# Lost in Repetition: Navigating the Challenges of Simultaneous Interpretation in Political Discourse – A Case Study of Theresa May's First Statement as Prime Minister

ضَائِع فِي التَّكْرار: التَّحدِّيات اَلتِي تُوَاجِه التَّرْجمة الفوْريَّة فِي الخطَاب السِّياسيِّ – دِراسة حَالَة لِأُول بَيَان لِتيريزَا مايْ كَرئيسَة وُزَراء

### Dr Yasser A. Gomaa

Department of English Language and Literature Faculty of Arts, Assiut University, Egypt gomaa@aun.edu.eg https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1503-4337

المستخلص

التَّكْرار مَلمَح شَائِع فِي الخطَاب السِّياسيِّ وَغالِبا مَا يَسْتَخْدَمه السِّياسيُّون لِدَعم رسائلهم وَفْكارهم الرَّئيسيَّة . وَعلَى الرَّغْم مِن أَهُم قد يَسْعُوْن إِلَى تَجَنُّب التَّكْرار والحُفاظ على سَلاسَة وترابط خِطاباتهم ، إِلَّا أَنَّ التَّكْرار أَحْيانًا ضَرورِي لِتأْكِيد النِّقَاط المهمة وجذب انتِباه الجمهور ، حَيْث إِنَّه يُساعدهم على إيصال رسالتهم وَجعلِها أَكثَر تميُّزًا لِجمهورهم . لِذَلك يَجِب على المترجمين الَّذين يتعاملون مع الخطاب السِّياسيِّ النَّظر فِي أَيِّ حَالَة مِن حالات التَّكْرار ، حَيْث إِنَّه مَلمَح أُسلُوي أَساسِي فِي هذه النَّوْع مِن الخطاب . تَركُّز الدِّراسة المدْرجة فِي هَذِه المقالة على كَيفية تعامُل المترجمين الخُترفين مع التَّكْرار فِي الخطاب السِّياسيِّ المنْطوق واسْتراتيحيَّاتهم لِنقُله إلى اللغَة المستهدفة . وتتبَقَى هَذِه الدِّراسة مَنهجِية التَّحْليل اللُّعُويِّ لِتَحْدِيد الأَخْطاء فِي التَّرْجمة الفوريَّة . المَّراب المعنى المراب المتنام بِالتَّكْرار أَثنَاء التَّرْجمة الفؤريَّة يُؤدِّي إلى الحتال المعنى المراب المتنائج إلى أنَّ قِلَة الاهتمام بِالتَّكْرار أَثنَاء التَّرْجمة الفؤريَّة يُؤدِّي إلى الحتال المعنى المراب المتنائج إلى أنَّ قِلَة الاهتمام بِالتَّكُرار أَثنَاء التَّرْجمة الفؤريَّة يُؤدِّي إلى الحتال المعنى المراب المتنائج في الرِّسالة الماد تؤصيلها .

الكلمات المفْتاحيَّة: التَّرْجمة الفوْريَّة، الخطَاب السِّياسيُّ، التَّكْرار، تِيريزَا مايْ، رَئِيسَة الوزراء البريطانيَّة.

#### **Abstract**

Repetition is a common feature of political discourse and is often used by politicians to reinforce their key messages and ideas. While politicians may strive to avoid repetition and maintain their speeches' fluidity and coherence, repetition is sometimes necessary to emphasize essential points and capture the audience's attention. It allows politicians to drive home their message and make it more memorable to their audience. Therefore, interpreters dealing with political discourse must consider any occurrence of repetition, as it is an essential stylistic feature of this genre. The study reported in this article focuses on the professional interpreters' management of repetition in spoken political discourse and their strategies to transfer it into the target language. It adopts a linguistic analysis methodology to identify errors in interpretation. The findings indicate that the disregard for repetition during interpretation results in a discrepancy in the intended meaning and content of the message conveyed between the source discourse and its interpretation.

**Keywords**: Simultaneous Interpretation, Political discourse, Repetition, British Prime Minister, Theresa May.

#### 1. Introduction

The rapid pace of contemporary global developments and events has rendered simultaneous interpretation an indispensable medium for facilitating communication among individuals from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, particularly in the political arena. It has become inseparable component of live political news broadcasts and programs, given its direct impact on the lives of individuals and nations. Political discourse is characterized by its persuasiveness and motivational nature, with a specific aim of influencing and persuading its audience. Therefore, the message communicated through political discourse is not the only salient consideration; the way in which it is presented to the recipient is equally essential to have an impact. This distinct feature sets political discourse apart from other speech adhere to the theoretical principles that communication. When translating this type of discourse, it requires an experienced interpreter who is knowledgeable in political writing and its intricacies, so that they do not use general language that does not accurately convey the text to the target recipient. It is well known that politicians use language that is often vague, ambiguous, and full of signals and symbols. They tend to use rhetorical techniques and manipulation. Every repetition of a word or phrase is not accidental, but rather a deliberate and well-planned act, where the intention is to achieve a specific goal.

