

# Interpreter's Contribution in Conference Interpreting and Indonesia Education

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**Abstract:** The aim of this study is to report the interpreter's contribution in conference interpreting and explore their contributions to the Indonesia's education. The grand theory used in this research is theory of interpreter's contribution proposed by Souza (2017). Qualitative research was utilized to collect and analyze data, employing open-ended interviews with professional interpreter as participant. The study found that interpreters play an important contribution in bridging communication gaps and ensuring effective communication in diverse educational settings such as importance of experience, technique, and overall skills in determining an interpreter's contribution. Additionally, the overall skills of an interpreter, including their cultural competence, adaptability, and ability to handle stress, are crucial to ensuring successful communication in educational contexts. By leveraging it, interpreters significantly contribute to the educational environment, promoting inclusivity and mutual understanding.

**Keywords:** interpreter, contribution, Indonesia's education, communication

## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is multicultural environment, which marked by its rich cultural diversity and the contribution of interpreters emerges a vital role in driving progress across diverse sectors. As a nation with various ethnicities, languages, and territorial. Therefore, effective communication is one of fundamental to The Progress of Indonesia especially educational system. Interpreters play a crucial role in facilitating communication, bridging linguistic, and cultural gaps to propel the nation's advancement and prosperity. Resta (2013, p. 2) asserts that interpretation holds considerable importance within the framework of worldwide communication. Interpreters are translating spoken or signed language from one language to another which its crucial in order to facilitating an effective communication between individuals or groups from distinct language and cultural backgrounds on a global scale. In essence, interpreters serve a vital tool for overcoming language barriers and fostering understanding across borders.

In terms of conference interpreting, surely interpreter has a contribution. "Every individual wish to achieve something in different aspects and spheres of life. The goals of likely to be immediate but people have an ultimate goal, something toward which their entire life is being directed. There is nothing more important than having a desire deep down to achieve goals" by Dange (2017, p. 3). The statement that made resonates with the innates human drive for achievement and fulfilment in life. The fundamental of human needs for purpose, ambition, and fulfilment serve as a reminder of the importance of setting goals as a form of a meaningful and purposeful life. Thus, being an interpreter makes a contribution to the environment and the progress of the nation.

Souza (2017, p. 2) states that Interpreters were perceived as cultural bridges facilitating communication between distinct cultures for various objectives. Indeed, by assuming the role of a cultural interface, interpreters can provide invaluable cultural context, thus facilitating clearer communication and fostering mutual understanding among participants from different cultural backgrounds. It's not only

ensuring accurate language translation but also promotes harmonious intercultural exchange and cooperation.

Napier (2013) stated that the theory of role/contribution in interpreting suggests that interpreters should not be rule-based but should create and inhabit a "role-space" in any given situation, determined by participant alignment, interaction management, and presentation of self. This approach allows interpreters to make decisions and employ strategies to facilitate successful interactions, adapting their role-space dynamically as interactions evolve. Jones, P L, & Lee, R G. (2013).

The interpreters have to speak exactly just what has been said in other language. Moot (2022, p. 129) said that the language conduit theory posits that the interpreter functions solely as a channel through which the English translation is accurately attributed to the original speaker. By faithfully transmitting what is said without alteration or interpretation, the interpreter ensures that the intended meaning is accurately conveyed between the two parties. This foundational function emphasizes the interpreter's responsibility to uphold transparency and integrity in communication, thereby sustaining effective dialogue and mutual understanding between individuals with linguistic differences.

Interpreters empowering students, teachers, and other stakeholders to engage effectively and exchange ideas in a diverse of educational environment. Their contribution also promoting a deeper understanding and appreciation of diverse backgrounds within the educational context itself. It is supported by Vidyantari (2021) stated that interpreters play a crucial role in Indonesia's education system by facilitating communication between individuals who speak different languages. They assist in overcoming language barriers, enabling students, teachers, and other stakeholders to effectively communicate and understand each other's ideas and perspectives. Interpreters contribute to enhancing cultural communication, sharing cultural features, and promoting a better understanding of diverse backgrounds within the educational context.

