

# Using comparable corpora for interpreters' terminology preparation

Xu Ran, China Foreign Affairs University, Beijing, China

Simultaneous interpreting requires efficient use of highly domain-specific terminology in the working languages of an interpreter with limited time to prepare for new topics. This study demonstrates a corpus-based terminology preparation procedure integrating building small comparable corpora, using an automatic term extractor and a concordance tool. The study also investigates the effect of using the corpus tools in terminology preparation on the trainee interpreters' terminological performances by looking at the quality of their simultaneous interpreting outputs. For this purpose, this study ran an experiment with 22 MA trainee interpreters using different preparation procedures and tools (traditional vs. corpus-based preparation procedure) to prepare for two simultaneous interpreting tasks (English and Chinese, both directions) on a specialised topic. The results showed that the test groups (using both the term extraction tool and the concordance tool during preparation) had better terminological performance during simultaneous interpreting. They correctly interpreted more terms, had higher terminological accuracy scores and made less term omissions. They also had higher holistic simultaneous interpreting scores than the control groups. This suggested that the corpus-based preparation procedure and the tools helped to improve the trainee interpreters' performances on specialized topics, yet more empirical studies are needed to test and possibly improve the model before it can be integrated with other interpreter training approaches. This study also has useful implications for training future interpreters.