Repetition is a pervasive characteristic of political discourse, which requires interpreters to carefully consider every word while handling this speech style. However, the effectiveness of simultaneous interpretation in accurately

conveying the repetition found in the source text has been questioned, prompting inquiries into the methods that interpreters employ to convey this feature of political discourse. Specifically, whether simultaneous interpreters recognize repetition as a characteristic of political discourse that conveys the speaker's intent and purpose, and thus transfer it with due consideration, or regard it as any other word in the text, occasionally neglecting or rephrasing it without altering its meaning, is a significant concern.

Translation scholars acknowledge the importance of repetition in political discourse and offer various perspectives on handling it in interpretation. For instance, Baker (2018) asserts that repetition is a crucial element of political discourse as it is often used by politicians to emphasize their points and persuade their audience. Therefore, it is essential for interpreters to convey the repetition accurately to preserve the speaker's intended meaning. Similarly, Al-Fahmawi (2014) argues that repetition is an essential feature of political discourse that helps politicians build rapport with their audience and express their views effectively. She highlights the importance of interpreters being mindful of the political context surrounding the delivery of the speech, to ensure that they accurately convey the intended meaning.

Regarding the deletion in interpretation, Sharma (2015) suggests that deleting repetition can sometimes be

appropriate if it is redundant or would negatively impact the text's readability. However, she cautions that interpreters must exercise judgment and consider the context before making such decisions. In contrast, Venuti (2013) argues that interpretation should not only be faithful to the source text but also convey the cultural and ideological implications of the original. He suggests that interpreters should not shy away from retaining repetition if it is crucial to the text's meaning and cultural significance. These scholars' perspectives support the argument that repetition is a critical feature of political discourse, and interpreters must convey it with care to convey the intended meaning accurately. They also highlight the importance of considering the political and cultural context when translating such texts.

Within the field of interpretation, deletions have been crucial strategy in simultaneous acknowledged as a interpretation. The use of deletions in this context can be justified when aiming to retain the intended meaning of the speaker's message or to convey it effectively. Setton (1999) examines the cognitive and pragmatic mechanisms involved in simultaneous interpretation and advocates for the use of deletions as a method for managing cognitive load and upholding coherence. Furthermore, Pöchhacker (2016) emphasizes the significance of deletions in simultaneous interpretation as a means of managing cognitive load. Pöchhacker (2016) argues that Interpreters are obliged to

consistently decide what to include or exclude in their interpretations to maintain coherence and precision. However, an important question remains: Could omitting repetition in interpretation have an impact on the conveyed meaning of the source text? The present study seeks to address such queries and examine the methods adopted by professional interpreters to handle repetition in political discourse, a subject that has garnered limited scholarly attention. The core purpose of this study is to analyze the strategies employed by interpreters to accurately convey repetition in political speeches, while also examining the challenges they encounter in doing so.

The first part of the study reported in this article includes the theoretical framework for the simultaneous interpretation of repetition in political discourse. In this part, the concepts of simultaneous interpretation, political discourse and political speech are defined. Next, the distinctive characteristics of political discourse are identified, setting it apart from other forms of discourse. The focus then shifts to the use of repetition by politicians in their speeches, which is the focus of the present study. Before delving into the applied part, a general overview is given of how political speeches are usually simultaneously interpreted and how repetition is conveyed to the target audience.

This study focuses on a recorded video of the real-time interpretation of the British Prime Minister Theresa May's first speech after being appointed to lead the government on July 13, 2016, in front of Number 10 Downing Street. During the speech, she announces her acceptance of the position of the British Prime Minister. The speech is broadcast live on the British television and is simultaneously translated into Arabic and aired on the Euronews (Arabic) channel. The original video of the speech video is available on YouTube with a simultaneous interpretation. The speech text has been obtained from the United Kingdom's official website, and the corresponding simultaneous interpretation has been obtained verbatim for the explicit purpose of analysis and study. It is worth noting that after extensive research and examination, no other available online simultaneous interpretations of this speech in Arabic have been found, except for the version by the Euronews (Arabic) satellite channel. This fact has played a pivotal role in selecting this speech for analysis and study purposes. Moreover, another fundamental motive for choosing this speech is Theresa May's recurrent use of repetition to instill certain concepts in the minds of the British audience during a period of political turmoil. The United Kingdom has been preparing to depart from the European Union and has faced the potential separation of Northern Ireland from Great

Britain, which has posed a significant threat to the country's stability both internally and externally.

The original speech has a duration of six minutes and thirty seconds. It includes a total of nine hundred and fiftyfive words. The translated text consists of approximately six hundred words. The interpretation process has taken six minutes and forty-five seconds to render the speech into Arabic. However, the interpretation process has experienced some delay, commencing five seconds after the speaker began and finishing thirty-five seconds after Theresa May finished, as reported by Euronews (Arabic) satellite channel. The practical aspect of this study has been formulated based on the speech above. It has been executed through the utilization of two methodologies. Firstly, a descriptive approach has been employed to outline the interpreter's handling of repetition in the speech, as well as her rendering of it into the target language. Secondly, the speech has been scrutinized based on linguistic error analysis using the contrastive analytical approach, in which the instances of repetition in the translated text have been examined, and comments and remarks have been provided. All the examples obtained from both the English and Arabic texts have been included in this article.

