Prediction in Simultaneous Interpreting

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Introduction

Interpreting is a complex process. But that does not make it unique.

Much of what interpreters do, bi- and multi-linguals do all the time!

So can we apply psycholinguistic theories to the SI paradigm?

Bridging the gap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature of simultaneous interpreting</th>
<th>Do multilinguals do it?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understanding of two or more languages</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than one language activated at once</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prediction during comprehension</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaging the production mechanism during comprehension</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two different languages, two different modalities</td>
<td>✗</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Background and theory

- Action and action perception interwoven
- Evidence for use of cortical regions where production/comprehension overlap
- Readers skip predictable words
- Predictive eye movements during comprehension
- Phonologically related words elicit lower N400s
- Anticipation in SI
- Production mechanism engaged for prediction
- Included in first models
- "Freewheeling anticipation"
- Traditionally measured using transcription
- Prediction during comprehension

Hypothetical model

- Do professional interpreters and naive bilinguals predict upcoming utterances in L2 in the same way?
- How does concurrent production in L1 modulate prediction during comprehension?

Proposed methodology

Visual world paradigm: two groups, two conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bilinguals</th>
<th>Concurrent production</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional interpreters</td>
<td>Comprehension only</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Expected outcomes

Empirical data on:
- limitations of prediction in L2
- the role of production in comprehension
- word-form prediction
- language of prediction

Practical applications:
- deciding where to focus learning and teaching efforts
- identifying entry-level skills for interpreters

References


