



Interpreter's Training System of the European Union

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This paper examines the interpreter's training system of the European Union, with a special focus on the training methods applied to the Chinese-Portuguese interpreters.

Based on personal experiences of study and internship at the Directorate General for Interpretation of European Union (DGIEU), this paper presents the working mechanism of the DGIEU and its standards and expectations for professional interpreters, exploring how interpretation works under this institutional intervention (working philosophy, facilities, human resources reserve, linguistic combination, speech database, etc.).

This paper also explores their brand-new training techniques as to consecutive and simultaneous interpretations. The trainers deconstruct the interpretation processes and label each (with terms like multilingualism, automatism, multiculturalism, active listening, memorization, notes-taking, logical reproduction, moral and conclusion), which not merely establishes the logical sequences in the consecutive and simultaneous interpretation, but also and more importantly, facilitates the trainees to specify and locate their personal strengths and weaknesses and be able to make progress accordingly. Along with the techniques applied, intensive thematic exercise is another characteristic that marks the daily training, during which the register, tone and vocabulary that each trainee uses are strictly examined.

Specific training methods (triangle training in consecutive interpretation, relay in simultaneous interpretation, simulation, mutual-study, self-evaluation, etc.) are examined and recommended to be adopted by the higher educational institutions in the interpretation classes as pedagogical instruments. Among these methods, the triangle training (SL1-TL-SL2) reveals its great vitality in cultivating the Chinese-Portuguese interpreters, which permits a trainer who knows nothing of the TL to evaluate the reproductive process through conducting comparisons between SL1 e SL2.

This paper addresses in its last part the professional ethics of interpreters (mutual respect and support).