

# Introduction - lesson 1

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**MEDIAZIONE LINGUISTICA E  
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- Translators VS Interpreters
- Interpretation
- Consecutive interpretation
- Whispered interpretation
- Conference interpretation
- Interpreters' tools
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- Simultaneous Interpreting
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# Translators and Interpreters

Sometimes people confuse interpreters with translators. The difference is that the interpreters deal with spoken language and translators with written texts. These are complementary skills but the processes involved differ.

- **Translators** have time to read texts and use dictionaries and reference books to provide a definitive version of the original, often required for future reference and for international agreements (where French is generally the reference language because of its precision).
- **Interpreting** is a means of providing an immediate understanding of the spoken word / utterance.

# Types and modes

## ■ Types

- Simultaneous
- Consecutive
- Whispered
- Relay
- Liaison

## ■ Modes

- Conference
- Judicial
- Escort
- Public sector
- Medical
- Sign language
- Media

## Types:

Are the techniques used while  
an interpretation

They are:

Simultaneous

Whispered

Consecutive

Relay

Liaison



# Modes

Are the places where  
the interpretation is  
done.

They are:

Medical

SIGN  
LANGUAGE

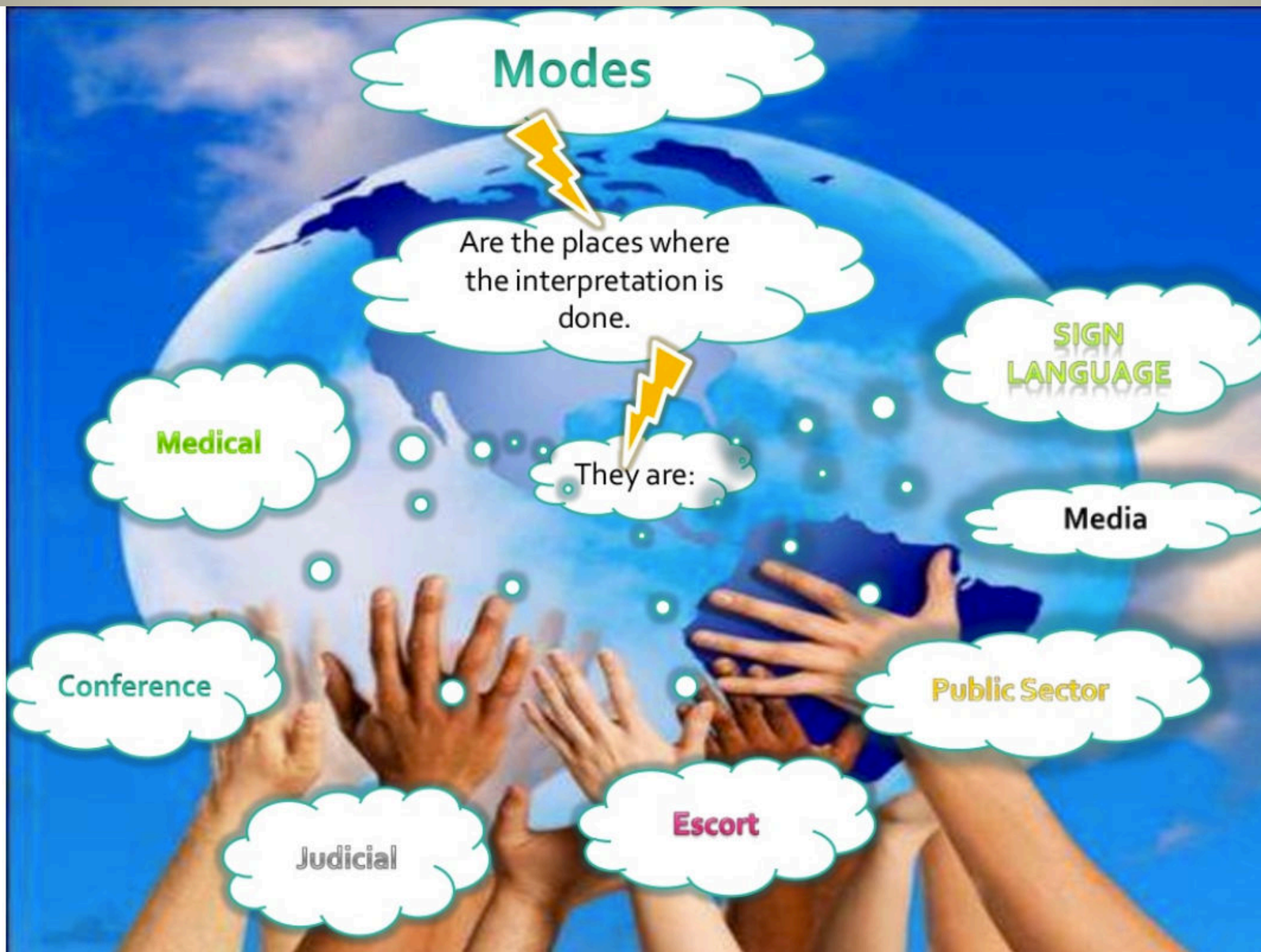
Media

Conference




Public Sector



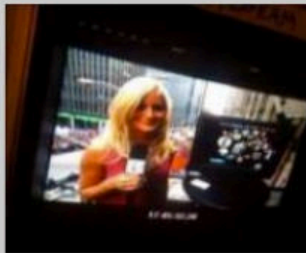
Judicial

Escort





Mode	Places	Techniques	Requirements	
Conference	Conferences (Institutional Or Private)	Consecutive Simultaneous	Knowledge about both languages. To take notes.	
Judicial	Courts of justice. Administrative tribunals.	Consecutive Simultaneous	Knowledge about both languages. knowledge of law and legal and court procedures. Authorization from the State.	
Escort	On a tour. On a visit. To a meeting or interview.	Liaison	Knowledge about both languages. Free time.	
Public Sector	In fields as legal, health, local government, social, housing, environmental , welfare services	Simultaneous Liaison	Knowledge about both languages.	

Mode	Places	Techniques	Requirements	
Medical	Hospital. Fields about health.	Liaison	Knowledge about both languages. Knowledge of medicine.	
Sign Language	In a room or space that allows them to be seen by the deaf participants and heard clearly	Simultaneous Consecutive.	Knowledge about sign languages. National and State level certifications.	
Media	Live television coverage. Live or taped interviews.	Simultaneous	Knowledge about both languages. Knowledge about technical control room's.	

# Interpretation

## Consecutive interpretation

This is suitable for meetings where only two, or at the most three languages are being used.

The interpreter sits at the conference table taking notes of what the speakers say and then interprets into another language.

This method is most suitable for negotiations, drafting groups, arbitrations and other small meetings.

"**Whispered**" interpretation, a form of simultaneous without the use of a microphone, may also be used in such meetings when two or at the most three delegates require interpretation in a particular language.