Similar research has been conducted which has interconnection with this paper. Okoniewska (2022) conducted a study on "Interpreter's Roles in a Changing Environment". The research shows evidence through content analysis of interpreting products and legal documents to explore the motivations and implications for the development of the interpreting profession. By analyzing self-retrospective reports of trainee interpreters and the use of the term 'interpreter' in legal contexts, the studies offer insights into the cognitive strategies and regulatory frameworks that shape the field of interpreting. The result of the journal article is a comprehensive discussion on various aspects of the interpreting profession, including the impact of legislation on public service interpreting, media representations of interpreters, the role of interpreters in therapeutic settings, and the motivations of trainee interpreters. The article emphasizes the importance of training, awareness, and further research in improving the quality and effectiveness of interpreting services. It also highlights the evolving roles and challenges faced by interpreters in different contexts, the impact of technology on interpreting practices, and the importance of trust in the interpreter system. The article provides a list of references related to community interpreting, cognitive load in interpreting, discourse comprehension, and ideology in interpreting, featuring works by authors such as Rosenberg, Roy, Russo, Seeber, Setton, Van Dijk, and Wadensjö.

Based on previous study, the researchers concluded that there are no fixed steps or phases in conducting interpreter's contribution. However, to fill the gap with the previous study that has been elaborated before, researchers are investigating the evolving roles and challenges faced by interpreters in different contexts and examining the interpreter's contribution in conference interpreting and exploring their contributions to the Indonesia's education.

## RESEARCH METHOD

(Miles and Huberman, 2014, p. 27) conveyed that the words can be grouped together, organised into subcategories, or separated into distinct clusters. This arrangement enables researchers to compare, contrast, analyze, and identify patterns within them. Therefore, this research used qualitative approach as the majority of analysis that is done by through use of words. Regarding the methodology of the research, data collection from the participant was conducted through the utilization of open-ended interviews.

## Participant

Due to the limitations and availability of resources for the research, a qualified professional interpreter was selected deliberately to participate in this study due to their expertise and experience in the field of interpreting, which served as the primary data source. To ensure ethical considerations, the data and personal information of the professional interpreter involved in the research are safeguarded. Consequently, the professional interpreter is identified as the "Informant" in the study.

## Instrument

The research utilized an open-ended interview instrument that has been validated by the researcher's supervisor. The interview contains a few questions that related to the topic.

Please refer to the table below for details:

Table 1. Interview Guides

No.	Questions
1.	Have you been officially licensed as an interpreter?
2.	The license is issued by which institution?
3.	How long have you been an interpreter?
4.	Which mode of interpreting are you using?
5.	If the answer simultaneous/consecutive, how was the process is?
6.	According to your experience and knowledge is the contribution of an interpreter determined by the interpreter technique or not?
7.	What are the key roles played by interpreters in conference interpreting within the context of Indonesia's education sector?
8.	What is the contribution of interpreters to the progress of Indonesian education?
9.	In what ways do interpreters contribute to bridging linguistic and cultural gaps in conferences?
10.	What strategies can interpreters employ to enhance their contribution to the success of education's system in Indonesia?
11.	What advancements or innovations have been made in interpreting techniques within the Indonesian education sector, and how do they impact the interpreter's contribution?
12.	What measures can be taken to further recognize and appreciate the valuable contribution of interpreters in facilitating communication within the Indonesian education landscape?

## Data Analysis

By thoroughly analyzing the data, researchers can gain a deeper understanding of the phenomenon under study and generate meaningful insights. Miles and Huberman's approach to data analysis involves a systematic and rigorous process that allows researchers to make sense of their data and draw valid conclusions.

In this procedure, the researchers employed the data analysis steps outlined by Miles and Huberman (2014, p. 31) as follows:

### 1. Data Condensation

The first step of data analysis is data condensation. This process involves condensing, refining, and/or selecting interview outcomes from numerous documents into a concise one-page transcript. The initial interview transcript was reviewed and utilized to offer verbal guidance in exploring the interpreter's impact on conference interpreting and education in Indonesia.

