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Cognitive Processing Capacity Management in the Teaching of Consecutive Interpreting

—

Proposal for a Conceptual Mapping Model

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A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the

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To my grandfather Wang Wen-Da (王文达) and my grandmother Zhou Hui-Zhen (周慧珍), who have given me the best memory of my childhood, with love.

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Abstract

This study aims at reducing student interpreters' cognitive overload by optimizing their cognitive processing capacity management in consecutive interpreting. I analyze the causes of cognitive overload resulting from a conflict between cognitive requirements and interpreters' limited cognitive resources (i.e. memory and attention). Using Sperber and Wilson's (1986) Relevance Theory as a theoretical framework, I establish a conceptual mapping model to optimize student interpreters' memory operations and attention allocation in consecutive interpreting. In order to test the impact of applying my conceptual mapping model on student interpreters' performances, I carry out case study research in which the experimental group receives cognitive training via the learning of my model and the control group does not. The empirical findings of my case study show that with proper cognitive training on processing capacity management, student interpreters can improve their interpreting performances. Finally, based on my conceptual mapping model and case study, I propose teaching implications for the acquisition of cognitive competence in processing capacity management.

List of Abbreviations

AIIC	International Association of Conference Interpreters
BTI	Bachelor of Translation and Interpreting
CATTI	China Aptitude Test for Translators and Interpreters
CI	Conference Interpreting
CPCM	Cognitive Processing Capacity Management
DG-SCIC	European Commission Directorate General for Interpreting services and conference organization
EA	Error Analysis
EIC	English Interpreter Certificate
ELT	Experiential Learning Theory
EMCI	European Masters in Conference Interpreting
ESIT	Ecole Supérieure d'Interprètes et de Traducteurs
EU	European Union
GAM	Generated Abstract Memory
GSTI	Graduate Schools of Translation and Interpreting
IR	Interpreting Research
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IT	Interpreted Text
LISA	Localization Industry Standards Association
LTM	Long Term Memory
MAITS	MA Interpreting and Translation Studies
MTI	Master of Translation and Interpreting
NAATI	National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters
NAETI	National Accreditation Examination for Translators and Interpreters

PGCertAdvInterp	Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Interpreting
RT	Relevance Theory
SI	Simultaneous Interpreting
SIA	Shanghai Accreditation for Interpreters
SSLMIT	Scuola Superiore di Lingue Moderne per Interpreti e Traduttori
STM	Short Term Memory
T&I	Translation and Interpreting
TAC	Translator Association of China
UIBE	The University of International Business and Economic
WM	Working Memory

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