## 2. Definitions of Interpretation

Translation, both in its written and oral forms, holds a vital position in the present age. It is an essential tool for societal growth across all facets, as well as a cultural intermediary for transmitting knowledge, customs, and various sciences to a range of languages. It serves as a critical driver for intercultural exchange and as a bridge that connects nations and peoples. Moreover, it is a crucial prerequisite for development, progress, and the exchange of ideas and accomplishments.

Interpretation is done simultaneously, while written translation is done with ease. Therefore, the nature of these two activities is entirely different. Translation and interpretation are two distinct yet interconnected functions. Written translation involves transferring a written text from one language to another. In comparison, interpretation refers to the transfer of spoken language from one language to another in real time, without prior preparation.

Written translation takes place outside of real-time constraints, allowing the translator enough time to process the original text. In contrast, the interpreter must respond immediately to the speech they are listening to, without the luxury of consulting references or dictionaries, or correcting the meaning of the oral speech text like a translator can. Interpreters are required to respond at a much faster pace than written translators, with a rate exceeding 20 times that of a

written translator, i.e., 150 words per minute and 9,000 words per hour.

These differences apply to both translators and interpreters, but they do not take into account consecutive interpretation, where the interpreter takes notes while the speaker delivers their speech and begins interpreting only after the speaker has finished. Historically, it can be observed that the interpreter preceded the translator, indicating that the act of speech was carried out before the act of writing. In terms of procedure, differentiation between interpretation and translation can be made not only because the former is oral and the latter is written but also because each of them relies on a different logic.

Interpretation, in its various forms and manifestations (e.g., consecutive, sight, simultaneous, and whispered), is an essential tool for facilitating linguistic, cultural, and civilizational communication among different peoples and nations. It also serves as a vital means of overcoming language barriers in communication. It should not be viewed as a mere process of translation, but rather as a complex communication process between two or more parties. In this process, the interpreter plays a pivotal role as a mediator, focusing on accurately conveying the intended message from the original language to the recipient' language. Different scholars have slightly different definitions of interpretation,

depending on their specific areas of focus and research interests. The present study attempts to define interpretation as a speech act, rather than a word-based approach that occurs at the level of discourse. It conveys not only the language and its meaning, i.e., its internal level, but also the way in which the language is employed to express the ideas contained in the original speech according to the conventions of the language and its creative potential.

Interpretation is a complex and challenging task that demands a high level of cognitive and communicative skills. It has been defined by scholars in various ways, all emphasizing the importance of conveying the intended meaning of a message from one language to another without changing its style or intent. According to Angelelli (2004), it involves the transfer of meaning from one language to another in real-time. Similarly, Pöchhacker (2016) argues that it creates a new linguistic-cognitive construct from two different but related constructs, namely the source and target texts. In addition, Wadensjo (2014) views it as a cognitive and communicative process whereby a trained professional conveys the message produced in one language to another in real-time, preserving the meaning, style, and intent of the original message. Mikkelson (2016) defines it as "the act of rendering a spoken or signed message from one language into another without changing the meaning or intent of the original message" (p. 4). For Muñoz Martín (2016), it is the

transfer of meaning from one language to another in a manner that is faithful to the communicative intent of the original message. Albl-Mikasa and Tiselius (2021) argue that it is the task of transferring the intended meaning of a speaker or signer's message from one language to another, while maintaining as closely as possible the register, tone, and intent of the original message. Similarly, Angelelli (2019) maintains that it is a complex, interactive, and dynamic process that involves transferring messages from one language and culture to another, with the interpreter acting as an intercultural mediator" (p. 4). Zhang and Feng (2020) argue that it is a communicative task that involves the transfer of meaning from one language to another, including not only linguistic elements but also cultural and social contexts, and requires high-level cognitive and linguistic skills. These definitions highlight the intricate nature of interpretation and the importance of maintaining the original meaning and intent of the message during the transfer process.

#### 3. Political Discourse

The term 'political discourse' can encompass a range of meanings contingent on the type of spoken or written material being discussed. Specifically, it may refer to the production of political texts, including speeches, debates, and policy documents, among others. It may also denote any form of dialogue or written work that pertains to politics or is

motivated by political factors. Political discourse is a communication between the political elites and the masses, and among the political elites themselves. It is the most effective means of mobilizing the masses and arousing their nationalistic emotions in times of peace and war. The more the level of political freedom in a society increases, the more politicians pay great attention to political discourse. As much as the people are the masters and active participants in shaping the policy of their country, politicians usually resort to discourse to influence and win their support, and vice versa.

The definitions of political discourse vary among scholars, who have examined it and its various dimensions. Van Dijk (2017) and Fairclough and Fairclough (2013), for example, view political discourse as a political production, specifically speeches, debates, and other political communications. However, Liebes et al. (1991) argue that even family discussions about political events can also be considered political discourse because they relate to political issues. Similarly, Joseph (2006) believes that all language inherently has political meaning, suggesting that every utterance has a political dimension.