### 2. Data Display

During this phase, the researchers delivered a visual demonstration outlining the systematic analysis procedures of the research findings. It also assisted the researchers in order to reach final conclusions and ensuring thorough efforts were made in the process.

### 3. Drawing and verifying conclusion

In this stage, the researchers reiterated the principal arguments to reinforce the essential points concerning the focus of the research.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After passing through several stages, the interviewer obtained the required data. This was achieved through a series of interviews. Here's the following explanation:

*"Have you been officially licensed as an interpreter?"*

And the informant answer is "No." In this case, there is a theory from Sinaga (2020) that stated, *"It is not mandatory to be licensed as an interpreter, but having a recognised qualification can enhance credibility and professionalism in*

*the field.*” So, research on the regulation of sworn translators emphasizes the need for clear qualifications and recognition within the community to ensure competent practice.

The statement from Sinaga (2020) highlights a crucial aspect of the discourse surrounding licensure for interpreters and sworn translators. While it may not be obligatory to obtain a license in certain contexts, the acknowledgment of a recognised qualification plays a crucial role in representing credibility and professionalism within the field. This observation aligns with broader discussions on the regulation of sworn translators, highlighting the importance of establishing clear qualifications and enlarging recognition within the professional community. By emphasising the significance of competent practice, this perspective highlights the need for standardised criteria and accreditation processes to uphold standards of proficiency and ensure the quality of interpretation and translation services. Furthermore, the role of professionalisation efforts in enhancing the legitimacy and effectiveness of interpreting and translation practices within diverse sociolinguistic contexts.

The license is issued by which institution?

“N/A”

Based on the answer, the interpreter did not have an interpreter license. The researcher found that an interpreter who doesn't have a license is in a tricky situation. Even though they might be really good at languages, not having official permission can cause problems. People might not trust their translations as much, and there's a risk of making mistakes. This could be a big deal, especially in important situations like court cases or medical appointments. Plus, they might accidentally break rules about keeping things private or misunderstand cultural stuff. So, it's important for interpreters to get proper training and licenses to do their job right and keep things clear for everyone. This is confirmed by research from Dai (2020) that states an interpreter without a license may face challenges in proving their professional competence and qualifications.

Dai's (2020) research shows that interpreters without a license can have a tough time proving they're good at their job. Without that official stamp of approval, people might not trust them to do the job well. This can make it hard for them to find work, especially in places like courts or hospitals where certified interpreters are needed. Without a license, they might also struggle to get paid fairly for their work. Overall, Dai's research emphasizes the difficulties unlicensed interpreters face in showing they're qualified and reliable.

How long have you been an interpreter?

“2 years.”

The interpreter's experience is quite long enough, so that the interpret has been through a lot of journeys. Experience is really important for interpreters, even if they've been doing it for a long time. It helps them get better at what they do by practicing and dealing with different situations. With more experience, they learn how to handle tricky language stuff, like slang or technical words. It also good for adapting to the changes, like when someone talks really fast or has a strong accent. They get used to different topics, like law or medicine, and become experts in those areas. So, the more experience they have, the better they get at making sure everyone understands each other. This finding is aligned with Dai (2020) stated that experience is crucial for interpreters, even those with long experience, as it helps them refine their skills, adapt to various situations, and continuously improve their performance.

Which mode of interpreting are you using?

“Simultaneous.”

The interpreter apparently using simultaneous mode which need to have strong concentration, cognitive skills, and the ability to process information quickly and accurately. (Dai 2020). According to Dai (2020), interpreters who use simultaneous mode need to be really focused, have good thinking skills, and be able to understand and process information fast and accurately. Simultaneous interpreting means they're translating what's being said almost at the same time as the speaker. This requires intense concentration because they have to listen, understand, and speak all at once. They need sharp cognitive abilities to keep up with the pace and make sure they get everything right. So, it's a demanding job that requires a lot of mental agility and skill.

