

UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE BARCELONA
FACULTAT DE TRADUCCIÓ I D'INTERPRETACIÓ

22503 Prácticas de interpretación consecutiva

(inglés-castellano)

Año académico 2002-2003

Profesor: John Matthews Packer

Calendario y horario

Grupo	Sesión	Horario
1	1	lunes 14 ³⁰ - 17 ³⁰
2	1	martes 14 ³⁰ - 17 ³⁰
<p style="text-align: center;">Créditos: 4. Despacho (K1013) ☎ 5813375. Horario atención: lunes 17³⁰ - 18³⁰; martes 10³⁰ - 14³⁰ ; 17³⁰-18³⁰ E-mail John.Matthews@uab.es</p>		

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Aims of the course

The course in Practicas de Interpretación Consecutiva directly follows that of *Técnicas de interpretación consecutiva* (TIC) and should be regarded as a complement to it.

Whereas in TIC the student is provided with a general theoretical framework within which to work and practise newly-acquired techniques, in PIC an opportunity is afforded to continue perfecting what has already been acquired, the difference being that in PIC there is an added complication - the foreign language.

It goes without saying that the aim of the course is not to teach language. There is an initial supposition that the student will have very few (and hopefully no) problems in understanding English oral discourse.

In those (hopefully rare) cases where problems might arise, the emphasis will be on using the context/situation in which the speech/comments/statements is/are made to hazard an informed and intelligent guess at the contextual meaning of something which, for whatever reason, might not have been entirely understood at first hearing.

This notwithstanding, it is obvious that the student will acquire substantial amounts of vocabulary and expressions in English as the course goes along - perhaps more than he or she has already learned in translating written texts, since in interpreting we are dealing for the main part with a wide range of discourse types which may co-exist within a given communicative situation. In practical terms this means that during the course of a speech a given speaker may range from very informal, almost chatty, discourse to very formal discourse (when quoting from written texts, for example).

In view of what has just been said, great emphasis will be laid on flexibility and good reflexes on the part of the interpreter. A great deal of time will be devoted to reformulation in Spanish of a given message in English, in an endeavour to establish where the frontiers of acceptability lie - i.e. to what extent may one "bend the rules" or "cut corners" with a view to facilitating communication, the interpreter's main concern and responsibility.

A wide variety of (oral) "text-types" will be used, including material recorded from the media, specially prepared speeches, transcripts of parliamentary debates, doorsteps and so on. There will be a general progression from so-called "easier" speeches to more "difficult" ones ("difficulty" meaning propositional density and existence or not of well-developed schemas and scripts — something already dealt with at length in the "Técnicas de interpretación consecutiva" course).

Schedule

Weeks		Dossier
Nov	1	Miscellaneous: Variety of exercises to ease transition from TIC to PIC
Nov	2	Pot pourri: Water/MD/Refugees etc.
Nov	3	Social: Sexual trafficking
Nov	4	Economy: Globalisation & World Trade
Dec	1	European: Alcohol consumption
Dec	2	International: AIDS. <u>Mid-course exam</u>
Dec	3	Politics: Bangladesh. .
Jan	1	Science: Stem cells
Jan	2	International: Racism (Durban)

Jan

2

International: Racism (Durban)

Dossiers will be made available in good time. It goes without saying that students are expected to study the texts **thoroughly** before coming to class — the value of well-developed schemas (enabling top-down processing, and hence less pressure on limited cognitive resources) has been demonstrated time and again in interpreting class, and students should therefore prepare the different subjects accordingly. Coursework will be interspersed with real speeches taken from various sources. Recorded audio tapes (mainly from BBC Radio 4) will also be available for students who feel that they need them. Students are also encouraged to **read** as many speeches in English as possible (see websites on page 4) so as to get a “feel” for formal discourse in English-speaking countries.

Workload

Students will of course be expected, as in the TIC course, to interpret speeches given in class. Specific details of the speech schedule will be settled at the beginning of the course. They are also expected to practice on their own regularly in their own time.

Evaluation of coursework

Course evaluation will be based on the following system: 30% of the final mark will come from the mid-course examination (the “parcial”, **9/10th December 2002**), 70% will come from the final examination (date to be determined by the Cap d’Estudis). Class attendance and classwork in general will also be taken into account when awarding the final mark.

The PIC final examination will consist of the interpretation from English into Spanish of a four-minute speech concerning an issue taken from one (or all) of the four dossiers dealt with during the course. Marks will be awarded in the same fashion as for the TIC examination, i.e. accuracy in the interpretation (propositional content, absence of elaborative inferences), expression (vocabulary and cohesion) and finally delivery (speed, voice, tone).

The Internet

The Internet has proved to be an invaluable (almost essential) and certainly time-saving tool for keeping abreast of current events in the world. To help students organise their time, I have provided below a short list of what seem me to be useful WWW sites.

On-line newspapers and news services

El País Digital <http://www.elpais.es/>

La Vanguardia <http://www.>

The Guardian <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

The Independent <http://www.independent.co.uk/>

CNN <http://www.cnn.com/>

Speeches in English

http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/EOP/OP/html/OP_Speeches-plain.html
http://canada.gc.ca/english/pmo/pm_speech/index.htm
<http://www.dfat.gov.au/pmb/pmbhome.html>
<http://www.fco.gov.uk/index.html>
<http://www.israel.org/mfa/speeches/speeches.html>
<http://www.nla.gov.au/pmc/pressrel/speech.html>
<http://www.oas.org/EN/PINFO/speech.htm>
<http://www.polity.org.za/govdocs/speeches/>
<http://www.unido.or.at/start/about/media->

Discursos en español

<http://www.la-moncloa.es/indice31.htm>
<http://www.oas.org/EN/PINFO/SG/speech.htm>
<http://www.presidencia.gov.co/noticias/noticias.htm>
<http://www.quicklink.com/mexico/presiden.htm>
<http://www.quicklink.com/mexico/presidencia.htm>
<http://www.quicklink.com/mexico/srel.htm>

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