

Title: Using AI for English-Chinese Simultaneous Interpreting of Political Speeches

By: Dr Andrew K.F. CHEUNG, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Abstract: This paper provides an overview of the latest technologies and their pedagogical implications, with a focus on updating existing translation and interpreting (T&I) training models to incorporate new elements. One topic of interest is the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) language models to assist with simultaneous interpreting (SI) for politicians. SI is a demanding task that requires a high level of concentration and mental agility. This paper aims to explore how to improve the training and performance of interpreters by leveraging advances in technology, particularly in the field of AI language models.

With sufficient training, AI language models can recognize and translate formulaic expressions commonly used in political discourse, which can help improve the speed and accuracy of the SI. However, impromptu speeches may contain more unpredictable language and expressions that the AI model may not have encountered before, making it more difficult for the model to assist interpreters.

Various research methods could be employed to test the hypothesis that AI language models could aid the SI process at some meetings more effectively than at meetings with impromptu speeches. A corpus-based approach could be particularly effective to test the hypothesis that AI language models could aid the SI process at meetings where formulaic language is used extensively. While it is still a developing field, it is likely that AI language models will be able to be of some use to interpreters. However, it is important to consider the ethical implications and limitations of using AI language models during SI.

Finally, this paper compares SI renditions in Chinese of two types of English political speeches with different rhetorical features to highlight the importance of incorporating these new elements into training models. This comparison serves to demonstrate the potential benefits and pitfalls of using AI language models to assist the SI process. By analyzing the differences in how the AI language models interpret speeches with different rhetorical features, this paper aims to show how incorporating these new elements into T&I training models can improve the ability of interpreters to maintain a high level of accuracy when interpreting certain types of political speeches.