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5 – Practice Session

Sample of formal speech:

The Challenges ahead for Europe and Asia

Speech by **Mr Romano Prodi**

Asian ambassadors meeting, Brussels, 24 September 2001- SPEECH/01/407 - Check against delivery

Your Excellencies:

Let me first of all thank you all for this kind invitation and particularly our host, the Indonesian Ambassador.

I really appreciate this occasion, which gives me the opportunity to address this distinguished audience **first** about three important tasks facing Europe:

- Enlargement,
- The single currency,
- Reform.

Then I would like to focus on the subject which is particularly important to me, namely that of Europe's partnership with Asia. And, more specifically, the challenges facing that partnership in the light of recent tragic events.

But first of all I would like to recall the important decisions we took on Friday night at the special European Summit.

Terrorism is a threat to the entire world. We have to stand together and take all necessary measures, as we have already done in Europe.

At the same time we categorically reject any equation of groups of fanatical terrorists with the Arab and Muslim world.

Excellencies,

The European Union is preparing to welcome up to **thirteen new Member States** over the next decade or two. Our Union is about to become a **family of more than 500 million people**.

This is a truly historic opportunity **to unite Europe** on the basis of **shared ideals and values**.

It is our duty to grasp this opportunity. To create a **peaceful, free and democratic Europe for all the peoples of our continent**.

Negotiations with several candidate countries are well advanced, and I would be delighted to welcome them into the Union within the lifetime of my Commission.

Our negotiating strategy is designed to consolidate democracy, human rights and sound economic policies and create a widening area of stability and prosperity in Europe.

But the Union's new borders must **not** become the **new** European dividing lines between poverty and prosperity, stability and instability.

Our second task is the single currency.

Since its launch in January 1999, the Euro has established itself in the financial markets as a global currency.

Businesses use it widely and it has boosted competition by creating real price transparency and putting an end

to exchange rate uncertainty.

On 1 January next year it will become the single currency of twelve EU countries. Asian travellers in the Euro zone will no longer have to engage in complicated currency conversions.

To all the millions of people with Euro notes and coins in their pockets, the single currency will be tangible evidence of European integration and a powerful reminder of their European identity.

It is true, of course, that the Euro has fallen more than 25 % against the dollar since it was launched. But I am convinced that when the new money is in people's pockets, confidence in it will return.

The Euro-Dollar exchange rate is not what really matters. What **matters** is the economic discipline imposed by the single currency. Stability, which is the fruit of the policies and structural reforms put in place in Europe, is enabling the Union to face even the present difficult economic situation.

Thanks to the single currency, the countries of the euro zone are sheltered from the shocks associated with monetary fluctuations.

A lot depends on how successful we are at **modernising the European economy**.

That brings me to the third challenge facing us: **reform**.

Our goal is to transform the EU into the world's most dynamic and competitive economy within this decade.

We have made encouraging progress over the past 18 months, but we still have a long way to go.

Reform of the European institutions and decision-making system is also very high on our agenda.

A Union of 27 or more members **cannot** operate using procedures designed half a century ago for a Community of six countries.

That is why, at Nice last December, the European Council agreed changes to the Union Treaty.

But the difficulty of getting 15 States to agree on **even these limited changes** convinces me that we need a new way of revising treaties in future, especially after enlargement.

That is why I am glad the Nice European Council called for a major public debate on the future of the Union, leading to an Inter-Governmental Conference in 2004.

At that conference we must **at last** settle issues such as who should be responsible for doing what in the Union.

We must also produce a Treaty that is far simpler and clearer, so that European citizens can understand what it says.

In December this year, at Laeken near Brussels, the European Council will decide how the debate on our future is to be organised.

I am personally convinced we need a **Convention** representing not only the Member State governments but also the national and European parliaments and the candidate countries. The future of the Union is **their** future too.

I have called for a debate on how we run Europe what we call "European governance" and the Commission has recently published an important discussion document on this subject.

Excellencies,

I am not forgetting the **global challenges** facing us. Challenges that are also **great opportunities** for world progress. Issues like peace and security, globalisation, world trade, development, climate change, the

protection of human rights and the need to spread democracy, good governance and the rule of law.

To meet these challenges, and to grasp these opportunities, Europe must work hand in hand with its **global partners, particularly Asia**.

I recognise, of course, that Asia is a very diverse continent. That is why we want to build **a range of partnerships** with the different Asian countries.

But our **core objective** is to **intensify the EU's attention to Asia**. As the Union enlarges from 15 to 27 or more Member States its political and economic strength will grow.

We shall be playing an increasingly prominent role on the world stage, and the EU-Asia relationship must reflect that.

In the past, EU-Asia relations focused on aid and trade. Today we want to strike **a better balance** between the **economic, political, social and cultural aspects** of our co-operation.

Our strategy focuses on six objectives.

First, **promoting peace and security** in Asia and worldwide.

The EU wants to be **more proactively involved** in your region.

This is already the case in **East Timor** and the **Korean peninsula**, and we are now making **conflict prevention** a key element in our co-operation with **Indonesia**.

Second, improving trade and investment flows between Europe and Asia.

I do believe a lot can be done within the WTO rules to remove non-trade barriers. And as the Euro simplifies life in Europe, we want our Asian partners to take advantage of this improved business environment.

