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LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE AND SOFT SKILLS IN THE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING OF FUTURE INTERPRETERS

In the modern world, proficiency in foreign languages has become increasingly important across a variety of fields, especially in a globalized society. As communication and interaction between people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds grow, the role of interpreters has never been more significant.

This work aims to explore the importance of foreign languages in contemporary society, focusing on the linguistic features of interpretation and the essential soft skills that future interpreters must develop to succeed in their profession. These soft skills, such as empathy, cultural awareness, and communication, complement the technical expertise of a language interpreter and contribute significantly to their effectiveness in cross-cultural communication (Malykhin, Aristova, Kugai, Vyshnevskaya, & Makhovych, 2024).

Firstly, foreign languages serve as a bridge between cultures, enabling individuals from diverse backgrounds to understand one another. As globalization fosters international trade, diplomacy, and cooperation, the demand for interpreters has increased. The ability to interpret between languages is essential for facilitating communication in political negotiations, business transactions, healthcare, and even education. A deep understanding of linguistic features, such as grammar, syntax, and idiomatic expressions, is crucial for interpreters to accurately convey meaning without distorting the message. Mastering these elements ensures interpreters can handle the complexities of multiple languages while maintaining clarity and precision in their work (Downi, 2016).

Secondly, beyond linguistic expertise, the role of soft skills cannot be overstated. Interpreters must have excellent listening skills, patience, and the ability to remain calm under pressure (2). In real-time interpreting, particularly in high-stakes environments such as conferences or legal proceedings, soft skills help interpreters manage the pressure of interpreting without hesitation. Cultural competence is another essential soft skill, as interpreters must recognize cultural nuances and adjust their interpretations accordingly. Being aware of cultural differences and understanding the context of a conversation helps avoid misunderstandings and ensures accurate communication between parties (Downi, 2016).

Furthermore, successful professional training of future interpreters should include strategies for efficient language acquisition, continuous practice, and the development of cognitive flexibility. Consistent exposure to authentic materials, vocabulary expansion, and practical exercises significantly improve language proficiency and interpreting performance (Torre, 2026).

To conclude, the ability to speak and interpret foreign languages is indispensable in today's interconnected world. While linguistic knowledge is the core of an interpreter's work, soft skills are equally critical to the success of an interpretation. As demand for interpreters continues to grow, particularly in international settings, future interpreters must not only refine their linguistic skills but also develop their emotional intelligence, adaptability, and cultural awareness. These qualities will equip them to navigate the challenges of their profession and to bridge communication gaps, foster understanding, and strengthen global connections.

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