

Study on Consecutive Interpreting Strategies for Political and Economic Texts

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Abstract: With the continuous deepening of globalization and reform and opening-up, China's interactions with other countries have become increasingly frequent, driving a growing demand for consecutive interpreting (CI) services in political and economic fields. As a pivotal bridge for cross-cultural communication, interpreting enables interlocutors from diverse cultural backgrounds to overcome linguistic barriers, exchange ideas freely, and achieve effective dialogue and cooperation. This paper aims to analyze effective strategies for CI of political and economic texts, exploring how systematic and efficient interpreting techniques can facilitate accurate information transmission and in-depth understanding in contemporary political and economic exchanges. By examining the application of strategies such as sentence meaning complementation, information restructuring, and free translation of culture-loaded phrases, this study seeks to provide practical insights for improving the accuracy and efficiency of CI practice, thereby contributing to more effective international communication and cooperation.

Keywords: Political and Economic Texts, Consecutive Interpreting (CI), Interpreting Strategies.

1. Introduction

Amid the tide of globalization, international exchanges have become increasingly frequent, which not only promotes the development of the global economy but also deepens cultural understanding and friendship among peoples worldwide. In China's new era, various sectors are advancing rapidly, with cooperation and exchanges between enterprises, groups, and organizations growing ever more prevalent. However, as a carrier of culture, linguistic diversity inevitably poses barriers to cross-linguistic communication. Consequently, interpreting plays a pivotal role in multilateral and bilateral events, such as international conferences, government negotiations, and business collaborations, serving as the key link to ensure smooth communication and accurate information transmission. Its significance lies in bridging linguistic divides, facilitating effective interaction and cooperation among individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds, and fostering harmonious development and in-depth collaboration in the global political and economic arenas.

With the accelerating pace of globalization, Consecutive Interpreting (CI) has been applied in an expanding range of scenarios. Its irreplaceable value is evident in contexts from high-level diplomatic talks and specialized technical seminars to the day-to-day operations of international organizations and the strategic planning of multinational corporations. Defined as an interpreting mode where interpreters convert a speaker's message into the target language (TL) only after the speaker has completed a segment of speech, CI covers a broad spectrum of topics, including education, healthcare, the environment, economics, politics, and tourism. Its core feature is the sequential interaction between the speaker and interpreter: interpretation begins only once the speaker finishes a turn. As Jiang, W., Wen, T. H., & Zhang, L. X. (2021) indicate, interpreters must respond promptly when speakers use indirect speech or consecutive complex grammatical structures to construct discourse; thus, interpreting note-taking becomes a critical component of

CI[1]. This process demands strong memory load capacity and proficient note-taking skills, as interpreters must rely solely on memory and note-taking systems-without auxiliary equipment-to record key information and convey it accurately. It also imposes stringent requirements on interpreters' linguistic competence, psychological resilience, and responsiveness, especially in political and economic settings where even minor misinterpretations may trigger misaligned policy perceptions or economic decision-making risks that affect bilateral cooperation outcomes.

Compared to Simultaneous Interpreting (SI), CI places greater emphasis on the integrity and accuracy of information, as it allows interpreters adequate time for reflection and expression, thereby ensuring translation quality. CI is typically utilized in formal settings or contexts requiring in-depth communication, such as international business negotiations, diplomatic meetings, study visits, multilateral consultations, and energy cooperation initiatives. Within political and economic domains, its role is particularly indispensable, proving crucial in development forums, economic and trade consultations, and international conferences. Given this, researching CI strategies for political and economic texts is highly necessary.

