What is sight translation

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Definition:

Sight translation transforms a written message into a spoken message. It involves reading a text silently in the source language, and then speaking it in the target language.

What is the difference between sight and written translation?

As opposed to written translation, which is the written rendering of a document from one language into another, sight translation is the oral rendering of a document from one language into another.

What is the difference between sight and written translation?

As opposed to interpreting, which is the oral rendering of a speech from one language into another, at sight translation is the oral rendering of a document from one language into another.

Process of Sight translation

1. **Scan** the text to determine the subject matter, context, style and country of origin.
2. **Make a mental note** of common pitfalls unique to the source language.
3. **Skim the passages** quickly and identify key features, commas, etc.
4. **Translate sentence by sentence** focusing on one unit of meaning at a time.
5. **Maintain a steady pace**, translate as smoothly as possible.

Skills required for Sight translation

1. **Complete command** both languages.
2. **Good public speaking**, voice projection, good posture and smooth pacing.
3. **Mental agility and flexibility** in order to work on two channels at once (simultaneously processing the source language while speaking in the target language).

Strategies of Sight translation

1. **Translate** as smoothly as possible.
2. **Look up and keep** a glossary of any difficult terms.
3. **Practice out loud** always, with or without an audience.
4. **Record yourself** on audio or video tape so that you know how you sound and look.

Summary

Sight translation can be defined as the reading of a text by the interpreter from the source language into the target language, simultaneously, in a manner in which the content of the document can be easily understood by the audience, or when the interpreter also translates a document orally on the spot as part of an interpreting assignment.

Although it is not always considered as a mode, it is nevertheless often used and is not usually documented in available interpreting manuals. It is nowadays the most commonly used form in environments such as courtrooms, in cases such as the reading of a witness's statement or a court ruling.