Many scholars present different perspectives on political discourse. For instance, Chilton (2004) focuses on the role of language in political communication and how political actors use language to frame issues and construct political reality. Similarly, Wodak (2020) explores the relationship between

language, power, and ideology in political discourse by examining the use of language in political campaigns and media coverage. Fairclough and Fairclough (2013) emphasize the importance of analyzing the discursive practices of political elites and their role in shaping public opinion. Teun van Dijk has written extensively on the ways in which language is used to reproduce power relations in society and argues for the need to examine the social, cultural, and historical contexts of political discourse to understand its meaning and effects. Mills (2003) explores the role of gender in political discourse. In addition, Norman Fairclough has made significant contributions to the study of political discourse, particularly in his work on critical discourse analysis, which emphasizes the power dynamics in political communication. Furthermore, Michel Foucault (1926–1984) examines the ways in which language is used to create and reinforce power relations. He argues that language is not simply a means of communication but also a form of power, and that the meanings of words and concepts are shaped by the social and historical contexts in which they are used. Recent scholarship on political discourse reflects a continued interest in exploring the complex and multifaceted nature of political communication and its impact on society.

Political discourse has emerged as a significant factor in shaping contemporary social and political dynamics. Its influence extends beyond the local sphere and encompasses the global arena, where it has proven to be an indispensable tool for facilitating effective communication and interaction. This can be attributed to its distinctive features, which play a vital role in strengthening its efficacy. These features contribute to its increased prominence and relevance in including contemporary discourse, persuasion argumentation, the correlation of its topics with the culture and beliefs of the recipient, the fluctuation and inconsistency of holding a single position, which is often a product of circumstances and those who created them, frequent use of first-person pronouns (I and we), intentionality, as it refers to a discourse that is not simultaneous, but rather carries implicit intentions and purposes that the speaker seeks to achieve, the ambiguity and vagueness, and lack of clarity in the language of speakers, which result from their frequent use of words and phrases that can be interpreted in multiple ways, enabling them to avoid accountability for their words, leaving their message open to various interpretations and making it difficult for listeners to discern their true intentions, simplicity of style, which is characterized by the use of short, concise sentences, and the selection of words that aim not only to enhance the beauty of the style but also to help reinforce the message in the mind of the receiver, and focus more on the form of the message than its content. In addition, repetition,

the focus of the present study, is an intrinsic feature of political discourse.

# 4. Repetition in political discourse

Repetition is a rhetorical strategy commonly employed in political discourse. It refers to the frequent use of the exact words, phrases, or ideas by politicians and other public figures in their speeches, interviews, and other public statements. When used in conjunction with other persuasive techniques such as emotional appeals and logical arguments, it reinforces vital messages, creates familiarity, and increases the chances of those messages being remembered and acted upon by the audience. That is, it serves to emphasize a particular point or message, and create a sense of familiarity and identification among the audience (Fairclough, 2014). Its effectiveness depends on how it is used and the context in which it is employed. While repetition can be a natural feature of language and discourse, serving to clarify and reinforce essential points and create coherence and structure, it can also be used strategically, to manipulate or deceive the audience by creating the illusion of consensus or agreement, even if the message being repeated is false or misleading (Wodak, 2020). The study of repetition in political discourse offers insights into the ways in which language is used to construct social

reality and shape public opinion (Lakoff, 2014; van Dijk, 2014).

Repetition is a powerful tool commonly used in political discourse to emphasize key ideas, create memorable statements, and inspire action. Several types of repetition are frequently employed, including alliteration, anaphora, antanaclasis, assonance, chiasmus, conduplicatio, epiphora, and polysyndeton. Each of these devices has its unique way of creating impact and generating a specific response in the audience. Whether it is using alliteration to contrast opposing values, anaphora to emphasize a vision for the future, or polysyndeton to create a sense of urgency, repetition is an essential component of effective political rhetoric.

Alliteration refers to the recurrence of a particular sound or letter at the start of neighboring or closely linked words Kamala Harris, the Vice President of the United States, used alliteration in her speech at the Democratic National Convention on August 19, 2020. She contrasted the values of hope, unity, and truth with those of fear, division, and lies by saying, "We choose hope over fear, unity over division, and truth over lies." The repetition of the "u" and "t" sounds in "unity over division" and "truth over lies" creates a memorable and persuasive statement.

Anaphora involves the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses or sentences. Joe Biden used anaphora in his inaugural address on January 20, 2021.

He emphasized his vision for bringing the country together and moving forward from the challenges of the past by saying, "We will heal. We will rebuild. We will rise." Antanaclasis is the repetition of a word or phrase with a different meaning in each instance. Joe Biden used antanaclasis in his speech on June 2, 2020, following the death of George Floyd and the protests that followed. He emphasized the interconnectedness of the coronavirus pandemic and the issue of systemic racism by saying, "Our country is facing two crises: the coronavirus pandemic and systemic racism. We need to fight both the virus and the virulent effects of racism. We can't let the virus infect our bodies or let racism infect our society. We need to heal, and we need to do it together." The repetition of the words 'virus' and 'racism' creates a memorable and impactful statement and underscores the importance of addressing both issues. The repetition of the verb 'infect' in two different contexts further emphasizes the connection between the two crises.

