

Pragmatic Competence in Political Discourse Interpreting

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Abstract: *The paper aims to give a comprehensive account of translation strategies for English-Ukrainian interpretation of Joseph R. Biden's speech in Poland. Political speeches serve as a multi-purpose tool, shaping people's consciousness and reinforcing political practices and firmly held beliefs. Therefore, the appropriate translation methods are needed to retain such a communicative effect on the recipient audience. Political discourse interpreting requires a high level of pragmatic competence, and interpreters must have the skills and knowledge to effectively convey the speaker's intended meaning in a culturally and linguistically appropriate way. The current research is based on the semiotic and communicative-pragmatic approaches to the study of political discourse interpreting. In this regard, the comparative method and contextual analysis proved efficient in comparing the source language text with the target one. The study results show that interpreting political discourse sets to provoke similar reactions in the source and target text addresses. The studied speech in English is abundant in stylistic devices and expressive means to exert a pragmatic effect. It has been proven that linguo-stylistic features are retained in the interpreted message by incorporating formal correspondences and various transformations. The interpreter of the political speech in question has the ability to adjust the language, style, and delivery of the interpreted message to fit the cultural and linguistic context of the target audience.*

Keywords: *translation strategy, political speech, semiotic and communicative-pragmatic approaches, interpreting, pragmatic competence.*

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Introduction

Postmodernism has emerged as a new form of social order which provoked considerable disputes and formulated distinct conceptions. The former “has destroyed many obsolete sides and elements of the previous era, taking its own place in the culture of the new century” (Mokshev & Nurmanbetova, 2018, p. 78). In the postmodern epoch, traditional modernist values are regarded as “limited” and dubious since they do not legitimize postmodern reality.

The radical change in the perception of civilization leads to reconsidering the role of politics and power in human life. Mediocracy becomes the primary means of executing power and dominates the global political landscape. Postmodern research on global political space focuses on the global community formation issue.

Current technologies and global information processes attach much importance to political awareness. Consciousness shapes and determines human behaviour. Manipulative strategies affecting them are viewed as a form of power. From new postmodern perspectives, the latter is interpreted as “dispersed,” indeterminate, “heteromorphous,” subjectless, and primarily productive, shaping the subject in toto, Best (1994, p. 36). Undoubtedly, globalization as a new form of political power makes us follow definite conduct manipulating our consciousness. The former advances beliefs in progress, a brilliant mind, and the desire to achieve the aim of erasing cultural borders.

The society of the “new epoch” has become pluralistic. It is dominated by pragmatic political discourse and rejects rigid dogmas. Establishing such political discourse in Ukraine leads to a substantial transformation of symbolic political space. On the one hand, the development of new mass communication technologies contributed enormously to widening the recipient audience, unified by common symbolic space. Nevertheless, on the other hand, it discovered a new tool for manipulating the social consciousness of the community via political language and rhetoric.

Postmodern views on language contradict the idea of treating it as a direct link to understanding reality. Its connection to entities in the ambient world is viewed as delusive and fallacious. Postmodernists claim that the world is represented in concepts standing for things and phenomena and mirroring objective reality. Since language may have endless interpretations, it is difficult to rely on merely referring the word to an object it denotes.

A language is a powerful tool used for various purposes. Among its key functions, “modelling the world is fundamental”, Chandler (2017, p. 72). However, lexical units are related to certain referents in the ambient world, which they designate and other words of the same language constructing various senses. Until recently, scholars in the field of translation studies have united their efforts on disclosing the verbal aspects of texts. However, more than ever, contemporary translators and interpreters are involved in working on messages expressed implicitly, the “blank spaces between words” (Bielsa & Bassnett, 2009, p. 18).

Lytra (2016, p. 135) believes that “the shift from code and community as bounded units to language users and their languaging and ethnifying practices is premised on the conception of language as a social construction.” Consequently, to decode complex and culture-specific meanings in the edifice of language, the relations between the communicative acts and functional aspects of language units should be thoroughly scrutinized. As an inseparable part of language study, pragmatics focuses on determining the extralinguistically motivated choices of language means. In other words, it is aimed at disclosing socially-embedded meanings in different communicative situations. Thus, the study of language means requires the communicative-pragmatic approach since discourse is “both a separate verbal product of speech and the context in which it is carried out” (Sagadiyeva et al., 2021, p. 1618).

The suggested approach in interpreting emphasizes the importance of effective communication, pragmatic competence, audience-centeredness, and compliance with ethical standards. In addition, it recognizes that interpreting is a complex process that goes beyond the literal meaning of words and that effective communication requires a profound understanding of the social and cultural communicative context. By emphasizing these principles, interpreters can provide accurate, effective, and culturally sensitive communication that meets their clients’ needs and promotes cross-cultural understanding.