Third, we want to **promote development** in the poorer Asian countries.

The EU and its Member States already provide about 30% of all **external development aid** to Asia.

The Commission is making a great effort now to improve the **quality** of that aid and to ensure it is **delivered** on time where it is needed.

And we are working with all our Asian partners on a **multiannual development programme** for the next five years, focusing on social areas like **health and education**.

Fourth, we are determined to help protect **human rights** and to spread **democracy, good governance and the rule of law**.

We want to improve co-operation through **constructive dialogue**.

Fifth, we aim to make Europeans and Asians **more aware of one another**.

One channel for this "awareness building" could be the **Commission delegations** in Asia. Some have recently been opened, and we are proposing more.

Another way forward is to promote **contacts** between citizens' associations in our different countries and to encourage **educational and cultural exchanges**.

Let us bring our European and Asian students, teachers and scientists closer together, to learn from one another!

Sixth and finally, Europe wants to build **global alliances** with Asian countries, so that **together** we can harness

the forces of **globalisation** and tackle major challenges like **climate change**, **migration** and **terrorism**.

An extremely important supplement to our bilateral partnerships with Asian countries it is our regional dialogue.

I am happy to see that we have done a lot to streamline and focus our dialogue in the framework of this regional processes.

On the occasion of the last EC-Joint Cooperation Commission, held last week, we agreed with our ASEAN partners to focus our cooperation to promote ASEAN regional integration as this is the best means to fend off external economic and financial turmoils and could create best conditions to attract foreign investments.

In ASEM we agreed in Beijing to streamline ASEM procedures and take up issues of particular concern for our people such as fighting international crime and terrorism and address the challenges of the dark side of globalisation.

The problem of terrorism has, of course, been brought home to us with horrendous force by the recent attacks on Washington and New York.

The European Commission expressed its horror at these acts of barbaric crime, its compassion for the victims and their families and its solidarity with the American people.

Only a **broad international alliance** can address the scourge of terrorism, and the European Commission wishes to express its fullest appreciation to those Asian countries that have offered support to the US and the international community in this struggle.

The Commission particularly praises the courage shown by Pakistan in deciding to co-operate in the fight against terrorism despite the enormous risks this may pose for Pakistan's internal stability and economic position.

We are grateful indeed for Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to act as mediator with the Taliban leadership, and sincerely hope that these efforts, combined with those of EU Heads of State and Government and the international community at large, will be successful.

The EU Ministerial Troika leaves today for Pakistan and will express the full support of the European Union both in political and economic terms.

Afghanistan today faces an enormous humanitarian crisis. The country has suffered 20 years of conflict, three years of drought, the emigration of many of its professionals, businessmen and academics, the destruction of its infrastructure and its public administration.

Until the events of 11 September, the Afghan people were sustained by aid provided by the international community, the United Nations, international aid agencies and NGOs.

Over many years, the EU has made a significant contribution to these efforts.

More than € 40 million a year from the EU budget, plus contributions from individual Member States.

This work has now virtually halted, as aid workers have had to leave Afghanistan for security reasons.

We sincerely hope that, before winter sets in, bringing the very real risk of famine, the aid workers will be able to return and to restart their vital work.

The EU continues to believe that lasting peace can come to Afghanistan only through the establishment of a **broad based government**.

Our objective is still to promote that outcome, and we stand ready to provide effective humanitarian assistance to vulnerable groups and populations.

When conditions permit, we shall be very happy to assist in the reconstruction of the country.

Your Excellencies,

I think we all know that Europe and Asia are facing great challenges and great opportunities.

If I have one overriding message for you today it is this: let us have the courage to grasp those opportunities **together!**

Thank you

Samples for memorizing names and numbers

COUNTRY	CAPITAL	AREA	POPULATION
ALBANIA	TIRANA	28,750	3,200,000
AUSTRIA	VIENNA	83,855	7,600,000
BELARUS	MINSK	208,000	10,200,000
BELGIUM	BRUSSELS	30,250	9,913,000
BOSNIA	SARAJEVO	51,129	4,479,000
BULGARIA	SOFIA	110,910	8,970,000
CROATIA	ZAGREB	56,538	4,683,000
CYPRUS	NICOSIA	9,250	673,000
CZECH. REP.	PRAGUE	78,922	10,350,480
DENMARK	COPENHAGEN	43,069	5,140,000
ESTONIA	TALLINN	45,065	1,571,000
FINLAND	HELSINKI	336,000	4,970,000
FRANCE	PARIS	543,965	56,100,000
GEORGIA	TBILISI	70,000	6,379,000
GREECE	ATHENS	131,985	10,000,000
HUNGARY	BUDAPEST	93,030	10,611,000
ICELAND	REYKJAVIK	103,000	244,000
IRELAND	DUBLIN	68,895	3,537,195

ITALY	ROME	301,191	57,600,000
LUXEMBOURG	VILLE	2,586	400,000
MACEDONIA	SKOPJE	25,713	2,111,000
MALTA	LA VALLETTA	316	370,000
MOLDOVA	KISHINEV	36.041	4,341,000
MONACO	VILLE	1.90	29,876
MONTENEGRO	TITOGRAD	13,812	639,000
NETHERLANDS	HAGUE	41,785	14,890,000
NORWAY	OSLO	323,895	4,190,758
POLAND	WARSAW	312,685	38,200,000
PORTUGAL	LISBON	92,082	10,400,000
ROMANIA	BUCHAREST	237,500	23,174,000
RUSSIA	MOSCOW	17,075,400	147,386,000
SERBIA	BELGRADE	55,968	9,830,000

Useful texts for exercises with links.