# Simultaneous interpretation

This is the most common form of conference interpreting today because it is virtually instantaneous and thus saves much conference time.

Interpreters sit in soundproof booths -with a clear view of the meeting room and receive the speakers' statements through headphones

# Conference Interpreters

**Conference interpreters** try to convey the speaker's meaning almost instantaneously and this often includes subtleties like cultural nuances, sarcasm, gestures, body language, facial expressions, the effect of which the interpreter may convey through tone of voice, intonation, emphasis, speed of delivery, and so on.

# Sound Proof Booths, Noise Testing Booth or Acoustic Test Chamber with a clear view



**Headset**



**VS**

**Microphone & Headphones**





**Headphones**



**Closed-back**

**VS**

**Open-Back**





Analog  
Headset



USB  
Headset









# Professional Associations / Associations Professionnelles

- **A.I.I.C.** L'Association Internationale des Interprètes de Conférence est la seule association représentant les interprètes de conférence au niveau international. Elle fédère aujourd'hui plus de 3000 professionnels sur les cinq continents. Genève, Switzerland.
- **N.A.A.T.I** Interpreters and Translators Accreditation - Australian Government You will require this accreditation if you intend to provide interpreting and translation services. It is the only qualification officially accepted for the profession of interpreting and translation in Australia. All government translation and interpreting services require translators and interpreters to be NAATI accredited.
- **F.I.T.** La Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs est un groupement international d'associations de traducteurs, d'interprètes et de terminologues. Elle compte plus de cent associations professionnelles et instituts de formation répertoriées, représentant plus de 80 000 traducteurs dans 55 pays. La FIT a pour objectif de promouvoir le professionnalisme au sein des disciplines qu'elle représente.



# Associazioni Nazionali Italiane

- **A.I.T.I.** L'Associazione Italiana Traduttori e Interpreti è un'associazione senza scopo di lucro di traduttori e interpreti professionisti. È la prima associazione italiana del settore non solo per l'anno di fondazione (1950), ma anche per il numero di iscritti (1130 soci all'8 luglio 2017).
- **A.N.I.T.I.** Associazione Nazionale Italiana Traduttori ed Interpreti è un'associazione professionale senza scopo di lucro fondata a Milano il 27 aprile 1956 con il nome S.N.I.T.I., Sindacato Nazionale Italiano Traduttori Interpreti.
- **ASSOINTERPRETI.** Fondata nel 1974, - Associazione Nazionale Interpreti di Conferenza Professionisti - riunisce esclusivamente interpreti specializzati in interpretazione simultanea, consecutiva e chuchotage (interpretazione sussurrata).

# Glossary

**A language** According to AIIC an A language is the interpreter's native language (or another language strictly equivalent to a native language), into which the interpreter works from all her or his other languages in both modes of interpretation, simultaneous and consecutive.

**Active language** A language into which an interpreter interprets. All interpreters have one active language, many have two. Only very few have more than two. An active language should be at least comparable in standard to a university- educated native-speaker's level.

