Interpreting in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Insights from "big" interpreting data

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The rapid advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) present both challenges and opportunities for the interpreting profession. This talk explores the impact of AI on interpreting research and practice, highlighting innovative platforms that utilise "big" interpreting data to empower the next generation of interpreters. Analysing extensive datasets of interpreting interactions enables insights into language patterns, cultural differences, and communication strategies. This data can be harnessed to create digital tools and platforms, equipping interpreters with invaluable information and resources to navigate the complex interpreting landscape with increased confidence.

Our discussion will concentrate on two significant interpreting corpora: the 6.5-million-word Chinese/English Political Interpreting Corpus (CEPIC; Pan 2019, https://digital.lib.hkbu.edu.hk/cepic/) and the Chinese/English Translation and Interpreting Learner Corpus (CETILC; Pan, Wong & Wang, 2022), estimated at over 1 million word tokens. We will also introduce Enter-Link, a new digital platform that integrates research from interpreting corpora data and computer-assisted interpreting tools. By examining these examples, we aim to illuminate the future prospects and challenges of the interpreting profession in the AI era. As AI technology continues to progress, its role in interpreter training and professional development will likely expand. Through exploring these developments and case studies, we hope to offer insights into how interpreting professionals and other fields can best prepare for the future.

Apart from investigating the potential of AI in developing innovative interpreting platforms that provide real-time interpretation assistance and improve interpreting accuracy and efficiency, we will discuss the ethical considerations of employing AI and big data in interpreting, such as data privacy and security concerns, and potential solutions. Our ultimate goal is to inspire a dialogue on harnessing AI and interpreting data to facilitate more effective and inclusive communication across languages and cultures, fostering continued innovation and growth in the interpreting profession.