In the 21th century there will be less and less oil and gas. Consequently, both fuels will become more expensive. However, coal will last longer, perhaps for another 300 years. Man uses 30% of all fossil fuels to heat buildings and therefore it is possible to save 50% of all energy in houses and 30% in industry by using efficient energy conservation techniques which, as a consequence, will become more and more important in the future.

60% of all the world's oil becomes petrol for cars, buses and lorries. While in 1950 there were 4 million cars in Great Britain, today there are 25 million. Although modern cars use much less fuel than 20 years ago, nonetheless experts think there will be 50% more cars in the year 2000 than now. The world's top four coal producers are : Usa, Russia, China and Germany, due to their extensive coal fields. The world's top five oil exporters are : Saudi Arabia, Russia, The United Arab Emirates, Venezuela and Nigeria, since large oil deposits were discovered in their territory.

We all need clean, fresh water, since without it, we die in three days. But in many parts of the Third World, clean water is rare. Instead, people have to drink dirty water, and so they become ill, can't work and, furthermore, they can't afford to buy food. So, like soil erosion, also the water problem often ends in death.

Due to the fact that over 2 billion people don't have clean water, about 80% of the world's diseases come from dirty water. Furthermore, 50% of the people in hospitals are there because of diseases due to dirty water, and because of this, nearly 30,000 people die every day from diseases like this. On the contrary, everyone in Britain uses an average of 125 litres of water every day. More specifically, this is where it goes : Drinking/ cooking -35%. Toilet-32%. Bath-17%. Washing-12%. Garden/ Washing clothes-3%. Dishes-1%.

The average person in Los Angeles throws away 7 kilos of rubbish every day , whereas the average person in the Third World throws away only 1 kilo of rubbish every day. Furthermore, Britain throws away 7 million tonnes of paper every year, amounting to 80 million trees. On top of this, in one year, a European family with two children throws away 50 kilos of paper, 60 kilos of metal and 45 kilos of plastic.

On the one hand, Britain produces 8.5 billion cans per year, whereas on the other, England and Wales produce 500 tonnes of rubbish every year. As a result, 600 million pounds are needed to collect and bury all this material. In Britain, moreover, 75,000 people work in packaging factories. Surprisingly, the UK packaging industry sells 4 billion pounds of packaging, and therefore 5% of all Britain's energy goes into making packaging.

Rainforests grow in countries near the equator, and, owing to the tropical climate, they receive from 2 to 10 meters of rain every year. Since there have been rainforests on earth for over 75 million years, they are seen as the oldest habitats on the planet. Nearly 60% of rainforests are in Central and South America, whereas the rest are located in West Africa, Zaire, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. As half of the species of butterflies, birds, flowers, trees and insects live in rainforests, fifty species become extinct every day, owing to human exploitation.

Tribes have lived in rainforests of South America for over 10,000 years, and so people like these have the oldest cultures on Earth. But now they are in serious danger. When Columbus sailed to the Americas 500 years ago, between six million and nine million people lived in the Amazon rainforest. Unfortunately, today that number is less than 200,000. Since 1900, 87 tribes have disappeared completely. Why? Because outsiders shot them, poisoned them and gave them diseases, thereby contributing to their extermination.

Third world farmers don't have enough land. Consequently, 800 million people in the Third World have nowhere to grow food for their families. As a result, 250 million of them are destroying the rainforest simply to live. Actually, rich countries depend on rainforests products for the furthering of their high living standards. These include minerals, wood, medicine, and rubber, though experts say that man has discovered only 10% of the minerals in the Amazon area. By the year 2000, however, America alone will import 2 billion dollars of rainforest wood. Moreover, 25% of all medicines contain rainforest products. Rubber is used for tyres on cars, buses and lorries all over the world.

Useful texts for the identification of the main ideas.

The Pacific is the world's largest ocean, and covers an area of almost 180 million square kilometers, that is to say 40% of the planet's total sea area. The Atlantic, by comparison, covers 107 million square kilometers and the Indian Ocean 74 million square kilometers. The greatest width of the Pacific from east to west is 16,000 kilometers, and the greatest length from north to south is 11,000 kilometers. The Pacific is also earth's deepest ocean. Its average depth is 4,200 metres, but some parts are much deeper. For example, the Mindanao Trench - 11,524 metres - and the Marianas Trench - 11,022 metres -.

The economy of Australia is mainly export-based. Wheat, sheep, beef, coal, iron, minerals are all important Australian exports, 50% of which go to Japan and other Far East countries. But even so, they account for half the nation's income and a quarter of its jobs. The other 50% of income and 75% of jobs come from the service sector, that is banking, finance, tourism and the media. Over 400,000 jobs are created by more than two million visitors each year, and, surprisingly enough, Australia has more than 500 newspapers.