Existing studies on CI have laid foundations for general techniques: Jiang, Wen and Zhang (2021) analyzed note-taking barriers in Chinese-English CI based on Gile's Cognitive Load Model, proposed targeted coping strategies, and emphasized that interpreting requires balancing memory and technical capabilities. Fang (2012) discussed the handling of redundant information in such scenarios, noting that filler words (as verbal pauses) should be omitted to maintain interpretation fluency[2]. For political and economic texts specifically, Duan (2008) pointed out their characteristics of dense proper nouns and information transmission as the core, and proposed that translation should focus on information fidelity, with professional terminology adhering to the principles of accuracy and consistency[3]. Yao (2018) focused on Chinese-English CI of impromptu speeches, put forward information restructuring strategies such as

“meaning complementation” and “information hierarchy clarification”, and argued that these strategies can effectively address challenges posed by colloquial expressions[4]. However, these studies rarely integrate general CI strategies with the unique challenges of political and economic texts—such as the timeliness of neologisms or the policy implications of culture-loaded words—creating a gap that this study aims to address.

While the importance of CI in political and economic contexts is undeniable, practical interpreting work presents interpreters with multiple challenges: maintaining composure under high pressure, translating specialized terminology and complex concepts, and overcoming comprehension barriers arising from cultural differences. Furthermore, the emergence of neologisms in political and economic materials, propelled by societal progress, necessitates that interpreters continually update their knowledge repositories and enhance their learning agility and adaptability. Existing studies mainly focus on general CI strategies, yet dedicated exploration of targeted strategies for issues specific to political and economic texts—such as the timeliness of terminology and the policy-related nature of culture-loaded words—remains insufficient. This paper aims to analyze CI strategies for political and economic texts, with the objective of providing insights to improve accuracy and efficiency in practical interpreting. This study employs a qualitative case study approach. The analysis is grounded in representative examples drawn from public speeches and press conferences, selected to correspond to key challenges (e.g., incomplete semantics, syntactic complexity, cultural barriers) targeted by the proposed strategies. These cases are examined to illustrate the application and efficacy of the proposed strategies in addressing specific challenges inherent to political-economic CI.

2. Characteristics of Political and Economic Texts

Political and economic texts contain core content related to intergovernmental policy communication, economic cooperation, and cultural exchange. Their unique attributes impose higher requirements on interpreters’ professional competence.

First, political and economic texts frequently use professional terminology and policy nouns. A prominent feature of vocabulary in such texts is the high frequency of proper nouns, which refer to various government agencies, organizations, and social groups (Duan, 2008). Covering areas such as social policies and economic cooperation, these proper nouns include examples like the “Belt and Road Initiative”, “Maritime Silk Road”, “Free Trade Agreement” and “Supply-Side Structural Reform”. These terms, which embody specific policy intentions and economic logic, pose challenges for non-professional audiences to comprehend. Therefore, interpreters must possess a solid knowledge base in politics and economics to accurately grasp and translate the profound connotations of these terms, ensuring effective information transmission.

Second, terminology in political and economic fields is updated rapidly and exhibits strong timeliness. In recent years, the frequent convening of international forums, successive launch of international initiatives, and deepening of regional cooperation have been accompanied by rapid changes in policy dynamics and complex evolutions in international

situations. For instance, the emergence of neologisms such as “Digital Trade Agreement”, “Carbon Neutrality” and “Global Development Initiative” is directly linked to the dynamic progress of international forum consensus, regional cooperation upgrades, and global policy adjustments. Accurate translation of professional terminology is not only crucial for precise information dissemination but also plays an indispensable role in shaping national images and promoting international cooperation. Consequently, interpreters must adhere to the concept of lifelong learning, continuously following the latest policy developments and trends in economic globalization to ensure the timeliness and accuracy of their work, thereby safeguarding national interests and facilitating exchanges and cooperation.

Third, political and economic texts feature a rigorous, logically coherent language style that emphasizes formality and authority. This style is reflected in the precision of vocabulary, standardization of sentence structures, and strict adherence to grammatical rules. Any deviation from this rigorous style in interpretation may weaken the authority of political and economic information or even cause ambiguity. During interpretation, interpreters must fully respect the linguistic style of the original text to ensure the rigor and formality of the translated version, avoiding ambiguity or misleading content. This requires interpreters to be not only proficient in both languages but also equipped with in-depth bilingual cultural background knowledge, as well as a thorough understanding of the expressive habits of both languages, to make appropriate adjustments during interpretation and ensure accurate information transmission and contextual harmony.

