

The CLESI 2 project aims to investigate the relationship between the cognitive load imposed by simultaneous interpreting tasks and the explicitation behaviour of professional conference interpreters working between Spanish and English. This study is a continuation and extension of CLESI 1 project (Cognitive Load & Explicitation in Simultaneous Interpreting), which focused on the Polish-English language pair.

The primary rationale for undertaking this study is that empirical research on explicitation in simultaneous interpreting still remains relatively limited compared to its extensive examination in written translation studies. Previous studies have, nonetheless, demonstrated that exploring this phenomenon in simultaneous interpreting is both compelling and promising (e.g., Shlesinger, 1995; Gumul, 2006, 2017, 2021, 2023; Kajzer-Wietrzny, 2012; Defrancq et al., 2015; Fu & Chen, 2019). The heavy cognitive load inherent in simultaneous interpreting, which influences many aspects of an interpreter's performance, makes this research particularly interesting. Considering the relatively limited scope of previous studies on explicitation in interpreting, we believe our study could make a significant contribution to this field. To the best of our knowledge, CLESI 1 is the first large-scale, process-oriented project investigating explicitation among professional interpreters. CLESI 2 will double the scale of research and yield the largest interpreting corpus recorded under experimental conditions. A key advantage of CLESI 2 lies in expanding the scope to a new language pair, addressing critiques often directed at interpreting studies that focus on a single language combination. Such studies are frequently questioned for potential language bias and the influence of systemic linguistic differences on their results. By incorporating a different linguistic and cultural context in CLESI 2, we aim to mitigate this confounding variable and fill a critical research gap with the most comprehensive analysis of explicitation conducted to date.

The independent variable in this project is the cognitive load imposed by features of the source text, while the dependent variable is the extent of explicitation performed by professional interpreters. We aim to address two primary research questions: (1) How do different levels of cognitive load affect the explicating behaviour of professional simultaneous interpreters working between English and Spanish?; (2) Are there any identifiable recurrent patterns characterising the performance of a given English-Spanish interpreter when it comes to explicitation under conditions of differing cognitive load?

The project adopts mixed methodology combining quantitative and qualitative methods to increase the reliability and validity of the obtained data. These include analysis of the translation product (manual comparison of the source texts with the target texts), retrospective verbal reports, retrospective interviews, and the NASA Task Load Index (NASA-TLX) questionnaire. The study will involve 34 professional conference interpreters with Spanish as their language A and English as their language B.

The novelty of this project lies in the examination of the relationship between cognitive load and explicitation behaviour of English-Spanish professional conference interpreters as well as the scale and scope of empirical research. Additionally, the project involves forming a new international team comprising seven members representing different universities. We anticipate that CLESI 2 will significantly contribute to understanding the mechanisms underlying text processing and production in English-Spanish simultaneous interpreting. Additionally, this research promises new insights into professional interpreting practices in Spain. The most significant outcome of the CLESI 2 project is that, together with the findings from CLESI 1, it will enable us to draw conclusions about the universal nature of explicitation beyond a specific language pair.