

Testative Discussion on how to be an Eligible Interpreter -----Based on the People's Republic of China of the National People's Congress and Committee of the People's Political Consultative Conference from 2012 to 2014

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Abstract: In recent years, with the rapid development of the Chinese economy, the “two sessions” in March of every year which sponsored by the ministry of foreign affairs attract more and more journalists from all over the world. The press conference in the “two sessions” likes an important window to show China's policies and claims to the world. Meanwhile, the premier who answers questions in the press conference, respectively, shows the world the eloquence and polite manners of China's premier, such as Premier Wen Jiabao and Premier Li Keqiang. Their astute response, excellent, and emotional expression makes a deep impression on audiences. Moreover, as a bridge between the speaker and the listeners, the interpretation once is incorrect will cause some mistakes even conflicts. Therefore, the interpreter plays a most important role in the press conference. How to improve the interpretation level in the press conference is a significant topic. The thesis mainly introduces the content of press conference interpreting from 2012 to 2014. At present, the practical study of press conference interpretation is far from enough. The last part gives the summary of the study and points out the main findings for the further study.

Keywords: *eligible Interpreter; language interpreter; People's Republic of China of the National People's Congress and Committee of the People's Political Consultative Conference*

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0 Introduction

The first press conference during the National People's Congress (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference was held by the Premier Li Peng in 1988. As a spokesman, on behalf of the central government, he answered all the journalists' questions in several hours. Meanwhile, it is the first time to be broadcasted live in the television for releasing some China's domestic and foreign affairs and policies. As for the most important and official conference in China, with the promotion of China's status, the press conference held in NPC and Committee of the People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) attracts more and more attention of the world.

1 Definition of PCI

Press conference is such kind of conference on which somebody talks to a group of journalists to answer their questions or to make an official statement. According to the famous translation theorist Danica Seleskovitch, interpreting means “the transfer of meaning from one language into another for the purpose of oral communication among people who do not share the same language^[1-3].” Thus, interpreting is a kind of communicative activity to convey what someone is saying in one language into another language accurately and quickly so that someone else can understand it. There are two basic kinds of interpreting: Simultaneous interpreting and consecutive interpreting. Consecutive

interpreting means “the interpreter gives his interpreting after the speaker has finished his speech, which may last from a few seconds (a few dozen words) to several minutes (a few hundreds or even a few thousand words).” The thesis concentrates on the press conference held by the Chinese government which employs consecutive interpreting. Press conference usually adopts the consecutive interpretation method. During the interpretation, each speaker will say a few words or a paragraph then stop a moment and let the interpreter to interpret^[4].

Press conference interpreting involves wide knowledge. In the press conference, all kinds of news media journalists tend to come to China for collecting the real-time news. They will come up with some questions related to national politics, economy, military, diplomacy, society, culture, and other aspects

2 Contents of the press conference in “two sessions” from 2012 to 2014

As we all know, the press conference is held in April during the National People’s Congress (NPC) and CPPCC each year. The contents of the conference are mainly among following fields: Politics, economy, culture, diplomacy, religion, population, national issues, and so on. Premier Wen Jiabao hosted the press conference of “two sessions” in 2012. Premier Li Keqiang hosted in 2014. They both spent 2–3 h in answering questions in each press conference. Their astute response, excellent, and emotional expression makes a deep impression on listeners.

Take the national issue for an example. National unity has become one of the key factors restricting China’s economic and social development. In a sense, the national unity directly affects the people’s living environment, the rise or fall of Chinese nation, and even the world peace and development. Hence, it always becomes the focus of all the people domestic and abroad. In the press conference of 2012, there are three questions about national issues taken by the journalists. What’s more, the economy has also been the focus of all journalists. Premier Wen Jiabao answered 135 questions in his ninth press conference in all, among which including 38 economic questions. From the old concerns such as gross domestic product growth, expanded to China’s economic impact, new issues such as sustainable economic development. Press conference shortens the distance between China and the world and becomes the vane and symbol of country’s progress.

3 Qualities needed by an eligible interpreter

Interpretation is a professional career. To be a qualified interpreter, either full-time or part-time should have some basic conditions and qualities. Compared with the translation, the largest characteristic of interpretation is that the two sides usually communicate directly face to face with each other. Its content not only limited to the work theme but also involves politics, classics, economy, culture, religion, daily life, and so on. After accepted interpretation task, the interpreter must be prepared in advance, including language, technical, and psychological preparation. As an interpreter, it is necessary to master a foreign language. However, an interpreter is not a machine or computer. Not all the people who master a foreign language can become a good interpreter. As an interpreter, one must possess the following qualities.

3.1 Strong sense of responsibility

People who speak different languages communicate with each other with the help of an interpreter. Therefore, the interpreter should have the sense of responsibility, which is embodied in “faithfulness” and “responsible.” The so-called “faithfulness” means the interpretation should be faithful to the original intention, especially in formal occasion. As a bridge between the two sides of the communication, strong sense of responsibility is the basic quality that a good interpreter should own.

Great press conferences are broadcast live on the TV all over the world, facing all kinds of news media both at home and abroad. They are official and authoritative, so sometimes, the interpreter feels under great pressure. Thus, the press conference interpreter must have a high sense of responsibility and political responsibility.

3.2 Deep language foundation

As a successful interpreter, one should have the wide professional skills both in Chinese and other foreign language, including language knowledge, national customs, and habits, especially professional knowledge from listening, speaking, reading, and writing ability. Interpreters should grasp the produced language, including the idioms, slang, proverbs, and so on. This is a basic condition. Whether the interpreting can be successes or not depends on the interpreters’ understanding of the content of the original discourse^[5-7]. Therefore, the most important thing the

interpreter should do is to take the time to make a research on the content that will be interpreted. The interpreter must have profound knowledge, including broad political, economic, diplomatic and business knowledge, understand all kinds of international organizations, learn all kinds of natural science knowledge, and constantly enrich him.

3.3 Superior memory

That an interpreter should have a remarkable memory is completely determined by the specific features of the interpretation work. On the one hand, in the process of interpreting, the interpreter cannot browse the dictionary, books, data, etc., so he must remember a lot of words, acronyms and idioms, allusions, etc., to deal with various problems which may meet in the interpretation. On the other hand, the interpreter needs to have quite a good memory to recite the content of the speaker faithfully. Records for the interpreter can only play a supplementary role in interpretation. Due to limited time, the interpreter can only record the key content. At the same time, the interpreter should forget the content that has been interpreted as soon as possible, then make sure to remember new things.

3.4 Confidence and intelligence

To be a qualified interpreter, one should be proficient in such aspects: Analysis, comprehension, summarizing, and expression. However, the most important qualities are confidence and intelligence, which are the basic psychological qualities the interpreter should have. Practice confidently and improve their interpreting skills will constantly enrich their own interpretation level.

4 Conclusion

With the increasing development of globalization and informatization, the press conference held

during the NPC and the CPPCC attracts more and more people's attention both domestic and abroad. Therefore, interpreting has become more important and challenging. As a bridge between the speaker and the listeners, the interpreters also become the focus of the government conference. Relevant research on the interpreting theories becomes more and more important to the conference interpretation.

Starting from the discussion of the content of the press conference of the NPC and CPPCC from 2012 to 2014, the thesis provides a brief introduction of the press conference interpretation. As to be a good interpreter, one should not only have strong bilingual ability but also should have extensive knowledge, and keep full of curiosity for new things and new words, continuously expand their knowledge reserves. Finally, it is suggested that interpreters should pay more attention to their language ability, linguistic competence, cognitive knowledge and strategy, and ensure the conference interpreting activities perform smoothly.

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