Fourth, political and economic texts have a prominent informational function, whose primary purpose is to convey key information regarding policy developments, economic activities, and international relations. When interpreting such texts, interpreters should prioritize information accuracy and linguistic fluency, ensuring the interpretation is both faithful to the original content and aligned with the reading habits of the TL audience. This not only demands superior language conversion skills but also requires sharp abilities in information screening and integration, enabling interpreters to express meanings quickly and accurately during interpretation, meet communication needs across different cultural backgrounds, and ensure effective information transmission.

3. Strategies for Consecutive Interpreting of Political and Economic Texts

Consecutive Interpreting (CI) often involves political and economic themes. Given their high professionalism, large information volume, and rigorous language style, interpreters need to flexibly apply a set of scientific and efficient strategies to grasp the essence of the original text, ensure timely and accurate information transmission, and further improve the quality and efficiency of interpretation. As defined by Rahmanpanah (2023), CI strategies refer to conscious or subconscious decisions made by interpreters to clarify emerging issues and accurately convey the intended meaning of the source language speaker[5]. In response to the uniqueness of political and economic texts, the following analysis focuses on three dimensions: sentence meaning complementation, information restructuring, and free

translation of culture-loaded words.

3.1. Complementing Sentence Meaning

CI is frequently conducted in scenarios such as meetings and forums. In interpreting, the three communicating parties—interpreters, speakers, and audiences—share information including the meeting’s theme, time, and venue, and thus exist within the same situational context (Fang, 2012). However, speakers often think aloud while speaking, and may move on to the next sentence before fully articulating the current one. This can result in issues such as simplified expressions, mixed sentence structures, or loose syntactic frameworks, which may render the meaning of sentences incomplete or unclear. Therefore, the strategy of “sentence meaning complementation” is required in CI. If interpreters mechanically adhere to the “word-for-word correspondence” principle, the translated meaning will be incomplete, hindering audience comprehension. Consequently, interpreters need to supplement the intended or necessary meaning of incomplete sentences while adjusting the overall structure of the original text accordingly (Yao, 2018). Additionally, attention should be paid to omitting redundant parts of the speech, such as filler words that speakers unconsciously insert and function as vocal pauses. These filler words should be deleted during interpretation to avoid compromising the fluency of the output.

The following is a case example:

Case(1)	Original	(Chinese):
	我们要加强基础研究和应用基础研究。	

Interpretation(English): We will intensify our efforts in basic research and applied basic research in science and technology.

In the original sentence, the speaker mentions “strengthening basic research and applied basic research” but omits the specific field, resulting in incomplete information transmission. The interpreter avoided verbatim translation and supplemented “in science and technology” to clarify the domain, making the speaker’s intent more precise for the audience. This approach supplements the meaning the original text omitted due to interrupted thinking while ensuring the interpretation’s fluency and completeness, enabling the audience to smoothly grasp the speaker’s core intent. By adopting the strategy of sentence meaning complementation, interpreters can faithfully convey the information in the original text, enhance the readability of the interpretation and the audience’s comprehension, and thereby improve the quality and effectiveness of the entire CI process.

It should be noted that sentence meaning complementation must be based on reasonable inferences from the speech context, and no subjective extra information should be added. Especially when political and economic speeches involve data or policy content, interpreters must adhere to the principle of “supplementing necessary information without modifying core content” to ensure that key information from the original text remains unaltered.

