

Session 11: MEMORY TRAINING: VISUALIZATION

Approaches to Interpreting

Dr. Nguyen Thu Huong

Agenda

- Business vocabulary review: checking the answer key
- Lead-in
- Memory revisited
- Visualization as a memory aid
- Labwork: Reproduction of Business vocabulary topics

Vocabulary review: Types of meetings

- 54.1
1 arranged/fixed/set up 2 attend 3
put back/postponed 4 brought it
forward 5 chaired 6 missed
- 54.2
1 shareholders' AGM 2
brainstorming 3 department meeting
4 meeting with suppliers 5 chat 6
meeting with a customer 7 project
meeting 8 EGM 9 board meeting
- 54.3
3, 6, 5, 1, 4, 2

Vocabulary review:
Roles of the meeting
chair

- 55.1
1 Circulate the agenda well in advance 2 venue 3 make their point 4 tactfully 5 minute-taker 6 timetable 7 digress 8 on time
- 55.2
1b, 2a, 3d, 4c, 5e, 6g, 7f

Vocabulary review: Points of view

- 56.1
1 It's about time we got started. 2 Let's begin, shall we? 3 correct 4 Let's make a start. 5 Let's get down to business. 6 I've called this meeting to ... 7 correct 8 The main objective is to ... 9 As you are aware ...
- 56.2
1 John, would you like to kick off? 2 Kay, would you like to open the discussion? 3 Len, perhaps you'd like to get the ball rolling? 4 Monica, what do you think? 5 Nigel, what are your views on this? 6 Olive, what are your feelings on this?
- 56.3
1c, 2a, 3b, 4e, 5d

Lead-in

Read a passage that describes a scene including numbers such as the incident given.

What do you think about the story? Why can't you remember the number of passengers left?

- Are you able to remember this?
- “Nine passengers board the bus, 4 get off at the 2nd stop and 2 at the 6th stop.”
- How many passengers are left at the final stop?
- How could you recall the details?

Memory revisited

Task 1

What's your opinion about the following statements, adapted from Jones (2002)?

When an interpreter listens to a dialog/speech and then reproduces it into either English or Vietnamese, s/he has to rely on the ability of recalling ideas or memory. So far, you have been introduced to the importance of memory when interpreting.

1. Impossible to rely solely on notes; and that even if it were possible, it would not be desirable, in [Jones'] view.
2. 3. Not useful

Jones, R. (2002) *Conference Interpreting Explained*. Manchester: St. Jerome Publishing.

1. If an interpreter takes adequate notes during the speech they should not need to rely upon memory. It is possible for an interpreter to rely solely on good notes.
2. The consecutive interpreter must cultivate the use of short-term memory.
3. Normally memory means, of course, 'remembering things', remembering dates in history, names, telephone numbers, vocabulary in foreign languages. This kind of memory can be most useful for passing exams at school and university, and can also be useful in other professional activities. [And] this kind of learning by rote is [of] the kind of memory useful for an interpreter.
4. Indeed, 'memory', it could be argued, is a misnomer for the intellectual faculty to be exercised by the interpreter. For the interpreter must order ideas in their brain so as to be able to recall them and reproduce them in a significant way.
5. [The way that interpreters] order and stock ideas in their mind so as to facilitate recall as much as possible [...] lies in the use of mnemonic techniques. Through these the interpreter attaches notions or 'labels' to the ideas they wish to recall.

How many words are
you able to
remember?

Suppose you are a candidate for a job. How
would you recall the twenty words that your
instructor is going to produce orally? You are
not allowed to note down anything.

How many words can you remember?

Share your accomplishments with a partner.

How could you remember? Be ready to share
your way to other group members.

- Father; House; Tie; Authorize
- Chemical; anxiety; love;
photograph
- Mouse; plate; Wagner; Sunshine
- filing-cabinet; erase; spectacle;
shark
- Presidential; Prague; undergo;
teeth

The secret of recalling details applied by a potential job candidate

How many words was the potential job candidate able to remember?