Japan has the world's strongest and most successful economy. Its 60 million workers - 36% of them are women - produce a wide range of high-tech and electronic goods. Many of these are exported to America and Europe. For example, cars, computers, machinery, silicon chips, robots, TVs, hi-fis, videos, watches, cameras and calculators. This strong position in banking, finance and trade has developed very quickly. In 1960 Japan produced only 1.8% of the world's GNP. By the year 2000 it will produce almost 15%. That will put it in second place behind America's 19%. However, the average Japanese is already richer than the average American.

Business is at the heart of life in Hong Kong. Goods arrive here by air and sea from all over the world. Plus there are hundreds of banks, international companies and a busy stock exchange. But Hong Kong isn't just a trading center for everyone else's products. It makes and sells its own products too. In fact it exports more than China, which has 180 times as many people. Total exports represent USD 9,000 per person per year, that is to say four times the export of the average Briton, five times the average Japanese and ten times the average American. Hong Kong sells abroad a lot of product,

including clothes, toys, hi-tech electronic goods, plastics, jewellery, cameras and watches.

When World War Two ended, Hong Kong's population had fallen to 600,000. It doubled again only four years later, though, when China had a communist revolution. What happened next in Hong Kong was an economic boom. During the 50's and 60's trade and industry developed at a fantastic speed. Thousands of factories opened. Skyscrapers appeared, and the expression "made in Hong Kong" became a familiar phrase all over the world. And with success, of course, came wealth. Today, that wealth has made Hong Kong one of the Pacific World's top economic centres.

But as the twenty-first century approaches, so does a new period of change. In 1997 Britain gave Hong Kong back to China. The Chinese government has promised that Hong Kong will be a Special Administrative Region for 50 years. That means it can continue to trade with the outside world until 2047. In other words, it will be both capitalist and communist. Before June 1989 many people in Hong Kong were optimistic that what politicians call "one country-two systems" could work. China was becoming more liberal and the future appeared bright. But then events in Tienamen Square, where Chinese authorities ruthlessly crushed big pacific demonstrations changed all that. Suddenly everything looked very different. Since then, thousands of Hong Kong families have decided to leave and start new lives in Canada, America and Europe.

From 1950 to 1953 there was a civil war in Korea. The communist north, helped by the USSR and China, fought the south, which was supported by The United States. When the war ended, Korea was divided in half along a line called the 38th parallel. Today, that border still exists and North Korea is still a communist state. But there are signs that north and south may soon end their forty years of hostility. If that happens and they reunite, Korea, like Germany, will enter a new period in its history. Recently, negotiations have begun between the two governments to explore possible ways of creating a new, unified Korea.

Between 17 September and 2 October, 1988, South Korea hosted the Olympic Games in its capital, Seoul. During those sixteen days, more than 9,000 athletes from 160 countries took part in 237 different events. An army of reporters-over 16,000- covered the Games. 4000 officials organised them and 94,000 Korean volunteers helped to make them a success. Several international sports are popular in South Korea. They include : volleyball, soccer, basketball, tennis, table-tennis, swimming, shooting and gymnastics

South Korea is booming. Its economy has grown at an annual rate of 7% over the last 25 years, which makes Korea one of the world's fastest growing country. There are eighteen million workers in the country and they produce a wide range of goods. Some of them are : ships, machinery, clothes, electronics, chemicals, computers, steel, cars and shoes. A lot of these goods are sold abroad, especially to America and Japan. In fact, these two countries alone buy 50% of Korean exports. It's the money from foreign markets that has made Korea so successful.

Australia is a big island which lies between the Indian and the Pacific oceans, is an independent state and has a population of 17 million inhabitants. Its capital is Canberra, the official language is English and the currency is the Australian dollar. It includes six territories, namely western Australia, The Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria. It has an area of roughly 7,682,000 square kilometers, and its population is mainly concentrated in its major cities, which are Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Darwin and Hobart.

As far as the political system is concerned, Australia is a parliamentary democracy, with three main political parties. The Head of state is Queen Elizabeth II, since Australia is a Member of the Commonwealth. Australia's Population is not evenly distributed, since the interior of the country is a desert, where life is rather hard and water is not easily found. The English spoken in Australia is strange, since it includes lots of dialect words and expressions. For instance, Australians call their country "down under", and instead of saying "You're welcome" they say "don't worry".

Useful texts for identifying verb forms.

Vienna

The Austrian government announced a settlement giving one-time payments of \$ 7,000 to former concentration camp inmates forced into labor by the Nazis. The \$ 393.4 million fund will benefit the

estimated 150,000 surviving victims. Under pressure from the U.S., Chancellor Wolfgang Scheussel also said a commission of historians would investigate claims by people whose property was seized by the Nazis. The government still faces an \$18 billion suit in New York City filed on behalf of those who claim to have been dispossessed.

Belgrade

In a violent crackdown on free expression in Serbia, President Milosevic ordered to close the country's largest opposition television station. The government raided the offices of other independent media, including a radio station and a daily newspaper. The crackdown was seen as a response to the growing strength of the anti-government student movement. In the wake of the government's move, 30,000 opposition supporters clashed with riot police in Belgrade.

Ramallah

As Israeli and Palestinian negotiators in Sweden struggled to reach agreement on a peace treaty, the worst skirmishes in four years erupted in the West Bank, an area near the Jordan river. Early last week, demonstrators calling for the release of 1,650 Palestinians prisoners clashed with Israeli troops, leading to gun battles which left three Palestinians dead. Further disturbances continued through the week, with another break of cross-fire on Friday in the city of Hebron.

