpretation.
- They are now also being trialled as a means of offering a hybrid mode of interpreting – consecutive *and* simultaneous or *Consec-simul with notes* - by recording source speeches and allowing immediate playback from the notebook into earplugs, giving the interpreter the possibility to provide a simultaneous interpretation while listening to the source text for a second time and reading from their notes.



A hybrid mode of interpreting *SimConsec* and *ConsecSimul with notes*

- Ferrari 2002; Lombardi 2003; Hamidi-Pöcchacker 2007; Hiebl 2011
- New Pilot in 2012: higher accuracy, better fluency and better comfort in performing, interest from professionals to use it if they were more trained (Orlando, in press 2014)

Accuracy

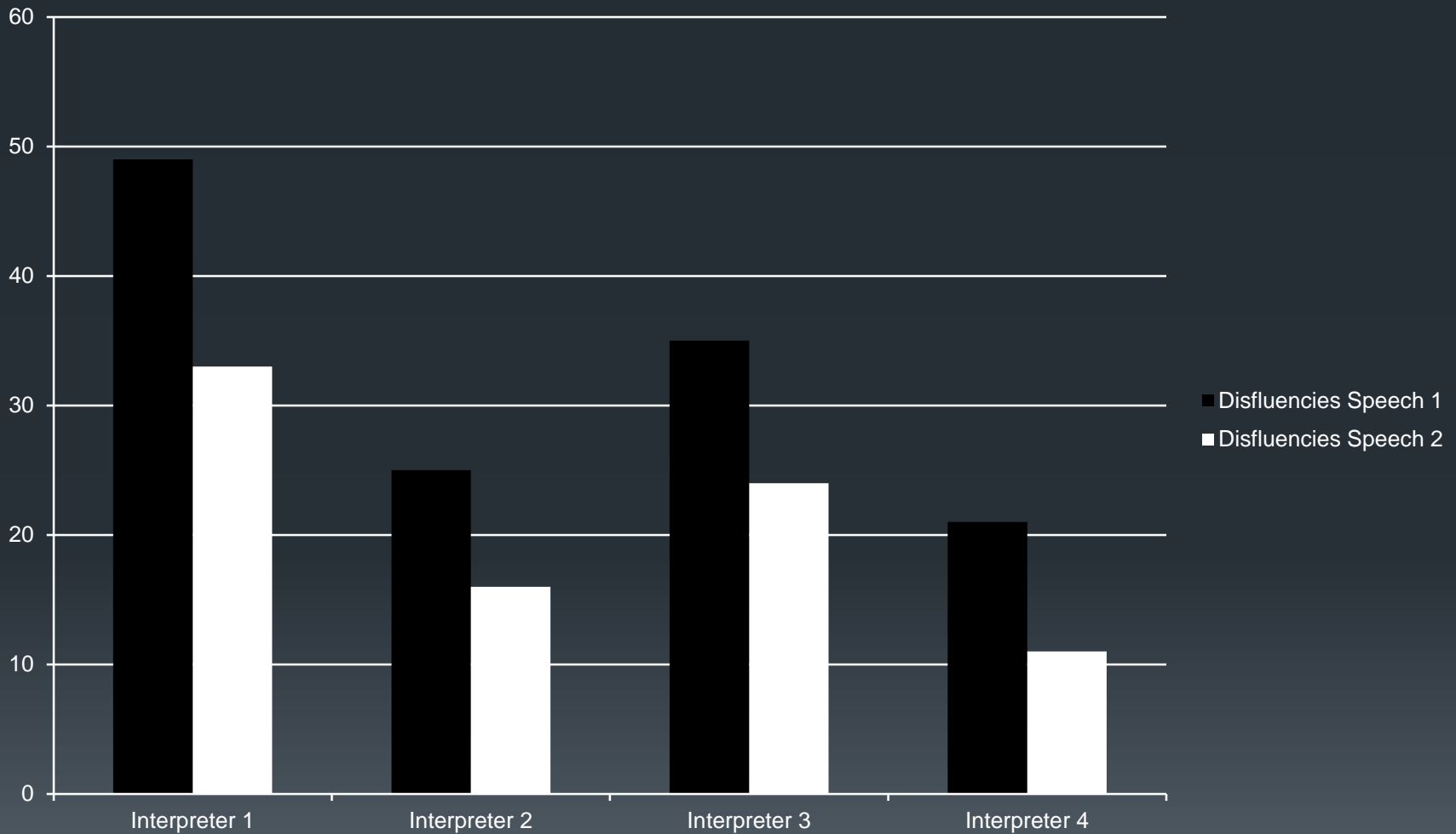


■ Facts, ideas and meaning units in speech 1 (traditional consecutive)

