

# **Explicitation & Directionality in Simultaneous Interpreting**

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# Directionality in Interpreting:

- empirical studies revealing far less obvious disparities between the retour and the native (e.g. Tommola & Helevä 1998, Al-Salman & Al-Khanji 2002, Bartlomiejczyk 2004, Seel 2005)
- the need to adopt a more balanced view on directionality (e.g. Gile 2005, Martin 2005, Padilla 2005)
- the need to incorporate retour into training curricula (e.g. Adams 2002, Donovan 2005, Fernández 2005)

# Directionality & Explicitation:

- explicitation – one of translation universals
- testing translation universals in interpreting – a potential future path of the interpreting research ?

# Defining explicitation:

“ A stylistic translation technique which consists of making explicit in the target language what remains implicit in the source language because it is apparent from either the context or the situation” (Vinay & Darbelnet 1958/1995: 342)

# Explicitation hypothesis (Blum-Kulka 1986):

“ (...) postulates an observed cohesive explicitness from SL to TL texts regardless of the increase traceable to differences between the two linguistic and textual systems involved” (Blum-Kulka 1986: 19)

# Forms of explicitation (1):

- adding connectives (e.g. Blum-Kulka 1986, Vehmas-Lehto 1989, Englund Dimitrova 2003, Shlesinger 1995, Puurtinen 2003, 2004)
- reiterating lexical items (Øverås 1998, Pápai 2004)
- categorial shifts of cohesive devices (i.e. from vaguely cohesive to more explicitly cohesive) (Øverås 1998)

## Forms of explicitation (2):

- shifts from referential cohesion to lexical cohesion (i.e. lexicalisations of pro-forms) (Weissbrod 1992, Øverås 1998, Pápai 2004)
- shifts from reiteration in the form of paraphrase to reiteration in the form of identical/partial repetition (Øverås 1998, Gumul 2004, 2006)

# Forms of explicitation (3):

- adding modifiers and qualifiers (Vanderauwera 1985)
- inserting discourse organizing items (Pápai 2004)
- filling out elliptical constructions (Weissbrod 1992, Øverås 1998, Pápai 2004, Heltai 2005)
- lexical specification (Englund Dimitrova 1993, Øverås 1998, Perego 2003, Klaudy & Károly 2005)
- meaning specification (Perego 2003)



# Forms of explicitation (4):

- replacing nominalizations with verb phrases (Klaudy & Károly 2003, Puurtinen 2003)
- replacing metaphors with similes (Weissbrod 1992, Øverås 1998)
- including additional explanatory remarks (Baker 1992, Al-Quinai 2001, Pápai 2004)
- spelling out implicatures (e.g. Séguinot 1985, Abdellah 2004, Pym 2005)

# Language-specificity:

- explicitation should be viewed as independent of language-specific differences (e.g. Blum-Kulka 1986, Séguinot 1988, Øverås 1998, Vehmas-Lehto 2001)
- exclusion of all obligatory explicating shifts and also those optional shifts which could be attributed to clear-cut stylistic differences between English and Polish
- “(...) to prove that there was explicitation, there must have been the possibility of a correct but less explicit or precise version” (Séguinot 1988:108)

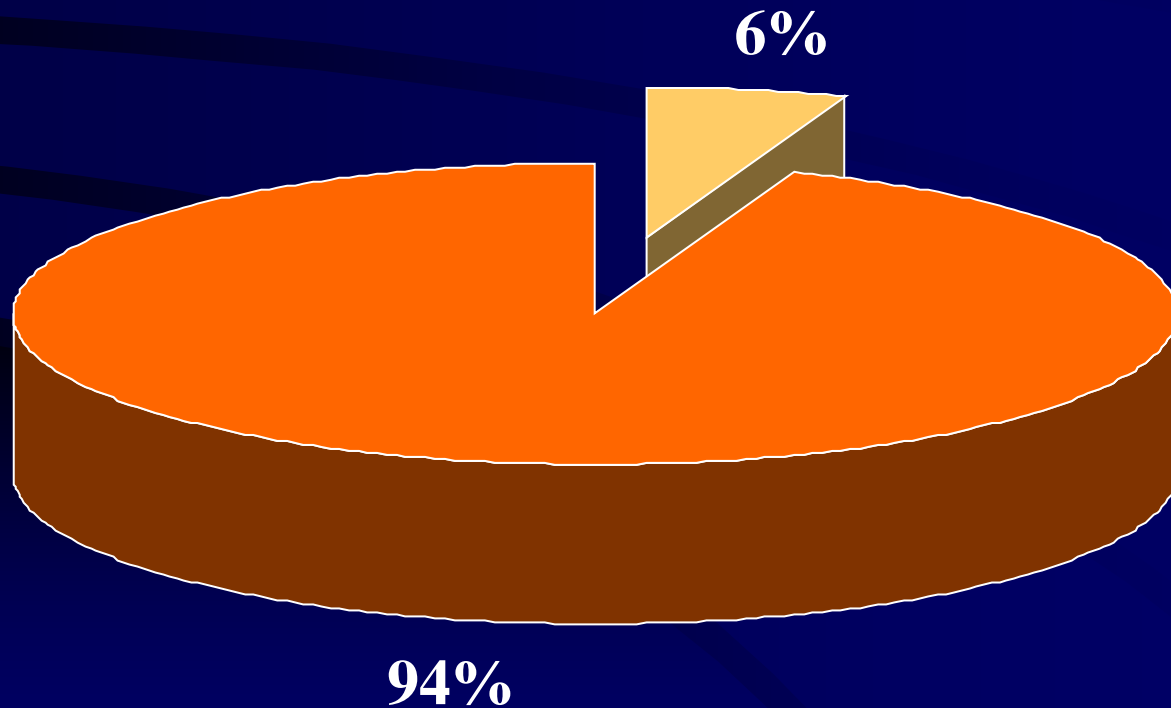
# Explicitation in Simultaneous Interpreting:

- **Shlesinger (1995)**: cohesive explicitation
- **Niska (1999)**: cohesive explicitation
- **Ishikawa (1999)**: cognitive explicitation
- **Gumul (2006)**: analysis of various kinds of explicitation; comparison with CI

## **Explicitation in SI – Gumul (2006):**

<b>ADDING CONNECTIVES</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>LEXICALISATION OF PRO-FORMS</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>NOMINALIZATIONS → VERB PHRASES</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>REITERATING LEXICAL ITEMS</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>FILLING OUT ELLIPTICAL CONSTR.</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>PARAPHRASE → REPETITION</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>OTHER 7 TYPES OF EXPLICIT. SHIFTS</b>	<b>9%</b>

**Subconscious explicitation (94%)**  
**vs. Strategic explicitation (6%)**  
(Gumul – previous research)



# The aim of the study :

- attempt to determine whether explicitation is dependent on the direction of interpreting
- hope to provide some additional evidence on directionality in trainees

# Hypothesis:

- explicitation might be more frequent in retour (processing capacity management in retour is believed to be a more demanding task)
- analysis of both product and process data (i.e. interpreting outputs and the subjects' retrospective remarks)

# Research design (1):

- **Direction:** English – Polish / Polish – English
- **Subjects:**
  - 28 advanced interpreting students
  - language A (Polish); language B (English)
- **Prior Training:**
  - 180 & 120 hours of training
  - equal proportion of native and retour



# Research design (2):

- **Corpus:**
  - source texts: 5 fragments of authentic speeches = 4 sets of equal length
  - comparable lexical choice and levels of morphosyntactic complexity & redundancy
  - the same subject matter (political speeches)
  - each set interpreted by 14 subjects
  - 56 interpreting outputs
  - target texts: a corpus of approx. 100,000 words

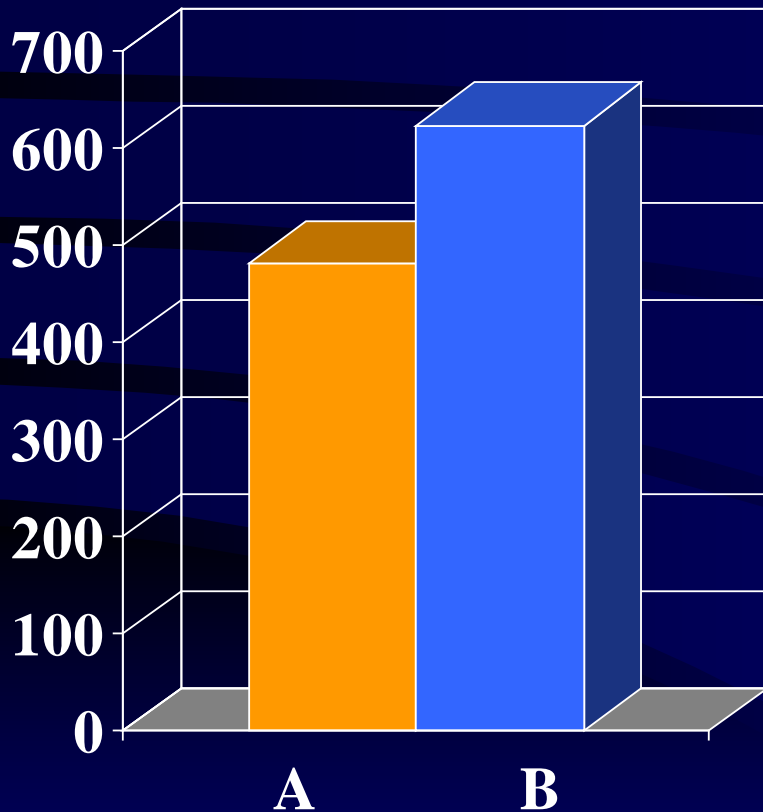
# Research design (3):

- **Rate of delivery** (controlled): approx. 130 words per minute
- **Retrospection procedure:**
  - each set followed by a retrospective remarks session
  - remarks concerning:
    - expressing sth more explicitly in the TT than in the ST
    - adding words or expressions to the TT