Ethiopia

Another 50,000 refugees crossed into Sudan, with thousand more expected to arrive in the next few weeks. Ethiopia consolidated its control of the strategic town of Barentu and conducted aerial bombardments on towns along the coast, 200 km northeast of the main area of fighting. The crisis threatened international attempts to avert famine for some 16 million people suffering because of a prolonged drought in the region, The U.N. Security Council imposed an arms embargo on both countries for a period of one year.

Lima

Presidential candidate Alejandro Toledo announced he would not participate in the next round of Peru's presidential elections, saying that doing so would only serve to legitimize a fraudulent election. Toledo requested that the national electoral board postpone the elections, in which he was set to oppose candidate Alberto Fujimori, until June 18 to allow more time for improving conditions in the electoral process. Toledo's announcement came on the heels of calls from international observer groups to postpone the date in order to review new vote-counting software, which was recently implemented by the office of electoral processes.

Bogotá

The brutal murder of a Colombian farmer placed ongoing peace talks in jeopardy. President Andres Pastrana suspended the next round of talks between international delegates and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia after a 53-year-old farmer was killed in a botched extortion attempt. Pastrana called the killings "barbaric" and called on the FARC to cease kidnapping, murders and extortions immediately. A public hearing is set to begin on May 29 between the FARC and representatives from 21 countries including Canada, the U. S. And the European Union, to discuss crop substitution programs.

Vancouver

Canadian police have arrested the man allegedly at the center of China's biggest corruption scandal. Li Cheng, who was detained for immigration violations, has eluded Chinese authorities for more than a year. His group of companies is alleged to have smuggled nearly \$10 billion worth of crude oil, cars and other goods into China, depriving the government of billion of dollars in import duties. So far, 84 people have been convicted in the scandal. Of these, 11 have been sentenced to death.

Buenos Aires

Argentina came to a near standstill during a 36-hour strike called by three major labor unions, to which around half of the country's 14 million workers belong. The strike is over the government belt-tightening policies, including a five-year public-spending freeze and cuts in state pensions. The austerity measures are being introduced as a condition for a \$ 20 billion aid package from the International Monetary Fund. Argentina's recession is the worst in a decade, with more than 15% unemployment.

Brussels

European Union defense ministers agreed on specific national commitments of troops, ships and aircraft to make up a European Rapid Reaction Force. By 2003, the pool of men and weapons should enable the E.U. to dispatch 60,000 troops within 60 days and sustain them in a peacekeeping mission for up to a year. Though under central command, the force would not amount to an European army, the ministers stressed.

Barcelona

Celebrations to mark 25 years of monarchy under King Juan Carlos were marred by the murder of former socialist minister Ernest Lluch by the Basque separatist movement ETA. Lluch, 63, who served as Health Minister from 1982 to 1986, had returned to his academic career as professor of economic history at the University of Barcelona since abandoning active politics and was not considered an obvious ETA target. His killing is the 21st assassination blamed on the Basque separatists since they ended a 14-month cease-fire in January.

Beijing

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is to sign a landmark cooperation agreement with China during her visit there this week. This is the first time that China has formally agreed to cooperate with the U.N. on human rights issues. The accord was announced the day after China and the U.S. disclosed that they had agreed to resume human rights discussions, which had broken off last year in the wake of the NATO bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.

Useful texts for note-taking and re-expression.

Khartoum

Sudan assailed the U.S following the African nation's failure to win a place on the U.N. Security Council. Information Minister Ghazi Salah Eddin Atabani said concerted anti-Sudan lobbying by Washington was unprecedented by a permanent member of the Security Council and contrary to democratic values. Sudan, which is under support of terrorist activities, lost its bid for the African seat on the council to the U.S. backed Indian Ocean island of Mauritius by 113 votes to 55. The other nations joining the five permanent members for two years beginning next January are Colombia, Ireland, Norway and Singapore.

Colombo

After an inconclusive general election that left no party with an absolute majority, Sri Lankan President Chandrica Kumaratunga's ruling People's Alliance scraped back into power last week with the support of two minority parties. The new coalition has 116 seats in the 225-member Parliament and is led by the incumbent Prime Minister, Ratnasiri Wickramanayake. The campaign and election were marred by wide-spread violence that left 71 people death. Ranil Wickremasinghe, leader of the main opposition United National Party, predicted that the new government would not last its full six-year term.

Suva

George Speight, who led the May 19 coup that ousted Fiji's elected government, was last week charged with treason. Speight and his supporters were given legal immunity July 9 in exchange for freeing former Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry and 31 other hostages. The new government says they broke the terms of that deal by failing to turn in their weapons. Speight and 15 other men will be tried together on a date yet to be set. If found guilty of treason, they could face the death penalty. Police also plan to question Vice President Ratu Jope Seniloli, two cabinet ministers and Fiji's former police chief over their alleged roles in the coup and its aftermath.

Sydney

An Australian organization which denies the Nazi Holocaust has been ordered to delete the contents of its web site. In the first case to test the jurisdiction of Australia's antiracism laws on the internet, The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission found that the Adelaide Institute, headed by Frederick Toben, had breached the federal Racial Discrimination Act by publishing "bulling, insulting and offensive" material on its Web site. But the commissions' findings are not enforceable and Toben has refused to remove the material or to apologize to Australia's Jewish community, which now intends to take the case to the Federal Court.