How was the process of interpreting you did so far? Perhaps, you have some theoretical steps or experience-based steps.

“Theoretical steps.”

The process of interpreting typically involves several theoretical steps, including accurate understanding of the original text, generalization of information, logical reorganization, short-term memory retention, note-taking, and figure interpreting. These steps help interpreters effectively convey the message from one language to another while maintaining accuracy and coherence. (Dai 2020)

It helps interpreters do their job well. First, they need to fully understand the original text or speech. Then, they summarize the information, reorganize it logically, and remember it temporarily. They might also take notes to help them remember important details. Finally, they translate the message into target language. These steps are crucial for making sure the message stays accurate and makes sense in the other language.

According to your experience and knowledge, is the contribution of an interpreter determined by the interpreter technique or not?

“Not fully.”

In interpreter's experience and understanding, an interpreter's contribution isn't solely determined by their technique. It's also influenced by their overall skills and competence. This means that while the way they interpret is important, their professional abilities, like understanding languages well and having good communication skills, also matter a lot. Dai (2020) agrees with this idea, stating that an interpreter's impact comes from both their technique and their broader capabilities. So, being a good interpreter involves more than just using the right methods—it's about being skilled and competent in many areas.

What is the key contribution played by interpreters in conference interpreting within the context of Indonesia's education sector?

“Bridging the communication.”

Interpreters are really important in Indonesia's education sector conferences because they help bridge communication gaps. This means they make sure everyone understands each other, even if they speak different languages. They help people communicate by translating what's being said into languages everyone can understand. This is super important for making sure everyone gets the right information and can participate in discussions or presentations. So, interpreters in the education sector in Indonesia play a big role in making sure communication runs smoothly.

It is aligned with Dai (2020) stated that interpreters play a key role in bridging communication gaps in conference interpreting within the context of Indonesia's education sector, facilitating effective communication between speakers of different languages and ensuring that information is accurately conveyed to all participants.

In Indonesia's education sector conferences, interpreters are like "communication superheroes". They help people understand each other when they speak different languages. This is really important because it means everyone can participate and share ideas, no matter what language they speak. Interpreters translate what's being said into languages everyone can understand, making sure nothing gets lost in translation. They also make sure the tone and context of the discussion are clear. This helps create a friendly and inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome to join in and share their thoughts. So, interpreters in Indonesia's education conferences are like the glue that holds everything together, making sure communication flows smoothly for everyone involved.

How do you contribute to the Indonesian education system?

*"By bridging communication."*

In Indonesia's education system, interpreters are like communication helpers. They help people from different backgrounds understand each other. This includes translating languages and bridging cultural gaps. Just like Souza (2017) said, interpreters aren't just translators; they're also cultural guides. They make sure everyone feels connected and understood, even if they speak different languages or come from different cultures. This role has become more important over time, showing how interpreters are like cultural ambassadors who help people communicate better in all kinds of situations, because bridging communication refers to the act of facilitating understanding and connection between individuals or groups who speak different languages or come from different cultural backgrounds.

In what ways do interpreters contribute to bridging linguistic and cultural gaps in conferences?

*"Conveying the meaning from source texts to target texts."*

The interpreter contributes to bridging linguistic and cultural gaps in conferences by conveying the meaning from source texts to target texts. This involves accurately interpreting and translating spoken or written content from one language to another, ensuring that the message is conveyed effectively and accurately to all participants. Just like what Souza (2017) stated, by doing it, interpreter help facilitate communication and understanding between individuals who speak different languages, thereby bridging linguistic and cultural barriers in conference settings.