# Research design (4):

- Parallel analysis of both transcripts and audio recordings  
(advocated by Kalina 2005)

# Results:



- **B → A:**  
**481** explicitating shifts
- **A → B:**  
**624** explicitating shifts
- **T-test:** statistically significant difference ( $p < 0.05$ )

# Shifts prevailing in retour:

<b>TYPE OF EXPLICITATION:</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>ADDING CONNECTIVES</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>227</b>
<b>REITERATION</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>MEANING SPECIFICATION</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>DISAMBIGUATING METAPHORS</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>32</b>

# Adding connectives:

- subconscious or highly automated procedure (none of the subjects verbalised this type of operation in their retrospective comments)
- explicitating the implicit logical relations might in some cases be due to adopting the strategy of **padding**

# Reiteration:

- result of self-correction (a strategy of repair)
- retrospective remarks on reiteration report problems with lexical search

# Meaning specification:

- sometimes due to adopting the coping tactic of parallel reformulation or padding
- problems with effective processing capacity management (e.g. directing all resources to the production effort)



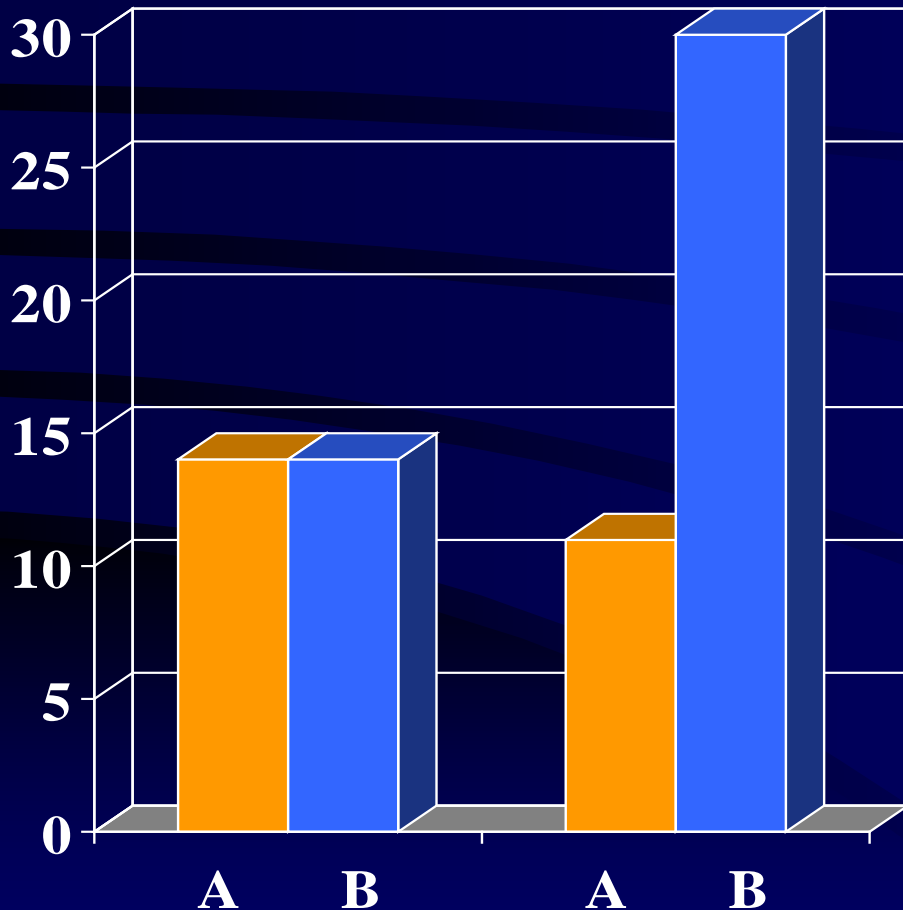
# Meaning specification – retrospective remarks:

- “I didn’t hear the beginning of the next sentence, so I decided to add the words *of the attack* to the phrase *to save the victims*, because I wanted to fill the gap.”
- “I added the word *civilisation* just to fill the gap while I was thinking how to translate the word *inclusive*.”

# Disambiguating metaphors:

- $A \rightarrow B$ : problems with finding an appropriate stylistic equivalent
- $B \rightarrow A$ : striving for optimal relevance of the interpreted message

# Retrospective remarks:



- RELEVANCE:  
**14 (A) vs. 11 (B)**
- INTERPRETING  
CONSTRAINTS:  
**14 (A) vs. 30 (B)**

# Concluding remarks (1):

- explicitation appears to be dependent on the direction of interpreting to a certain extent
- more frequent occurrence of explicitation in interpreting into a B language is apparently due to the constraints intrinsic to the process of interpreting
- providing further evidence to support the opinions voiced by numerous researchers (e.g. Déjean Le Féal 2005, Donovan 2005) that retour interpreting is particularly difficult for interpreting students

## Concluding remarks (2):

- the vast majority of explicitations identified in both directions of interpreting appear to be either subconscious or automatic and hardly ever attributable to any strategic behaviour
- further research on professional interpreters

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