San Salvador

The Salvadoran Congress imposed a nationwide 10-day ban on the sale of liquor, after 120 people died from drinking liquor contaminated with methyl alcohol. Police say the poisoned drink was sold to poor farm workers under the brand name Thunderbolt, a well known, cheap sugarcane liquor. They suspect black-marketers of refilling discarded bottles with a mixture containing methanol, which is normally used as an antifreeze in cars. The alcohol ban follows the failure of selective closure of stores where the alcohol was first sold to halt the rise in the death toll from adulterated liquor.

Lago Agrio

Six Americans, six Frenchmen, an Argentine and a Chilean were taken hostage in Ecuador last week when Colombian rebels seized a helicopter in which the oil workers were traveling. The helicopter was seized at gunpoint in a jungle oil field some 160 km north east of the capital, Quito, and flown to Colombia. That country's main rebel group, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, denied responsibility for the kidnap.

Jawhar

At least 25 people were killed in inter-clan fighting 90 km north of Somalia's capital Mogadishu. The clashes, commonplace since the collapse of the Siad Barré dictatorship in 1991, came a day after Abdulkassim Salad Hassan, who was elected the new Somali President at a recent peace conference in neighboring Djibouti, visited Mogadishu. Hassan, who will govern along with a 245-member parliament also elected at the conference, told an enthusiastic crowd at the Mogadishu stadium, "The time of lawlessness and anarchy is over. I will save the Somali people." He later traveled to New York to seek international assistance to rebuild the war-torn country.

Atambua

The bodies of another 11 people were found following attacks by pro-Jakarta militia on refugee camps and villages in West Timor, days after the murder of three U.N. relief workers. The UNHCR employees were killed when thousands of pro-Indonesian militia members attacked their offices. The men were beaten, dragged from the building and then burned by militia members reportedly angered by the mysterious assassination of one of their leaders the previous evening. Two other aid workers and a Brazilian tourist were injured. Hundreds of relief workers, responsible for delivering food aid to more than 100,000 East Timorese refugees, were evacuated to Bali and neighboring East Timor. In New York, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan denounced the act as one of the worst attacks on the agency's personnel anywhere and called for a moment of silence before addressing the U.N. Millennium Summit, also attended by Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid.

Sydney

The issue of performance enhancing drugs cast a shadow over the Olympic Games after a number of athletes were withdrawn or investigated following blood tests. In separate incidents, China withdrew 27 athletes from its Olympic team, an Uzbekistan team coach was stopped at Sydney Airport with two vials of human growth hormone in his luggage and other 10 athletes were being investigated for possible failing drug tests. China disgraced competitors included six distance runners trained by famed coach Ma Junren, as well as seven rowers. The World Anti-Doping Agency said at least 10 athletes, including British cyclist Neil Campbell, had produced irregular results in out-of-competition controls.

New York

The largest-ever gathering of world leaders concluded a three-day U.N. Millennium Summit with a pledge to support the organization's international role and enhance its peacekeeping activities. After several days of negotiations, the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to overhaul and strengthen the U.N.'s peacekeeping operations. But Russia and China said they would not support moves allowing the U.N. to interfere in their countries' internal affairs. Hopes of a breakthrough in Middle East peace negotiations faded after reports that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had rejected an American proposal that would divide control over holy sites in East Jerusalem between Palestinians and Israelis.

Mexico City

In an effort to kick-start peace talks with the Zapatista rebels in Chiapas, Mexican President Vicente Fox said he would withdraw troops from the strife-torn state as soon as he takes office in Dec. 1. Fox also told Spanish journalists he would meet other demands by the rebels, whose short-lived 1994 uprising remains an open wound in Mexico's revitalized democracy. Since Fox won in the July 2 elections, there has been a notable silence from the jungle stronghold of the normally voluble masked rebel leader Subcomandante Marcos.

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7 – Reading resources

Consecutive Interpreting: A Brief Review

By Roberto Santiago

In its purest form, *consecutive interpretation* is a mode in which the interpreter begins their interpretation of a complete message after the speaker has stopped producing the source utterance. At the time that the interpretation is rendered the interpreter is the only person in the communication environment who is producing a message. In practice, a consecutive interpretation may be rendered when the interpreter does not have a text in its entirety, that is, the person delivering the source utterance may have more to say, but the interpreter has enough information to deliver a message that could stand alone if need be. It is important to note that although the person who originated the message has ceased their delivery of new information, this speaker has not necessarily given up the floor and, once the interpretation has been delivered, the speaker may resume delivery of their message.

Though most people may be more familiar with *simultaneous interpretation*, where the interpreter renders their interpretation while still receiving the source utterance, consecutive interpretation has distinct advantages in certain interpreting situations, not the least of which is that consecutive interpretations render more accurate, equivalent[i], and complete target texts. In fact, the two modes, when performed successfully, employ the same cognitive processing skills, with the only difference being the amount of time that elapses between the delivery of the source utterance and the delivery of the interpretation. This being the case, mastery of techniques used in consecutive interpretation can enhance an interpreter's ability to work in the simultaneous mode.