In conferences, interpreters do a big job by helping people who speak different languages understand each other. They translate spoken or written content from one language to another, making sure everyone gets the message. This is very important because it allows all participants to join in and contribute, no matter what language they speak. Interpreters don't just translate words; they also consider the tone and context of the message to make sure it's accurately conveyed. They also help bridge cultural differences by being aware of cultural nuances and respecting them during the translation process. This helps create a friendly and inclusive atmosphere where everyone feels valued and understood. So, interpreters

are like language and cultural guides who make conferences accessible and meaningful for everyone involved.

What strategies can interpreters employ to enhance their contribution to the success of education's system in Indonesia?  
*"Practicing and increasing experience."*

Interpreters can make a bigger difference in Indonesia's education system by practicing more and gaining more experience. The more they practice, the better they get at translating languages accurately and quickly. With more experience, they become more skilled at handling different situations in educational aspect. This means they can help students, teachers, and administrators understand each other better, which is really important for the success of the education system. So, by practicing and gaining more experience, interpreters can play a bigger role in making education in Indonesia better for everyone.

According to Dai (2020), practicing and gaining more experience are really important for interpreters to get better at their job. By practicing regularly and working in different situations, interpreters can become more skilled and proficient. It's like how practicing a sport or playing a musical instrument helps you improve over time. With more experience, interpreters learn how to handle different challenges and become more confident in their abilities. So, by practicing and gaining more experience, interpreters can become even better at helping people understand each other, which is quite important in their line of work.

What advancements or innovations have been made in interpreting techniques within the Indonesian education sector, and how do they impact the interpreter's contribution?

*"Technology such as remote simultaneous interpreting using Zoom."*

Advancements in interpreting techniques within the Indonesian education sector, such as the use of technology like remote simultaneous interpreting using platforms like Zoom, have significantly impacted the interpreter's contribution. This innovation allows interpreters to provide their services remotely, enabling seamless communication between participants regardless of their physical location, thereby expanding the reach and accessibility of interpretation services in the education sector.

Moreover, Dai (2020) mentioned that new interpreting techniques, especially in the Indonesian education sector, have made a big difference in how interpreters help. For example, using technology like Zoom for remote simultaneous interpreting has changed things a lot. Now, interpreters can do their job from anywhere, not just in the same room as the participants. This means people from different places can understand each other better. It's making communication easier for everyone involved in education. So, this new technique, interpreters can reach more people and make their services more accessible in the education sector.

What measures can be taken to further recognize and appreciate the valuable contribution of interpreters in facilitating communication within the Indonesian education landscape?

*"Building people's awareness on their role."*

Dai (2020) stated that to further recognize and appreciate the valuable contribution of interpreters in facilitating communication within the education landscape, measures can be taken to build people's awareness of their crucial role. This can be achieved through educational campaigns, workshops, and events that highlight the



significance of interpreters in promoting effective communication and cross-cultural understanding in education.

How do you contribute as an interpreter to the world of interpreting?

“Do the best in every interpreting job.”

To stay professional as an interpreter, it is essential to maintain bilingual proficiency, cross-cultural knowledge, good psychological quality, concentration, endurance, appropriate dressing, and body language. Additionally, Dai (2020) stated that continuous practice, dedication to the craft, and adherence to ethical standards are crucial in order to upholding professionalism in interpreting.

Doing the best in every interpreting job is essential for maintaining professionalism, ensuring effective communication, upholding ethical standards, and great for own professional growth. By consistently delivering high-quality interpretations, interpreters contribute to the successful exchange of information and the promotion of understanding across linguistic and cultural boundaries.

## CONCLUSION

The contribution of interpreters in conference interpreting and the Indonesian education system is paramount in bridging communication gaps and promoting cultural exchange. Through their expertise, experience, and dedication to professionalism, interpreters facilitate effective communication and create inclusive environments in diverse educational settings. The advancements in interpreting techniques, such as remote simultaneous interpreting, have further expanded the accessibility and reach of interpretation services. Recognizing and appreciating interpreters' contributions is crucial for fostering understanding and enhancing their impact. By continuously improving their skills and upholding ethical standards, interpreters have an important contribution in promoting effective communication and cultural exchange within educational conferences in Indonesia.

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