Assonance is the repetition of similar vowel sounds in adjacent or closely connected words. Joe Biden used assonance in his speech at the Democratic National Convention on August 20, 2020. He compared himself to past presidents and emphasized the qualities he believes are necessary for leadership by saying, "We have to be as tough

and resolute as Lincoln, as committed to getting the job done as Roosevelt, and as hopeful as Kennedy." The repetition of the "uh" sound in "tough," "resolute," and "Roosevelt," and the "oh" sound in "hopeful" and "Kennedy," creates a pleasing and memorable sound pattern. Chiasmus involves the repetition of a phrase or sentence structure in reverse order. Cory Booker used chiasmus in his speech at the Democratic National Convention on July 25, 2016. He inspired people to imagine a better world and to take action to make it a reality by saying, "We don't look at the world as it is, and say 'why me?' We look at the world as it could be, and say 'why not?"" The reversal of the phrase "as it is" and "as it could be" creates a balanced and memorable statement. Conduplicatio is the repetition of a keyword or phrase throughout a speech or written text. Joe Biden used conduplicatio in his speech at the Democratic National Convention on August 20, 2020. He emphasized the American dream and the power of individual effort by saying, "America is a place where you can make it if you try. Where you can write your own destiny. That's what we believe." The repetition of the phrase "you can" creates a memorable and inspiring statement.

Epiphora involves the repetition of a word or phrase at the end of successive clauses or sentences. Kamala Harris used this device in her speech at the Democratic National Convention on August 19, 2020, to inspire people to take action and to emphasize the importance of meeting the challenges facing

the country. The repetition of the phrase "we will rise" at the end of each clause creates a memorable and powerful statement that underscores the urgency of the situation.

Polysyndeton is another rhetorical device that involves the repetition of conjunctions such as "and," "or," or "but" to create a sense of urgency or importance. Joe Biden used this device in his speech at the Democratic National Convention on August 20, 2020, to emphasize his vision for America's future and to create a sense of momentum and urgency. He repeated the conjunction "and" multiple times in quick succession to create a sense of momentum and urgency. For example, he said, "We can and will overcome this season of darkness in America. We will choose hope over fear, facts over fiction, fairness over privilege." The repetition of "and" this sentence creates a sense of progression and determination toward a specific goal. The repetition of the conjunction "and" creates a list of ambitious goals that Biden hopes to achieve, including making bold investments in American manufacturing and innovation, creating millions of good-paying jobs, advancing racial equity across the board, fighting the climate crisis with urgency and purpose, protecting and expanding access to healthcare, and restoring America's leadership and moral standing in the world. This repetition emphasizes the comprehensive nature of Biden's

agenda and underscores his commitment to achieving these goals.

The examples discussed above illustrate the potency of as a rhetorical tool in political discourse. repetition Repetition can be used to accentuate a specific message, a connection with the audience, or fortify conceptual frameworks and shape the course of political discussions. Alliteration, anaphora, antanaclasis, assonance, chiasmus, conduplicatio, epiphora, and polysyndeton are just some of the different types of repetition that can be used effectively in political discourse. Whether used to emphasize a point, inspire action, or create a sense of urgency, repetition can be a valuable tool for politicians seeking to connect with their audiences and persuade them to support their message. Understanding the various types of repetition and how they are used can help us become more informed and critical consumers of political discourse.

# 5. Analysis of English-Arabic repetition interpretation in Theresa May's First Statement

This section presents a detailed analysis of how the interpreter conveys repetition in the first statement of Theresa May as Prime Minister from English to Arabic, utilizing both linguistic and semantic approaches. The study identifies two types of repetition in the original text: repetition of sentences or phrases, and repetition of words or expressions. The use of

these types of repetition by Theresa May serves to persuade her audience to support her governance policies. By comparing these types of repetition with the English interpretation, the study seeks to comprehend how the interpreter deals with the repetition in the speech and how it is conveyed in the Arabic language.

# 5.1. Repetition of a single word

As previously mentioned, the repetition of a single word in speech serves the purpose of adding emphasis and having a more significant impact on the audience. The Prime Minister's speech contains only one instance of word repetition in sentence 7, where she repeats the word "precious" twice to describe the valuable bonds and connections between the regions of Great Britain. This repetition aims to underscore the strength of the relationship between England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland in the British recipient's mind and the significance of preserving it. However, the interpreter fails to convey this intended meaning in her interpretation, instead translating the word "precious" as "strong." As a result, the repetition is omitted in the interpretation, and Theresa May's intention to use repetition is not adequately conveyed.

Original Text	Arabic Interpretation
Sentence (7) 01:02-01:11	جملة (7)
It means we believe in the Union: the	
precious, precious bond between England,	
Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.	و إسكتلندا و و بِلْز ، وَ شَمال ، و أيرْ لنْدَا الشَّماليَّةِ

# 5.2. Repetition of sentences and phrases

The Prime Minister employs various sentence types in her speech and repeats them several times to bring the British recipients' attention to the daily challenges they encounter and to show her understanding of their experiences. The speech includes several types of sentences, such as conditional sentences, verb sentences, and adverbial sentences, which are repeated for emphasis.