The Interpreting Process

Before we continue I would like to take a moment to explain the interpreting process in order to explain how consecutive interpretations produce more accurate and equivalent target texts. In order to interpret a text the interpreter must be able to receive and understand the incoming message and then express its meaning in the target language. In order to accomplish this task, the interpreter must go through an overlapping series of cognitive processing activities. These include: attending to the message, concentrating on the task at hand, remembering the message, comprehending the meaning of the message, analyzing the message for meaning, visualizing the message nonverbally, and finally reformulating the message in the target language. Seleskovitch (1978) compresses these tasks into three steps, noting that the second step includes the, “Immediate and deliberate discarding of the wording and retention of the mental representation of the message” (Seleskovitch, 8); interpreters often refer to this as “dropping form.” By discarding the form (words, structure etc.) of the source text the interpreter is free to concentrate on extracting and analyzing the meaning of the text, and conceiving strategies for reformulating the message into the target language.

Seleskovitch, among others, points out that there is another practical reason for the interpreter to discard the form of the source text, there is only so much that a person can hold in their short-term memory. As the interpreter receives the source text the information passes initially through their short-term memory. If the interpreter does not do anything with this information it will soon disappear. Smith (1985) notes that, “Short term memory...has a very limited duration. We can remember...six or

seven items only as long as we give all of our attention to them” (Smith, 38). If an interpreter attempts to retain the form of a source utterance their short-term memory will be quickly filled with individual lexical items, which may not even compose a full sentence. If the interpreter

then attempts to find a corresponding lexical item in the target language for each of the source language forms in their short-term memory all of their attention will be wasted on translating these six items rather than attending to the incoming message, as Smith points out, “as long as pay attention to short-term memory we cannot attend to anything else” (Smith, 38). In a consecutively interpreted situation this would result in the interpreter stopping the speaker every six or seven words so that the interpreter could clear their short-term memory and prepare to receive new information. Clearly this is not a preferable manner in which to communicate, and, as Seleskovitch points out, it would require the interpreter to know every existing word in both languages.

It is because of the limitations of short-term memory that interpreters are required to drop form and concentrate on meaning. Both Seleskovitch and Smith propose that meaningful segments of great size can be placed into long-term memory and retrieved later. Of course a chunk of information must be understood in order to be meaningful. To demonstrate this idea Seleskovitch uses the example of a person who has just seen a movie, after viewing the film the person will be able to relate the plot and many of the details of the of the film. If the person continues to discuss the film with others the details will remain fresh in their mind for a longer period of time. In this example the person is able to remember the film because they understood it, and are, “conversant with the various themes found in films...the

movie-goer can easily and fully process the 'information' conveyed...and for this reason he remembers" (Seleskovitch, 1979, 32). Smith adds, "it takes no longer to put a rich and relevant chunk of meaning into long-term memory than it does a useless letter or word" (Smith, 45), because of this the

moviegoer will probably be able to relate the salient points of the film in a fraction of the time it took them to receive the information. Since the information was understood, its salient points can be reformulated into another mode of communication. For example, when the moviegoer discusses the plot of the film they do not recreate its form, nor do they take two hours to render their "interpretation."

Due to the greater ease of assimilating larger meaningful chunks of information it behooves the interpreter to focus their attention on these larger chunks. A larger chunk of text will usually contain a greater amount of meaning. It is this relationship that aids the interpreter's understanding of the source text when working consecutively. As shown above, once a chunk of information is understood it can be reformulated into another form. As Seleskovitch (1978) points out, "In consecutive interpretation the interpreter has the advantage of knowing line of the argument before he interprets" (Seleskovitch, 28).

Interpreters are not charged with merely understanding the message, they must also be able to remember it, in order to deliver their interpretation. Seleskovitch notes that dropping form aids the interpreter's memory because they are not concentrating on remembering the words, or even the structure of the source text. Instead, the interpreter understands the message, connects it to long-term memory, and is then able to reformulate it in much the same way the moviegoer can relate the points of a film. Of course the interpreter must provide a more equivalent target text

than the moviegoer. To this end interpreters working consecutively will often make notes as they take in the source utterance. These notes help the interpreter retrieve the message from their long-term memory and consist of, “symbols, arrows, and a key word here or there” (Seleskovitch, 1991, 7). These few notes are effective because interpreters do not produce their target texts based on the form used by the speaker but on what they understood of the meaning of the source text. The “key words” may consist of words that will remind the interpreter of the speaker’s point, or of specific information “such as proper names, headings and certain numbers” (Seleskovitch, 1978, 36).

Seleskovitch also points to the time afforded an interpreter working in the consecutive mode as an asset in reformulating the message in the target language. Because the interpreter does not need to split their attention between receiving the message, and monitoring their output, as is required in simultaneous, they can devote more of their processing to analysis and reformulation of the text thereby producing a more accurate and equivalent interpretation.

Situations for Consecutive Interpreting

Even though the interpreter’s goal is always to produce the most accurate and equivalent target text possible consecutive interpretation is not always possible. Situations where one speaker maintains the floor, with little or no interaction with the audience and situations where there is rapid turn taking between a group of interlocutors

may require the interpreter to work simultaneously. While Seleskovitch notes that spoken language interpreters working at international conferences may sometimes interpret entire speeches consecutively, the consecutive mode often requires some type of pause so that the interpreter may render the message.

