

Interpretation: the added value of a profession.

The world of interpretation is so infinite and varied that one cannot help but feel a bit lost inside it. Generally speaking, the majority of people that develops an interest for interpretation must have matured mixed feelings at some point because the path to become an interpreter is so demanding that one wonders where all the effort for such preparation actually takes to. And that is especially the case if that person is a young student. People tell newbies that experience, control and readiness are fundamental in this job. In sum, that it is quite a personal challenge. But at the same time you have to enjoy the challenge in order to improve and advance in your career.

Well, in such a varied field one cannot help but have mixed feelings, at least the ones at the beginning who do not know well how it works and feel dazed, not knowing exactly how and where to start. The truth is that one needs to figure out how it works and how to obtain a place that feels comfortable for themselves.

It already feels complicated but this is just the beginning. Difficulties come not only when it is time to find a job but also when you obtain it, because it is in the performance that interpreters measure themselves. Every time that one is called to interpret, there is always that small percentage that something goes wrong.

At the same time, it must be recognized that everyone's experience is different and the only way to confirm all this hearsay is to build one's own experience and to follow one's own path. So, it is only once a student begins to understand how interpreting works that they can draw some conclusions. Here are some of them.

There is a whole host of different things that confers added value to this profession.

To begin with, cultural and personal aspects are involved.

Indeed, if we look at interpretation, we can see that it is a motivational activity because it goes back to something as simple as the social need of interacting with a community and being recognized as part of it. Thus, socially and personally speaking, being able to interpret and perform well is undoubtedly satisfying.

Indeed, not only do interpreters feel proximity to the languages they speak but they also feel integrated into the society, history and tradition to some extent. Moreover, when a person can plunge into different cultures the result is self consciousness and the feeling of being a citizen of the world. All this brings cultural added value.

Secondly, there is personal added value.

Working with languages gives motivation because interpreters become integral part of another community that they have chosen for themselves and that they admire. Besides that there is the fact that the decision to work in this field can only come from devotion to languages. No parent would impose their children to become an interpreter as it happens for other professions. This means that interpreters must have personal interest and love for their job.

In addition, interpreters never stop learning from the environment, just like children do. The brain can only benefit from this continuous training to which interpreter's are exposed. The result of this prolonged brain exercise is unquestionably a flexible mind able to adapt to different situations and contexts. The mind of a mediator, indeed. This way, interpreters

could be defined as hybrid people with a hybrid mind, able to take the best from all the languages and cultures they know.

Finally, there is the professional added value.

Interpretation requires responsibility and a certain ability to take choices independently. We can see this in every sentence translated and in every translation strategy adopted. There is little time for being unproductive because interpreters are most of the time freelancers who have to stay updated and look for job opportunities. Plus, there is even less time for mistakes because good communication depends on how interpreters deliver the message and what they communicate. No wonder it is a stressful and highly demanding environment. In addition, all this happens behind the scenes because the public usually does not see who interprets or the effort behind every speech translated. Indeed, interpreters are the mechanism that most of the time cannot be seen. Necessary and inconspicuous. Therefore, the interpreter cannot but develop self independence and become the true character of their professional life.

All in all, interpreting can be compared to a roller-coaster that can take its passengers extremely high but can let them down as well. It is also a perpetual journey, both physically and mentally. What is needed is love, or at least a hidden love for adventure to take on this career. But from a personal point of view, there is one value that I like to see beyond all these intertwining aspects of interpreting, and that is hope.

Hope that communication is always possible, whatever the differences and distance between cultures, and whatever the difficulties and personal aims of the people involved in communication.

Hope to find a job worth your preparation and hard work among all the other competitors. Hope to find a place that fits you and makes you realize that in the end you had always made the right choice for yourself.

And to conclude, hope that all these beautiful and inspiring value can become true for everyone who wishes to become an interpreter.

Thanks for your attention,

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