

EXERCISE: AS 1

Module:	Transfer Skills
Type of Exercise:	Group observation and analysis of a professional interpreter's performance - whispered interpreting
Topic:	Pre-trial hearing (to confirm custody)
Learning Outcome(s):	On completion of this exercise, trainees will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• analyse critically an interpreter's performance in an Italian pre-trial hearing• provide correct translations of formulaic language used at this stage, after carrying out the necessary research.
Language (Combination):	Italian/Spanish
Equipment:	N/A
Time:	Approx. 1 hour
Suitable for:	Introductory/Intermediate For class use or self-study
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Notes:	This text can be used for a number of training purposes. It can be used to teach trainees to observe critically an interpreter's performance. The transcript also contains set phrases typical of pre-trial hearings that trainees can be asked to research, in order to suggest alternative renditions. Consider using it as the basis for a whispered interpreting exercise: all the interpreter's renditions can

be deleted and the rest can be recorded to serve as practice material.

This text links with AS 2 (Defendant examination), AS 3 (Witness testimony) and AS 4 (Trial verdict).

This is a transcript of an actual court case brought before the Rome Criminal Court. All names and other personal references have been deleted to preserve privacy.

CASE OUTLINE

An Argentinean woman and her boyfriend have been arrested in Rome for drug dealing. The police found a small greenhouse with marijuana plants in their flat and significant quantities of the drug ready for sale. The girl had been living somewhere else but had left her flat because of problems with her flat mate, another girl. She had only been in her boyfriend's flat for three days when the two were arrested. In the following transcript the girl is the defendant.

Read the following transcript from the pre-trial hearing and analyse the interpreter's renditions.

TRANSCRIPT

Giudice: Allora sentiamo la richiesta del pubblico ministero

PM: Convalida d'arresto per entrambi. Custodia cautelare in carcere per entrambi

Interprete: *Entonces se está pidiendo...es decir, dice que vale el hecho que los hayan traído ustedes aquí y están pidiendo la cárcel para los dos, para ti y para él también, que vayan a la cárcel, él es el señor fiscal, ahora va a decidir el juez*

Avvocato: Per la convalida dell'arresto non lo osservo anche per la “_” mentre invece mi oppongo alla richiesta di custodia cautelare per la signora, quindi nessuna misura, per il “_” credo che avendo invece domicilio certo in via “_” hanno smontato ovviamente sequestrato tutto ecc. forse gli arresti domiciliari potrebbero esser concessi. Grazie

Interprete: *Ahora el juez va a decidir donde ustedes se van a quedar, si confirman con arresto, la cárcel a los dos, el fiscal haya ya solicitado que los dos tiene que ir a la cárcel. Cuando diga eso luego no sé si va a terminar hoy día o va a pedir un plazo, otra cita*

Avvocato: Sì venerdì prossimo

Interprete: *Entonces se va a aplazar la cosa y ahora le van a decir si se queda libre o con firma o con arresto, con cárcel lo que sea para terminar de celebrar el juicio vas a saber cuánto tiempo...el próximo viernes*

Giudice: Il tribunale ha rilevato che l'arresto è stato debitamente eseguito, persistono a carico di entrambi gli imputati dei gravi indizi di colpevolezza desumibili dalla relazione del consulente operante da cui risulta che entrambi sono stati trovati all'interno dell'abitazione in cui era stata costruita la serra artificiale per la coltivazione di marijuana e all'interno della quale è stato ritrovato un rilevante quantitativo di droga; che sono entrambi soggetti stranieri con un evidente disagio della situazione lavorativa, per cui hanno rilevato un precedente specifico...in seguito alla

gravità del fatto vige la pena che imprescindibilmente dovrà essere erogata...e per questo non avranno motivi di sospensione o revisione della pena...per questi motivi vaglia l'arresto di entrambi e dispone nei confronti di entrambi l'applicazione della misura di custodia cautelare in carcere.

Interprete: *Entonces se está pidiendo que los dos vayan a la cárcel porque hay graves indicios de culpabilidad que parece que usted estaba cultivando drogas, estaban juntos, los encontraron allí, éstos son los motivos*

EXERCISES

Use the following criteria in your observation of the interpreted interview. Record your observations by placing a tick (√) in the relevant box.

1. FAITHFULNESS OF INTERPRETATION

	Yes	No	Partly	Notes
1.1 Looking at the interview as a whole, was the interpretation provided faithful?				
1.2 Was any message <u>summarised</u> in the interpreter's rendition?				
1.3 Were any parts of the message <u>omitted</u> from the interpretation?				
1.4 Was anything <u>added</u> in the interpretation?				
1.5 Was anything <u>changed or distorted</u> in the interpretation?				

2. LANGUAGE USE

	Yes	No	Partly	Notes
2.1 Did the interpreter use correct grammar and syntax in Spanish?				
2.2 Did the interpreter successfully				

translate specialist Italian terms into Spanish?				
2.3 Did the interpretation reflect the same register as the original? (i.e. formal, colloquial, conversational etc)				
2.4 Did the interpreter consistently use forms of address (<i>tu-vosotros; Ud - Uds</i>) when interpreting for the defendant?				

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Which aspects of the interpreter's professional practice would you change, if any?
2. In each case, explain your reasons for recommending these changes.
3. If you are unhappy with some of the interpreter's translation choices, do some research and come up with suitable alternatives.