That said, there are situations that lend themselves to consecutive interpretation, I would like to discuss three such situations, one general, and two specific. In general, consecutive interpretation can be employed successfully in one-on-one interpreted interactions. One-on-one interactions often allow for more structured turn taking behavior than large group situations. Interviews, parent teacher meetings, and various type of individual consultations may be interpreted consecutively with minimal disruption to the flow of communication perceived by the participants.

Specifically, there are two types of interpreted situations that, due to the consequences involved, require consecutive interpretation rather than simultaneous. These are legal and medical interpreted interactions. In these situations, where a person's life or freedom is at stake, accuracy and equivalence are of the utmost priority; as we have seen, consecutive interpretation provides greater accuracy and equivalence than simultaneous does. Palma (1995) points out that the density and complexity of witness testimony requires the interpreter to work consecutively, and to be aware of how long a chunk they can manage effectively. Palma notes that, especially during expert witness testimony, where the language used can be highly technical and is more likely to use complex sentence constructions; a segment of text that is short in duration may be extremely dense in terms of the content and complexity of its ideas. In this case the consecutive mode has the added advantage

of allowing the interpreter to ask speaker to pause so that the interpreter may deliver the message. The interpreter may also take advantage of the time in which they hold the floor to ask the speaker for clarification. Use of the consecutive mode is also helped by the fact that court officials (attorneys, judges etc.) may be familiar with the norms of consecutive interpretation and by the fact that turn taking between the witness and the attorney often proceeds with only one of the two speaking at any one time.

In the case of medical interpreting accuracy and equivalence are also at a premium due to the possible consequences of a misdiagnosis. Like expert witness testimony, doctor-patient interactions may be filled with medical jargon or explanations of bodily systems that may be particularly dense for the interpreter. Again turn taking may be more structured in a one-on-one medical environment especially if the patient is in full control of their faculties. As in the legal setting, the medical interpreter may take advantage of the structure of a doctor-patient interaction in order to request for pauses and clarifications.

Generally, the logistics of a consecutively interpreted interaction must be established before the communication takes place. In the case of a single speaker who will have little or no interaction with the audience this means either the speaker will pause for the interpreter, or the interpreter, and hopefully the audience, knows that the interpretation will not be delivered until the speaker has finished.

Establishing the logistics with all the parties involved, before the interpreted interaction takes place, can

help prevent the uneasiness that participants often feel while waiting for the interpreter to begin.

Consecutive in Relation to Simultaneous

As mentioned above the primary difference between consecutive and simultaneous interpreting is involves the time lapse between the delivery of the speaker's message and the beginning of the interpretation. While this is a significant difference, one that provides more challenges for the interpreter, at their roots consecutive and simultaneous interpreting modes stem from the same set of cognitive processes. These processes are described by many interpreting theorists, (Gish, 1986-1994; Colonomos, 1989; Isham, 1986), while Seleskovitch (1978) establishes the parallel between consecutive and simultaneous. According to Seleskovitch an interpreter working in the simultaneous mode uses the same strategies, dropping form, analyzing the message for meaning, and developing a linguistically equivalent reformulation, as does the interpreter working consecutively. After all, the goal is the same for both interpreters; to deliver an accurate and equivalent target text. The difference is that in the simultaneous mode the interpreter continues to receive and process new information while rendering, and monitoring the target for equivalence. Because interpreters working in the simultaneous mode are still interpreting meaning rather than form they also allow for a lag between themselves and the speaker. That is, the interpreter waits until the speaker has begun to develop their point before beginning to interpret. By allowing for lag time, and the interpreter ensures that they are interpreting meaning, not just individual lexical items, which Seleskovitch suggests would be an exercise in futility.

“Even memorizing a half dozen words would distract the interpreter, whose attention is already divided between listening to his own words, and those of the speaker...His memory *does not store the words* of the sentence delivered by the speaker, but *only the meaning* those words convey.” (Seleskovitch, 1978, 30-31)

Seleskovitch solidifies the correlation between the cognitive processes involved in each mode when she states, “simultaneous interpretation can be learned quite rapidly, assuming one has already learned the art of analysis in consecutive interpretation” (Seleskovitch, 30). This view has been adopted at interpreter training programs at both California State University Northridge and Gallaudet University, both of whom require classes teaching text analysis and consecutive interpreting skills prior to those dealing with simultaneous interpreting.

Conclusion

Rather than being two separate skills, mastery of consecutive interpretation is in fact a building block for successful simultaneous interpretations. In fact, thanks to the time allowed for comprehension and analysis of the source text consecutive interpretations offer greater accuracy and equivalence than do simultaneous interpretations. There are situations that lend themselves to consecutive interpretations (one-on-one interactions), and others still which require use of the consecutive mode (legal, medical) due to the consequences of a possible misinterpretation.

i[i] For the purposes of this paper, “accuracy” relates to the content of the text, while “equivalence” relates to the ability of the target text to convey the register, affect, and style of the source text. An “accurate” interpretation will provide the target language audience with all of the information contained in the source text, while an equivalent interpretation will provide the content, and also have the same effect on the target language audience as it would on a source language audience. By these definitions an interpretation may be accurate, without being totally equivalent, while an equivalent interpretation assumes accuracy.

i[ii] List of cognitive processing skills taken from class notes in Risa Shaw’s Gallaudet University class “ITP 724, Cognitive Processing Skills; English” (2002)