# 5.2.1. Repeating a conditional sentence

A conditional sentence is a type of sentence that expresses a hypothetical situation or event and the consequences or results that would follow if that situation or event were to occur. It usually comprises two parts: the conditional clause, which contains the condition, and the main clause, which contains the result. In linguistics, a conditional sentence is classified as a complex sentence and is a crucial aspect of syntactic and semantic studies. Nelson and Greenbaum (2016) define it as "one that makes a statement concerning what would happen under certain conditions or circumstances. In its simplest form, a conditional sentence consists of a

dependent clause introduced by if or unless and a main clause" (p. 209). In her First Statement, the Prime Minister repeats this type of sentence five times in a row in sentences 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. As an example, three of them are mentioned below:

Original Text Sentence (10) 01:38-01:43 If you're black, you're treated more harshly by the criminal justice system than if you're white.	Arabic Interpretation جملة (10) وَإِ <b>ذَا كُنْتَ</b> شَابًا أَو كُنْتَ أَسَوَد أَو كُنْتَ
Sentence (11) 01:44-01:50  If you're a white, working-class boy, you're less likely than anybody else in Britain to go to university.	جملة (11) كُنْت تَعمَل ، تَقُوم بِعَمل ، أو تَكدَح . فَالِّك، الحُقوق كُلهَا.
Sentence (13) 01:57-02:05  If you're a woman, you will earn less than a man. If you suffer from mental health problems, there's not enough help to hand.	جملة (13) وَإِ <b>ذَا كُنْتَ</b> إِمر أَة تَكسبِين أقلُّ مِن الرَّجِل فَلْيْس هُنَاك. لَن يَكُون هُنَاك ظُلْم .

The examples above demonstrate the interpreter's failure to accurately convey the repetition used by Prime Minister Theresa May in her speech. Specifically, in sentences 10 and 13, the interpreter only translates the conditional sentence, omitting the response to the condition. Moreover, the essential emotional meaning intended by the repetition is not effectively conveyed. Consequently, the interpretation is inconsistent and unclear, failing to capture the Prime Minister's intended meaning. Additionally, the interpreter omits sentences 12 and 14, which, according to Barik (1994), is a significant error that impacts the overall meaning and intention of the speech. By failing to convey the repetition in

the target language, the interpreter not only loses the emphasis in Theresa May's message but also fails to connect with the audience's emotions. Thus, it is clear that the inaccurate interpretation of the repetition results in a significant loss of impact and meaning in the message.

In sentence number 19 of The Prime Minister's speech, there is another conditional sentence where she repeats the phrase "If you're" twice. However, the interpreter omits it in the translated version, failing to convey the intended repetition in the target language. This is a significant error in interpretation since it undermines the emphasis in the conveyed message. Accurately conveying the speaker's message is essential for interpreters, particularly when discussing emotions and complicated living situations, as it can significantly affect the audience's understanding and response. In this case, the interpreter fails to convey the repetition in the target language, leading to a lack of comprehension of the speaker's message by the audience.

Original Text	Arabic Interpretation
Sentence (19) 02:40-02:46	جملة (19)
If you're one of those families, if you're	إِذَا كُنْتُ ، إِذَا كُنْتَ أُسرَة مِن هَذِه اَلأُسر فَإِننِي أَتوَجِه
just managing, I want to address you	إلىْكم مُبَاشرَة .
directly.	

# 5.2.2. Repetition of declarative sentences

Declarative sentences serve the purpose of asserting a claim, expressing an opinion, providing information, or conveying a fact or belief. They can be presented in either simple or complex forms and can be affirmative or negative. Declarative sentences are crucial in both written and spoken communication, and are utilized in various settings, including academic writing, business correspondence, and daily conversations. Depending on the tone and emphasis, declarative sentences can imply different meanings and levels of certainty. According to Leech (2004), declarative sentences are "used to make a statement, provide information or knowledge, or express a thought or an opinion" (p. 22).

In her speech, the Prime Minister repeats five declarative sentences that consist of a subject and a verb. She repeats them twice in sentence 17 and three times in sentence 20. In sentence 17, the interpreter makes an error by changing the declarative sentence structure to a conditional one. Despite the alteration not affecting the sentence's function, it confuses as it does not align with the intended meaning. Moreover, the interpreter leaves out the interpretation of the second part of the passage that includes the repetition, leading to an incomplete essential meaning and an imprecise message conveyed to the audience.

Original Text	Arabic Interpretation
Sentence (17) 02:24-02:28	جملة (17)
You have a job, but you don't always have	إِذًا كُنْتُ لَدَيْك عمل وَلَا تَكُونَ آمنًا .
job security. You have your own home, but	
you worry about paying a mortgage.	

The repetition in sentence 20, consisting of the declarative sentence "I know" repeated three times, is not conveyed by

the interpreter, resulting in the intended meaning not being reflected in the interpretation. The intended meaning is the Prime Minister's emphasis on speaking from her own perspective and her awareness of the challenges faced by the targeted audience. This omission causes an incomplete essential meaning in the interpretation, as it is not accurately conveyed to the target audience.

