

# **Anticipation in interactions with a consecutive interpreter: on the role of eye gaze**

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**Background** - Turn-taking is an intrinsic part of dialogue interpreting. Typically, the interpreter takes every second turn in order to provide a rendition of the primary speaker's utterance in the language of the other participant (Wadensjö 1998, Bot 2005,). Although the interpreter is expected to take the turn, it is not predetermined *when* this should occur. One important dimension for a smooth organization of turn transitions is 'projection' or 'anticipation' of turn-ends in conversations (Sacks et al. 1974, Levinson & Torreira 2015). Although 'anticipation' is a well-known phenomenon in the context of conference interpreting (see Seeber 2001), little is known about the interpreter's anticipation of turn-ends in consecutive interpreting. This study aims at exploring the following research questions: To what extent do the interpreters anticipate the end of current speaker's turn? Which (verbal and/or nonverbal) information do the interpreters rely on to project when a turn is going to end? Of specific interest is the role of the current speaker's gaze direction as a potential cue for the interpreter to start rendering the turn.

**Methods** - The study draws on a dataset of nine interpreter-mediated interactions (Dutch-Russian) that were recorded with mobile eye-tracking glasses (Vranjes et al. 2018). We measured the timing of the interpreter's renditions and gaze shifts relative to the possible completion points (Sacks et al. 1974) of the current speaker's turn. As argued by previous research (Holler & Kendrick 2015), this approach can help us gain a better understanding of the cognitive processes involved in the preparation of the interpreter's upcoming turn.

**Findings** - The analysis shows that the consecutive interpreter is actively involved in the process of anticipation of the current speaker's turn-ends. The interpreter relies in this process both on semantics, prosody and the current speaker's gaze direction. Temporal analyses also reveal how the interpreter's anticipation is strongly linked to the type turn (e.g. questions) produced by the primary participant.

**Discussion** - The present study provides novel insights into the complexity of cognitive processes and communicative resources involved in consecutive interpreting in face-to-face settings.

## **References**

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