

SUMMARY

The overarching objective of this thesis is the investigation of speech discontinuity in simultaneous interpreting. The notion of discontinuity, as understood for purposes of the present study, is referred to disfluencies such as filled pauses, restructurings, repeats and lengthenings that occur in trainee interpreters' output. The discontinuity is captured as a constitutive, and therefore inherent feature of speech including simultaneous interpreting. This dissertation sheds the light on the multifaceted nature of speech discontinuity, which arises in the process of communication.

The main research area is the exploration of disfluencies and their distribution according to directionality and gender. To reach this goal, disfluencies are identified, classified and analysed to verify hypotheses that have been put forward.

Chapter 1 of this dissertation reviews a variety of definitions and approaches to discourse markers as they constitute a multidimensional and complex phenomenon of speech. The rationale for including discussion on DMs in this study, lies in the fact that they perform significant functions within the framework of communication as they are tools that facilitate communication in different contexts and situations. However, their wrong usage or absence of DMs may cause some difficulties for the listener in coherent understanding of discourse (cf. Aimer 2002). Considering the fact that spoken discourse reveals numerous formal and syntactic standards, it requires extra instruments indicating its organisation; therefore DMs are essential elements of speech structure used for the benefit of the speaker and the listener. DMs are also relevant to the present study in the light of the fact that they perform the function of filled pauses, in particular in situations when the speakers encounter difficulties in expressing their intentions or thoughts. In corollary, the use of DMs helps the speakers to solve their problems with communicating as they may provide enough time to find the appropriate word or phrase. The chapter depicts that DMs may have an impact on discontinuity of speech as well as play a prominent role within the processes of communication and interpreting.

Chapter 2 focusses on the study of speech production process and refers to two main issues, namely, speech production models and simultaneous interpreting models. The first part of this chapter presents selected speech production models to highlight that communication process starts from intention to articulation and consists of several levels, depending on the model. However, a characteristic that these models have in common is hesitation phenomenon. Bearing in mind that none speech is completely fluent and smooth, these models attempt to account for speech difficulties at different levels. Complex speech production models elucidate

disfluencies such as repairs, false starts, slip of tongues, filled pauses, etc. in monolingual contexts. It draws substantially to the fact that cognitive and linguistic processes applied to comprehension and production in monolingual contexts may be taken up and adjusted to bilingual communication. Thus this chapter contains salient information about selected communicative models and provides a background for further consideration of the phenomenon of speech discontinuity.

Chapter 3 is dedicated to the exploration of pausal phenomena in speech and in simultaneous interpreting and depicts multidimensional character of pauses. Similarly to discourse markers, investigation of pauses constitutes an excruciatingly difficult task due to their complexity and versatility. Thus numerous classifications and taxonomies allow for interdisciplinary approach to the said phenomenon including inter alia linguistics, psycholinguistics, speech processing and translation and interpreting research. The topic of pauses is essential in this dissertation; therefore a concise review starting from origins of research till modern approaches is presented to highlight the role of disfluencies in the communicative process. Consequently, an ambiguous role of pauses stems from the fact that, on the one hand, their occurrence in speech impedes proper and fluent communication and demonstrates that the speaker has difficulty in expressing his or her thoughts, and on the other hand, presents the view that pauses make understanding smoother and easier. The pause categorisations outlined in this chapter will serve as the background for the qualitative analysis in Chapters 5 and 6. Finally, it is revealed that pauses are intrinsic element of speech production and are determined by a number of factors and specific contexts.

Chapter 4 concentrates on three crucial facets in simultaneous interpreting, namely, quality, directionality and gender. The issue of quality is presented from different perspectives due to the fact several components contribute to the quality of interpreting and therefore it cannot be regarded as a homogenous construct. The following section reviews the concept of directionality and the inherent question whether the interpreters should interpret only into the native language or also into a foreign language. Moreover, it includes studies on the effect of directionality on disfluencies in simultaneous interpreting and presents the notion of explicitation in directionality. Different approaches to directionality shed the light on the interweaving aspects of language and function in producing a successful interpreting output. Another factor discussed in this chapter is gender, in particular language and gender as constituting a substantial part of human's identity. This area of research comprises differences in language use between women and men in many aspects and dimensions of communication

process. It also discusses the issue of gender in simultaneous interpreting as it is indispensable part of this thesis which will be used while presenting data obtained in the carried out analyses.

Chapter 5 presents the methodology that will be used in this study, in that categorisation of distinguished disfluencies in the simultaneous interpreting output delivered by students, followed by qualitative and quantitative analyses. The main research questions that the corpus analysis intends to answer are as follows: 1) what kind of disfluencies occur most often in the simultaneous interpreting output delivered by trainee interpreters, 2) to what extent will directionality have an impact on discontinuity in the simultaneous interpreting output considering the number and types of disfluencies, 3) to what extent will gender have an impact on discontinuity in the simultaneous interpreting output considering the number and types of disfluencies. The obtained data of the analyses will be discussed in reference to particular types of disfluencies.

Chapter 6 provides analyses of disfluencies in the interpreting output delivered by students by gender and directionality. This chapter also presents distribution of disfluencies produced by individual student and their total number in four interpreting outputs. For the purpose of this study a statistical analysis is carried out to verify hypotheses referring to relationship between discontinuity of speech and gender and relationship between discontinuity of speech and directionality, respectively.

This dissertation closes with a conclusion section that summarises the findings presented in preceding chapters and discusses their implications. It is hoped that the value claimed for this research lies in the contribution which the corpus analysis of speech discontinuity makes towards better understanding of pausal phenomena in simultaneous interpreting delivered by trainee interpreters.

Key words: simultaneous interpreting, disfluency, pauses, gender, directionality