3.2. Information Restructuring

Due to differences between Chinese and English, consecutive interpreting of political and economic texts requires grammatical adjustments and appropriate information restructuring—rather than mere word-order tweaks—to clarify logic and enhance the readability of the interpreted output. Chinese and English differ significantly in

sentence structure and information organization, with their word order and syntactic patterns not fully corresponding. English is a hypotactic language, characterized by rigorous grammatical structures; it often uses cohesive devices to construct logical long sentences and emphasizes formal coherence. In contrast, Chinese is a paratactic language, where connections between words and sentences rely on semantics rather than linguistic forms, with logical relationships typically inferred from context and situational cues. Therefore, when conducting Chinese-English interpreting, interpreters need to re-adjust word order and sentence structures in line with TL expressive conventions to produce logically coherent language and effectively convey key information.

Information restructuring refers to sorting initial information according to a specific target format; this process of transforming disorganized information into an ordered structure is termed “information restructuring” (Zhang, 2014)[6]. It involves extracting and organizing valuable information, including refining the initial information and reconstructing it into new content. When faced with consecutive interpreting of complex sentences, interpreters should first clarify the sentence structure, then comprehensively process the content with clear priorities in accordance with the TL’s expressive habits and logical sequence, ensuring the interpretation is accurate and fluent. The following example adopts this strategy:

Case(2)

Original(Chinese):坚持真正的多边主义,以人类前途为怀,人民福祉为念,推动共商共建共享的全球治理。

Interpretation (English):We will uphold true multilateralism, and bear in mind the future of humanity and the well-being of the people. We will promote global governance that is based on extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefit.

The original Chinese sentence is a typical paratactic sentence, centering on “global governance” and linking three predicative components: “upholding true multilateralism”(fundamental principle), “bearing in mind human well-being” (ethical orientation), and “promoting inclusive global governance” (practical pathway). These form a “principle-orientation-practice” logical loop, connected solely by semantic coherence without explicit conjunctions—aligning with Chinese political texts’ reliance on audience’s professional consensus (e.g., ‘multilateralism as governance cornerstone’) for logical decoding.

As a hypotactic language, English requires grammatical devices to externalize logic. A word-for-word translation (e.g., “Uphold true multilateralism, bear in mind...”) would fragment the message into isolated phrases, losing the progressive relationship and undermining policy rigor, potentially misleading English audiences to see the three elements as unrelated.

The interpreter’s restructuring, grounded in “semantic fidelity”, targets two core needs: logical explicitation and syntactic compliance. First, to reflect the synergy between “upholding multilateralism” and “valuing human well-being”, the coordinating conjunction “and” is used—standard in English political texts for equating core elements, clarifying their joint role as “value foundation” and avoiding misinterpretation as hierarchical. Second, to adapt to Chinese’s prepositive attribute habit, “extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefit” is reworked into a postpositive attributive clause (“that is based on...”). This

adheres to English's "head word first" rule, preventing a top-heavy structure while defining the "method-object" relationship between the term and "global governance", uniting policy substance and linguistic form.

Case(3) Original (Chinese):
一家中小外贸公司,缺跨境物流资源,半年内打开了东南亚3国市场,很不容易。

Interpretation (English): It is quite difficult for the small and medium-sized foreign trade company, which lacks cross-border logistics resources, to have expanded into the markets of three Southeast Asian countries within half a year.

In this case, the interpreter reorganized the logical hierarchy of the sentence based on English's hypotactic nature, identified the core information points, and transformed the original sentence into an English complex sentence with main and subordinate clauses. This restructuring not only adheres to English's expressive convention of presenting evaluative judgments first and supplementary contextual details later-emphasizing formal coherence-but also renders the interpretation structurally clear and logically rigorous, facilitating audience comprehension.