#### Original Text

Sentence (20) 02:46-02:54

I know you're working around the clock; I know you're doing your best, and I know that sometimes life can be a struggle.

#### Arabic Interpretation

جملة (20) أع**رف** أنكم تعملون طَوَال الوقْتِ ، وتبْذلون أقصَى الجُهد، لَكِن الحيَاة بِالنِّسْبة لَكُم عِبارة عن مُعَانَة.

# 5.2.3. Repetition of adverbial clauses

Adverbial clauses provide additional information about the main clause of a sentence, such as information about the timing, frequency, or manner of an action or event. Repeating these clauses can add emphasis and clarify the intended meaning of a text. However, if these repetitions are not accurately conveyed by the interpreter, the intended meaning may not be communicated effectively to the target audience. In the Prime Minister's speech, the adverbial clause "When" is repeated four times consecutively in sentences 23, 24, 25, and 26 of the original text. However, the interpreter only includes it in the interpretation of sentence 23, resulting in the omission of this repetition in the rest of the speech. This omission leads to an incomplete interpretation and a loss of essential meaning.

Original Text	Arabic Interpretation	
Sentence (23) 03:07-03:13 When we take the big calls, we'll think not of the powerful, but you.	جملة (23) لَن نُفكِر فِي الأقْوياء ، وَلكِن فِيكم أَنتُه.	
Sentence (24) 03:13-03:17 When we pass new laws, we'll listen not to the mighty but you.	جملة (24) و عَنْدُمَا نَسُن قُوانِين ، سَتَكُون الهدف مِنهَا خِدْمَة مصْلحتكم.	
Sentence (25) 03:17-03:22 When it comes to taxes, we'll prioritise not the wealthy, but you.	جملة (25) والأَوْلِيَّة سَتَكُون لَكُم أَنتُم وليْس لِلْأغْنياء.	
Sentence (26) 03:22-03:28 When it comes to opportunity, we won't entrench the advantages of the fortunate few.	جملة (26) ولا نُريد أن يَكُون هُنَاك مِيزَات لِلْأَقُوياء وللْأَثْرياء فقط، بل لِلْجمِيع.	

#### 6. Results and discussions

Based on the analysis in the previous section, which focuses on the repetition present in the Prime Minister's speech and a comparison with its interpretation in the target language, the following results are deduced:

In her speech, Prime Minister Theresa May utilizes word repetition only once in sentence 7, specifically repeating the word "precious" twice. This repetition is used to emphasize the valuable relationships and connections between the different regions of Great Britain. However, the interpreter fails to convey this repetition in the target language. Furthermore, the interpretation of the word "precious" as ālqawī "القوي" is inaccurate, as the word āltmīn "القوي" is a closer equivalent to the meaning of "precious" than ālqawī "القوي". Therefore, the interpretation here is devoid of the

intended meaning by the speaker, which is to emphasize the valuable and cherished relationship between the British people in the four regions by repeating the word "precious" twice. Consequently, the interpretation of this repetition does not successfully convey the intended meaning.

Regarding the interpretation of the repeated conditional sentences, the interpreter is not successful. The interpreter either translates only the conditional clause and omits the answer to the condition, as in the case of sentences (10), (13), and (19), or does not translate the repetition at all, as in sentence (13). Alternatively, the interpreter removes the entire clause and does not translate it into the target language, as with sentences (12) and (14). As a result, the repetition of the conditional sentences in the original text is not conveyed to the target language by the interpreter, leading to a failure to convey the intended meaning of the speaker. Additionally, the deletion of entire clauses by the interpreter results in a loss of meaning in this part of the speech.

In addition, the English speech includes the repetition of five declarative sentences in sentences 17 and 20. However, the interpreter does not fully convey it, resulting in the truncation of the essential meaning in this part of the speech. Regarding the last type of repetition, the repetition of adverbial clauses, which appears in the original speech four times in sentences (23), (24), (25), and (26), the analysis shows that the interpreter does not acknowledge the repetition

included in the original text. As a result, the interpretation does not convey Theresa May's intention behind the use of this repetition, which is that every time she takes action, passes laws, discusses tax issues with the government, or puts privileges for the people, she thinks first of the working class and the disadvantaged, not the rich. This is what the interpreter fails to include due to the omission of the repetition.

#### 7. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of Theresa May's first statement as Prime Minister, and considering the fact that satellite channels, especially Euronews (Arabic), have high viewership and employs professional and highly skilled simultaneous interpreters, it is clear that the quality of the simultaneous interpretation of this speech is not up to the reputation of that satellite channel on both Arab and international levels.

Upon careful analysis of both the original text of the speech and its interpretation, it becomes evident that the interpreter has failed to give adequate attention to the deliberate use of repetition by the Prime Minister. This is particularly concerning since the Prime Minister's first statement held considerable significance, and hence her choice of words and their repetition were likely to have been intentional. This type of speech is usually regarded as one of

the most crucial speeches of political leaders, through which the ruler communicates with the people for the first time, and through which the policy that will be pursued throughout the term is revealed. Therefore, every effort is made to choose the words and phrases carefully in order to influence the masses and win them over to the leader's side, so that they adopt the ideas and beliefs of the leader.