**B Language** According to AIIC a B language is a language other than the interpreter's native language, of which they have a perfect command and into which they work from one or more of their other languages. Some interpreters work into a B language in only one of the two modes of interpretation.

**C Language** According to AIIC a C language is a language of which the interpreter has a complete understanding and from which they work.

# Glossary

**Cloze (test)** A cloze test is an exercise consisting of a portion of text from which certain words have been removed. The object of the exercise is then to replace the missing words.

**Cognates** Words in different languages derived from a single language or language form, e.g. Costellazione (IT), constellation (FR), constellation (EN).

**Décalage** Also called Ear-Voice Span. It is the time difference between when the speaker says a thing and the moment the interpreter reproduces that thing in the target language.

**Delivery** How you speak, rather than what you say. Your public speaking skills.

# Glossary

**Deverbalization** A technique that has been fundamental to the teaching of interpreting, particularly in the Parisian schools, over the last 40 years. Initially described and taught by Seleskovitch, it consists in understanding and/or visualizing the content of what one is hearing and producing a target- language version based on that understanding or visual image, rather than based on the words used in the source-language version.

**Idea** When referring to part of a speech, in this book ‘idea’ will mean the smallest ‘parts of the message’ (Thiéry 1981: 110), that is to say, Subject, Verb (and often Object) groups (Gillies 2005: 35). In other words, a unit of the speech that tells you ‘who does what’.

In other books you will find the term ‘idea’ used to mean the major points of a speech (corresponding almost to paragraphs or groups of paragraphs), and in yet others to mean the underlying meaning of an expression, rather than the words that go to make it up (so ‘bored’ for ‘twiddling his thumbs’).

# Glossary

**Interference** Sometimes called caique, from the French, interference is the inappropriate use in the target language of structures and words from the source language.

**Internalize** Carry out an activity with a degree of automation, that is to say without giving it our full attention. This level of competence in a skill is usually achieved through repeated practise of the skill in question over several months.

**Links** Links signal the way the speaker wants the listener to relate what is about to be said to what has been said before (Baker 1992: 190). They are sometimes also called logical links, conjunctions, link words or connectors.

**Passive language** A language from which an interpreter interprets. Also known as a C language.



# Glossary

**Sight translation** To give an oral rendition in one language of a text written in another as you read that text for the first time, simultaneously so to speak.

**Shadowing or Parroting** Listening to a speaker and repeating word for word what they say.

**Source language** The language from which you are translating/interpreting.

**Stock phrases** Also known as pat phrases. Standard expressions that come up repeatedly in political discourse and which are no more than synonyms for other, more common expressions; e.g. I'm much obliged (thank you); to my mind (I think) etc.

# Glossary

**Target language** The language into which you are translating/interpreting.

**Time lag** US English for **Décalage**

**Unit of meaning** Small sections of discourse that have a meaning in context for someone wishing to understand. The suggestion being that it's not worth starting to interpret until you have heard at least a unit of meaning. 'Units of meaning are the synthesis of a number of words present in short-term memory associating with previous cognitive experiences or recollections' (Lederer 1978: 330).

## Types of interpreting

# Simultaneous interpreting

This is the interpretation method in which the speaker's statements are translated in real time.

Use of simultaneous interpreting equipment is a prerequisite.



Much information can be communicated in a short amount of time.

## Types of interpreting

# Simultaneous interpreting

Simultaneous interpreting requires considerable mental concentration.

The maximum time that one interpreter can continue in this mode is 15 to 20 minutes.

So a minimum of two interpreters needs to be arranged.



This method is often used for international conferences at large venues, but special plans for small venues can also be arranged for customers who wish to communicate in a time-efficient manner to a smaller group of people.

## Types of interpreting

# Whispered interpreting

This method is used for meetings, etc., where only a few people require interpreting.

It is called whispered interpreting because the interpreter speaks in a low voice in close proximity to one or two listeners.



This is the method often seen on TV programs featuring foreign guests with interpreters translating in a low voice from behind.



## Types of interpreting

# Whispered interpreting

Whispered interpreting is basically the same as simultaneous interpreting, requiring a comparable level of mental concentration.

Even if it is interspersed with consecutive interpreting of the speaker's statements, about one hour is the limit for one interpreter.



In the case of continuous whispered interpreting as well as simultaneous interpreting, the interpreters need to take turns roughly every 20 minutes, so it is necessary to arrange for at least two interpreters.

## Types of interpreting

# Consecutive interpreting

This is the interpretation method in which the speaker's statements are noted down and translated several sentences at a time.



It does not require special equipment as in the case of simultaneous interpreting; the interpreter merely needs to be present.

## Types of interpreting

# Consecutive interpreting

However, it takes roughly twice as long as simultaneous interpreting.

In other words, the speaker can only say half as much in a given amount of time as with simultaneous interpreting.



This method is generally used for business meetings, interviews, and the like.