The interpreter placed the evaluation "It is quite difficult" at the beginning to highlight the core emotional attitude and judgmental stance of the original statement, while embedding the contextual constraint information "the small and medium-sized foreign trade company, which lacks cross-border logistics resources" through an attributive clause. This approach not only preserves the integrity of the original contextual information, including the subject's identity and its inherent limitations, but also enhances the sentence's conciseness and syntactic cohesion, avoiding the fragmented expression that might result from word-for-word translation of the Chinese paratactic structure. In addition, the specific achievement "having expanded into the markets of three Southeast Asian countries within half a year" is presented as an infinitive phrase. This not only supplements the preceding information but also serves as concrete evidence for the evaluation "It is quite difficult." Such a structure establishes a clear information hierarchy of evaluation-context-achievement, aligning with English's expressive norms of prioritizing core viewpoints and clarifying logical relationships, which helps the audience accurately grasp both the factual content and the implicit judgment of the original statement.

This strategy is particularly applicable to the English interpretation of Chinese paratactic sentences that integrate "subject-constraint-achievement-evaluation" components-sentence patterns commonly seen in business and economic discourses. However, when dealing with rigorous structures such as policy provisions and legal statements in political and economic texts, interpreters must preserve the logical priority of the original text and avoid excessive word-order adjustments to prevent semantic confusion. For instance, in policy documents, clauses concerning obligations or prohibitions rely on rigid syntactic sequence to transmit binding force-thus restructuring should be limited to minor grammatical tweaks instead of altering logical order. Notably, this strategy should be applied with caution to policy provisions or legal clauses in political texts, where preserving the original logical sequence takes precedence over syntactic adaptation.

3.3. Free Translation of Culture-Loaded Words

Chinese is characterized by condensed semantics and vivid

expression, and political and economic texts often embed culture-loaded words such as four-character idioms, colloquialisms, and allusions. These expressions are deeply bound to specific historical contexts and value systems, and their connotations cannot be directly conveyed through literal meanings. To enable the audience to accurately understand the meaning of the speech, interpreters must fully consider cultural differences when interpreting such culture-loaded words and avoid literal translation entirely-otherwise, misunderstandings may arise. Furthermore, due to diverse cultural and historical backgrounds, interpreters should also pay attention to providing concise and contextually appropriate explanations of dynastic backgrounds in the original text when interpreting words and phrases with historical elements. The following examples illustrate this point.

Case(4) Original (Chinese):
美方对中方的指责是典型的双重标准,属于“只许州官放火,不许百姓点灯”。

Interpretation (English): The US allegation against China is typical double standards by forbidding others to do what it is doing itself.

In this sentence, the phrase “只许州官放火,不许百姓点灯” is a culture-specific colloquialism rooted in the context of ancient Chinese official governance. Its core meaning refers to “the exercise of double standards by those in power,” rather than the literal meaning of concrete symbols like “magistrate” (the “州官” in the idiom) or “common people” (the “百姓” in the idiom). A literal translation would undoubtedly create comprehension barriers for the audience in a cross-cultural context, blurring the original's sharp critical tone. Therefore, such culture-specific expressions must be skillfully transformed in translation to ensure accurate information transmission. The interpretation adopts a semantics-focused free translation strategy, rendering the phrase as “forbidding others to do what it is doing itself.” This approach not only captures the essence of the speech and retains the critical tone of the original but also successfully bridges cultural differences, enabling TL listeners to grasp its inherent meaning. In doing so, it accurately conveys the original text's critical intent against double standards and ensures the audience understands the core stance of the original speech.

Case(5) Original (Chinese):
国家通过支持中西部地区的发展,促进资源合理配置,实现“各美其美,美美与共”的局面。

Interpretation (English): China supports the development of the central and western regions and promotes the rational allocation of resources, thereby achieving the goal of prospering respectively and collectively.

