Conference interpreting remains an indispensable part of the global institutional framework. One of the contexts in which it takes place is political press conferences, whose format determines practical organization of the events and the assignment of the interpreter. The generalization of simultaneous interpreting and globalization of mediaspace marked the beginning of new trends towards expanding live coverage of news conferences that require the so-called media (television) interpreting effected with a displacement of interpreters from the physical core of the meeting. As a result, simultaneous interpreting for political purposes is frequently performed in two main scenarios: in situ by the official interpreters of the meeting, one might hypothesize that though interpreting in both scenarios is fulfilled by professional conference interpreters, the degree of setting formality, interpreter status and target audience could affect interpreting strategies and rendition. The research database comprises video recordings of 18 press conferences following bilateral talks, which involve English-Russian language pair, and 36 audio tracks of interpretations carried out in two scenarios. The linguistic features of original speeches and of two versions of renditions for each item were thoroughly analyzed and compared in order to retrieve similarities/differences in interpreting strategies employed. The findings suggest that analyzed interpretations diverge in terms of translation equivalence, since the official interpreter is working under certain pressure to convey the form of original utterances accurately and precisely (formal equivalence), whereas TV interpreter seems to have more freedom, which makes his rendition sometimes sound more natural and idiomatic (dynamic equivalence).

Methods and Materials

Research corpus
18 videos of political press conferences involving high ranked Russian politicians (Vladimir Putin, Sergei Lavrov, Aleksandr Novak, Maria Zakharova).

Two separate audio tracks of simultaneous interpretations into English for each video:
- Interpretation performed by an official interpreter of the Russian delegation in situ
- Interpretation performed remotely by a interpreter for a live coverage on a TV channel

in total 36 renditions carried out by 19 interpreters

Methodology

Product-oriented research:
- audio files extraction (Piazzero);
- semiautomated transcriptions (Watson IBM);
- annotations (Elan);
- linguistic and pragmatic analysis of transcribed renditions;

Objective: establish the degree of interlinear correspondence (surface structure) between source (Russian) texts and target (English) texts;
statistical analysis to verify the validity of the data collected.

Results

Two types of compliance

If interpreter’s rendition is to be considered as a text, twofold compliance of the target text with the source text can be established:

- Formal equivalence i.e. correspondences between most words and phrases are easily recognizable, equivalence is systematically achieved on the lexical level.
- Dynamic equivalence (Nida, 1968) i.e. equivalence is achieved on the level of utterance, lexical equivalence is sporadic.

Two translation modes are retrievable (Sáleškovitch, Lederer 1984).

An analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) was conducted to see if the preferred translation mode correlates with interpreter’s status (the first group comprises official interpreters of delegations, whereas the second one is made up of TV interpreters), or preferences for applying one of the modes rather result from individual style, alias, interpreting manner acquired through training and practice. The dependent co-variables do not predict the ratio transcoding/interpretation within each group in a statistically significant way (F = 3, 76, F1,273,1 = 0,123, P = 0,159 > 0,005).

By contrast, the setting specifically (institutional vs media) seems to be a statistically significant factor in predicting the preferred use of one of the modes: the covariance between groups appears to be significant (F = 11,842, P = 0,004).

Conclusions

Pragmatics of interpreting setting (institutional vs media environment) seems to prevail in choosing both global and local interpreting strategies.

The preferred modes vary in distribution depending on the interpreting setting and skopos.