Every word or phrase repeated by the leader serves a specific purpose that they want to achieve. In her speech, the British Prime Minister intends to influence the recipients to adopt her new vision and policies for managing the country while reinforcing a key idea related to national security for the British public. The Prime Minister resorts to repetition to emphasize the importance of unifying and preserving the country's territorial integrity. Failure to translate the repeated words and phrases from the speech impedes the audience's comprehension of the focal points of the Prime Minister's policies. Put differently, the interpreter does not incorporate the essential words conveyed through repetition, leading to the loss of the intended meaning of the Prime Minister's discourse. Consequently, the substance of the interpretation varies from the message delivered in the primary speech in several aspects. The interpretation is less compelling, less convincing, and less substantial than the original speech.

The findings of this study underscore the criticality of ensuring accurate and comprehensive interpretation in

effective political communication to guarantee the conveyance of important messages to the audience. It is evident from the results that the repetition of words or phrases by political leaders carries significant weight and must be accurately translated in interpretations to maintain the original speech's meaning. Further investigation should continue to explore strategies to enhance interpretation quality and mitigate the adverse effects of inadequate interpretation. Moreover, simultaneous interpretation of political speeches on satellite channels is an area that warrants continued research, particularly in terms of the interpreters' trustworthiness in conveying the intended meaning of political speeches to the Arab recipient. By addressing these issues, policymakers and communication professionals can ensure that their messages are understood accurately and comprehensively by their intended audience.

#### References

- Albl-Mikasa, M., & Tiselius, E. (2021). The Routledge Handbook of Conference Interpreting. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429297878
- Al-Fahmawi, O. (2014). Translating repetition in political speeches. *Arab World English Journal, Special Issue on Translation*, *3*, 105–115.

- Angelelli, C. (2004). *Medical interpreting and cross-cultural communication*. Cambridge University Press. http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/cbo9780511486616
- Angelelli, C. (2019). *Healthcare Interpreting Explained*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315310978
- Baker, M. (2018). Translation and conflict: A narrative account. Routledge Translation Classics.
- Barik, H. (1994). A description of various types of omissions, additions and errors of translation encountered in simultaneous interpretation. *Bridging the gap:* Empirical research in simultaneous interpretation, 3, 121–137.
- BBC News. (2016). Theresa May: First speech as Prime

  Minister BBC News [Video]. In YouTube.

  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDyZ8trge2E&t=
  3s
- Chilton, P. (2004). Analyzing political discourse: Theory and practice. Psychology Press.
- Euronews (Arabic). (2016). Theresa May officially assumes the presidency of the British government. [Video]. In *YouTube*.
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pPJBIJqWkw
- Fairclough, I., & Fairclough, N. (2013). *Political discourse analysis: A method for advanced students.* Routledge.
- Fairclough, N. (2014). Language and power. Routledge.

- Joseph, J. (2006). Language and politics. Edinburgh University Press.
- Lakoff, G. (2014). Don't think of an elephant!: Know your values and frame the debate. Chelsea Green Publishing.
- Leech, G. (2014). Meaning and the English verb. Routledge.
- Liebes, T., Katz, E., & Ribak, R. (1991). Ideological reproduction. *Political Behavior*, *13*(3), 237–252. https://doi.org/10.1007/bf00992921
- Mikkelson, H. (2016). *Introduction to court interpreting*. Taylor & Francis.
- Mills, S. (2003). Gender and politeness. Cambridge University Press.
- Muñoz Martín, R. (2016). Processes of what models? On the cognitive indivisibility of translation acts and events. *Translation Spaces. A Multidisciplinary, Multimedia, and Multilingual Journal of Translation*, 5(1), 145–161.
- Nelson G. & Greenbaum S. (2016). *An introduction to English grammar*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315720319
- Pöchhacker, F. (2016). *Introducing Interpreting Studies*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315649573
- Prime Minister's Office. (2016, July 13). Statement from the new Prime Minister Theresa May. *GOV.UK*.

- https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/statement-from-the-new-prime-minister-theresa-may
- Setton R. (1999). Simultaneous interpretation: a cognitive-pragmatic analysis. John Benjamins Publication Company. http://site.ebrary.com/id/10458998.
- Sharma, V. (2015). The relevance of addition, omission, and deletion (AOD) in translation. *International Journal of Translation*, 27(1), 1–12.
- van Dijk, T. (2014). *Discourse and knowledge: A sociocognitive approach*. Cambridge University Press.
- Van Dijk, T. (2017). *Discourse and power*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Venuti, L. (2013). Translation changes everything: Theory and practice. Routledge.
- Wadensjo, C. (2014). *Interpreting As Interaction*. Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315842318
- Wodak, R. (2020). The politics of fear: The shameless normalization of far-right discourse. SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Zhang, M., & Feng, D. (2020). Multimodal Approaches to Chinese-English Translation and Interpreting.

  Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429318351