The phrase “各美其美,美美与共” is derived from the chapter “Datong” (“Great Harmony”) in *The Book of Rites*, a classic of traditional Chinese culture. It is a composite culture-loaded phrase that integrates both cultural-philosophical connotations and policy-practice orientations. The character ‘美’ (měi) here transcends its literal meaning of ‘beauty’, serving instead as a metaphor for “regional development and prosperity”, while the overall semantics refer to “the dialectical relationship between individual development and collective win-win cooperation.” The speech emphasizes that rational resource allocation should promote the development of each region and build an overall situation of common prosperity. A direct translation of “美”

as “beauty” would be unintelligible. Therefore, in the interpretation, the interpreter skillfully handles it as “prospering respectively and collectively” through context-adapted free translation, accurately capturing the core meaning of the original phrase. This translation method not only avoids cultural barriers caused by literal translation but also conveys the Chinese cultural value of harmonious coexistence, ensuring TL readers can accurately understand the policy orientation and values conveyed in the speech.

It can be seen that in the consecutive interpretation of political and economic texts, the free translation of culture-loaded words must align with the immediacy and audience-oriented nature of consecutive interpreting. Interpreters need to quickly deconstruct the core semantics and non-essential cultural symbols of culture-loaded words, clarify their communicative functions in the speech, and select expressions that are both semantically equivalent and consistent with the formality of the text—all within limited thinking time. For political texts in particular, this balance is critical: overly literal translation risks distorting policy stance, while excessive cultural simplification may dilute the original’s value connotations. This process requires interpreters to possess both solid bilingual and bicultural competence and quick on-site responsiveness in consecutive interpreting, so as to achieve the goal of “no loss of cultural connotation and no weakening of communicative functions.”

4. Conclusion

Against the backdrop of deepening globalization, Consecutive Interpreting (CI) has grown increasingly pivotal in political and economic arenas—serving not merely as a bilingual conversion practice, but as a cornerstone of cross-cultural communication that bridges linguistic divides and facilitates multilateral cooperation. To fulfill this role, interpreters must integrate robust linguistic proficiency, specialized political-economic knowledge, and cultural adaptability. Amid growing complexity in international exchanges and the rise of AI-assisted tools like real-time terminology databases, they must also maintain bilingual and cross-cultural core competencies while adapting to technology-empowered scenarios—thus building an integrated system of professional knowledge, technical skills, and on-site agility.

The strategies explored herein—sentence meaning complementation, information restructuring, and free translation of culture-loaded words—directly address the unique challenges of political-economic texts. By aligning interpretations with TL conventions, resolving syntactic and cultural ambiguities, and preserving contextual integrity, these approaches enhance readability, accuracy, and cultural resonance—particularly critical for conveying culturally nuanced vocabulary without diluting core meaning. Their effectiveness hinges on interpreters’ deep comprehension of source content, mastery of target language expression, and ability to prioritize key information while eliminating

redundancy within CI’s time constraints, all while adhering to syntactic linearity to ensure logical fluency.

Beyond technical execution, modern interpreters bear a broader mission: to foster mutual understanding across cultures through precise, polished interpretation. This demands continuous professional development—engaging in training, refining strategy selection through reflective practice, and cultivating psychological resilience to navigate on-site contingencies—all to strengthen their role as catalysts for international collaboration. In essence, these strategies reframe the interpreter from a neutral conduit to an active co-creator of meaning-shaping discourse that balances fidelity to intent and cross-cultural accessibility, and ultimately positioning CI as vital to global political and economic communication.

This study, however, has several inherent limitations. The strategies proposed are based on cases of Chinese-English political and economic texts, and their applicability needs to be further verified in other contexts such as consecutive interpreting for minor languages and non-conference scenarios. Furthermore, the focus on bilingual scenarios overlooks minor-language challenges such as terminology localization in Vietnamese-Chinese CI. It also fails to explore how AI tools modify the application of strategies like information restructuring. Future research expanding to minor-language contexts and employing empirical, quantitative methods to measure strategy effectiveness will further solidify the work’s practical value. Ultimately, the refinement of CI strategies for political-economic texts is not merely a technical endeavor, but a vital contribution to fostering transparent, trust-based international dialogue in an interconnected world.

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