- 17 words but *authorize, erase, spectacle*.

How did they remember so many?

- 'I imagined my *father*, wearing a *tie*, coming into the *house*. He looked *anxious*, because he thought he could smell *chemicals*. I remembered I *loved* him and thought of the *photo* of him on my desk at home. I imagined him standing in front of a *filing-cabinet*, and looking at a *mouse* in a *plate*. For *Wagner* I remembered an *open-air* performance I saw on television from the south of France. I just remembered *shark*, but I think it was because I had an image of it from the film *Jaws*. *Presidential* and *Prague* somehow fitted together for me because I admire Vaclav Havel a lot. *Undergo* and *teeth* also fitted together because I just saw myself sitting in the dentist's chair "undergoing" treatment.'

Visualization as a memory aid

Task 2

What are the principles found from his secret?

Tags vs Unconnected words

Use of tags: to remember words as meaningful discourse

- To put tags in a quite arbitrary way on a sequence of unconnected words
- To use the tags to recall the words as meaningful discourse
 - The tags attached to ideas rather than individual words

An application in the interpreter's job

How do you apply this technique in interpreting?

What is the kind of speech do you think that lends itself most to this technique?

- The interpreter: how to put tags
 - Try to visualize what the speaker is saying
 - Apply this technique to descriptions or narrations concerning physical, observable events

Are you able to reproduce the content of the following natural event description?

How much can you remember and reproduce?

How were you able to remember?

- Hurricane Henry moved into northern Florida early yesterday morning. Nearly half a million people have had to be evacuated as the 200 km per hour winds uprooted trees, tore roofs off some houses and completely demolished less sturdy ones. In coastal areas many boats were submerged by the 10 meter swell, while others were beached and left stranded with their hulls ripped open.

A commentary on the
recalling of the natural
event description

The mind's eyes of the
interpreter

the East Coast of the United
States

An area to the north of the
peninsula of Florida

- Visual texts:
 - Seeing the scene in the mind's eye (of an interpreter): > if the words taken as lexical items – *tree v. roofs, houses* etc. - which need their counterpart in the target language
- Geographical locations:
 - likely to be recalled by trying to imagine them on a map

A note on translating 'they' and 'the+ generic noun'

The interpreter:

- a. Cái người phiên dịch
- b. Người phiên dịch

- Such a passage can be better remembered and therefore interpreted if the interpreter sees the scene in their mind's eye than if they take the words as lexical items – *tree vs. roofs, houses, etc.* - which need their counterpart in the target language.

Practising using geographical locations

Using the geographical location technique: useful

For a whole series of related geographical locations

- In the long term the idea is to develop a European high-speed railway network with Paris at its centre. A line to the north will reach Brussels, where it can branch out to the east to Cologne, or continue further north to Amsterdam and later even Hamburg. To the south-east the line through Lyon will enter Italy through Turin and reach through Rome and Naples right down to the toe of Italy. And in the south-west a link up with Spain via Barcelona and then Madrid will make it possible to extend the net work down to Seville.

Limits of visualization

How to deal with a speech full of abstract notions?

three main points

Point 1: two examples

Point 2: (refuting point 1): 2 examples

Point 3: 3 consequences

Using numbering?

Distracted from the actual substance

But: what if the speaker does not divide their own speech up rigorously?

difficult to identify points to number so clearly;

if one reproduces such a cut-and-dried structure in the interpretation, where it was absent in the original, one risks distorting the speaker's message

- An abstract speech:
 - a visualization of the notions expressed cannot be produced
- Solutions to abstract speeches:
 - tagging the ideas with numbers rather than visual images
 - But, numbering vs. skeleton visualizing: which one?

Practising visualization 1

Milestones of GDP growth



Practise visualization 2

Remarkable changes to ordinary people's lives



Practise visualization 3

Life before Renovation