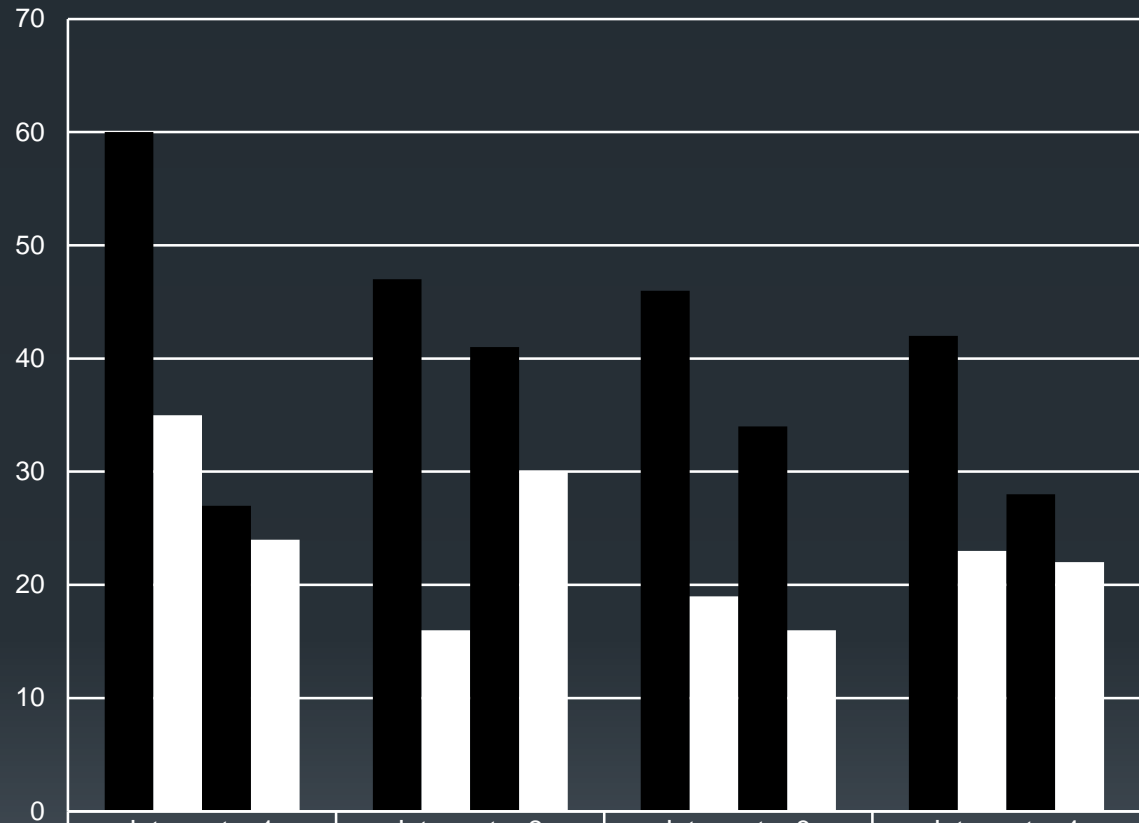
■ Facts, ideas and meaning units in speech 2 (Consec-simul mode)

	Interpreter 1	Interpreter 2	Interpreter 3	Interpreter 4
■ Facts, ideas and meaning units in speech 1 (traditional consecutive)	59%	63%	53%	66%
■ Facts, ideas and meaning units in speech 2 (Consec-simul mode)	73%	83,50%	78%	87%


Disfluencies – Hesitation phenomena



Oculesics – Eye contact Instances



	Interpreter 1	Interpreter 2	Interpreter 3	Interpreter 4
■ Short eye contact instances Speech 1	60	47	46	42
■ Long eye contact instances Speech 1	35	16	19	23
■ Short eye contact instances Speech 2	27	41	34	28
■ Long eye contact instances Speech 2	24	30	16	22

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- Need for a larger study
 - Should these results be backed up on a larger scale, the impact of the use of digital pen technology on interpreting pedagogy and training could be of wide-ranging importance.

What Applications?


- Everywhere simultaneous equipment is not possible and there is a need for long consecutive
- Courts
- Business meetings
- Diplomacy / delegations meetings (speeches)
- Mental health
- ...

So far...

- Implementation of the technology in the Monash program (note-taking classes and new hybrid mode – since 2010)
 - Pilot Study on the hybrid mode (results published in *Trans-int*, vol 2, 2014)
 - Invitation to present and implement the technology at Germersheim (Gutenberg Teaching Council grant) – Over two weeks+ in June 2013
- > case study and results to be published in 2014 in publication on didactics and interpreter training

Next...

- Broader data collection with Australian professional interpreters (July 2014)
- Data collection at the European Commission DG Int (cancelled or postponed?)
- Data collection elsewhere?
- Analysis of data > publication of results 2015

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- International Symposium
 - Monash University, Melbourne, 23-26 June 2015
(CFP to be sent soon)

*International Symposium on the History of
Interpreting and of Interpreting Training*