

INTERPRETING

1/Sight translation

Interpreters are often asked to read and translate documents aloud.

Weber (1984: 33) states that sight translation is “one of the basic ingredients of interpretation”. According to Martin (1999, as cited in Shunnaq 2006: 20), sight translation “has all the characteristics of a translation whereas the final product has the demands of an interpretation, namely instant understanding and reformulation of cognitive content”. Lambert (2004: 298) aptly defines sight translation in relation to Simultaneous Interpreting (SI).

as a specific type of written translation as well as a variant of oral interpretation. From a human processing perspective, sight translation appears to have more in common with [SI], given the number of variables involved – time stress, anticipation, reading for idea closure, not to mention the oral nature of the task – factors that are either absent in written translation, or present only to a limited degree.

Sight translation strategies :

1. Visually segment the text with vertical lines.
2. Highlight verbs. Important terms & figures
3. Number words to indicate their sequence in the target language for any major syntax changes.
4. Make notes in the SL text

* (PDF) *Difficulties of Sight Translation: Training Translators to Sight Translate*. Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/287808736_Difficulties_of_Sight_Translation_Training_Translators_to_Sight_Translate [accessed May 23 2021].