Pragmatic competence is vital in interpreting because communication between speakers of different languages and cultures can be complex and nuanced. However, with an understanding of the social and cultural communicative context, interpreters may be able to accurately convey the intended meaning of a message, eliminating misunderstandings and ineffective communication.

Nowadays, mass media play a significant role in thought generation. People cognize the world by learning information on current events and social processes. Globalization of worldwide political space and an ongoing

war in Ukraine trigger the interest in international media and stipulate their translation from English into Ukrainian. Political news poses a severe challenge for interpreters requiring the interpretation and adaptation of their context to the target language addressee. They are believed “to operate first and foremost in the interest of the culture into which they are translating, whichever way that interest is conceived of”, Toury (2012, p. 6). In this respect, interpreting can be regarded as “a way of negotiating cultural and/or linguistic differences in interaction and interpreter-mediated interaction as a specific case of intercultural communication, in which cultural and linguistic differences are constructed and negotiated”, Baraldi (2018, p. 15). The interpreter needs not only to transmit the original message precisely into the target language but its pragmatic potential. The latter is oriented towards creating the effect on the target audience by appropriating the message through linguistic signs.

Regarding the present state of the relationships between politics, the media, and the public, oral political discourse is increasingly essential in translation studies. Political speeches broadcast on TV are fast becoming a key instrument in bringing politicians closer to citizens. Furthermore, they act as propaganda tools, manipulating mass consciousness, imposing fervent beliefs, and attaining persuasive ends. However, political rhetoric is difficult to interpret because it implies philosophy, cultural manifestations, and ideology to attain persuasive ends. For a translation to be “a means of political engagement”, Chouarfria (2018, p. 73), the interpreter must set clear goals, raise values to be respected when choosing texts, and possess an indomitable will to adapt them to political agendas.

This paper **aims** to approach the issues of political discourse interpreting from semiotic and pragmatic perspectives by analyzing stylistic devices and translation techniques used to render the American President’s speech into Ukrainian.

In light of the latest events in the world and current scientific tendencies in translation studies, the research seems promising and **relevant** in several aspects. First, it is the first step towards enhancing the understanding of political discourse interpreting as a unique process of creating and transmitting both lingual and pragmatic cultural codes. Second, the study offers insight into comparative linguistics. It deals with the matters concerned with the differences in language structures and verbalization of concepts encapsulated in lexical units.

Third, political discourse is considered to be a specific textual genre due to its pragmatic loading and persuasive force. Its proper translation demands considerable political awareness and profound linguistic and

pragmatic competence on the interpreter's part. The analysis of the translation strategies employed to retain the communicative function of the source language message may shed light on the cognitive mechanisms accompanying the translation process and implicit signs that need to be deciphered.

Fourth, the research enables us to assess the interpreter's ability to trigger the target audience's interest in the subject and cause the same reaction as the source language text. Fifth, Biden's speech reproduces the realistic picture of unfair wartime reality when the media often manipulates and abuses human consciousness. Its thorough cross-lingual analysis would contribute much to disclosing the extra-lingual factors influencing the make-up of political discourse and objective perception of current events and situations in Ukraine and the world.

Finally, political speeches are a rich data source for research on interpreting and pragmatics since they are typically delivered in high-stakes contexts and are often designed to persuade or influence an audience. As such, they can provide insights into how language is used to achieve specific communicative goals, such as building alliances, mobilizing support, or delegitimizing opponents.

Since social processes and relationships are meaningful when they "are situated in a particular historical, socioeconomic, and political moment", Halualani (2019, p. 37), the political speeches delivered in the context of the current full-scale war in Ukraine stir considerable scientific interest. The speech of American President Joseph Biden in support of Ukrainians (Poland, March 26) and its translation have served as the material of the current study. The relevant data have been borrowed from PBS NewsHour (2022) and Hovoryt velykyi Lviv (2022). The interpreter of the speech is unknown.

Various linguistic methods have been used to achieve the set goals. The research methodology centers on the semiotic and communicative-pragmatic approach to the study of political discourse interpreting. The comparative method has been applied to compare the source language message with the target one, disclosing similarities and differences in transmitting meaning. Contextual analysis has provided an indispensable tool for determining the speaker's intent in the input language and retaining it in the output.

Development of Pragmatic Competence in Interpreting

The interpreter's role in the 21st century is more significant than ever before. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, there is a growing need for interpreters to facilitate communication between people speaking different languages.

Interpreters play a vital role in various settings, including international business meetings, conferences, legal proceedings, medical appointments, and diplomatic events. They help to bridge the language gap between individuals and groups, enabling them to communicate effectively and achieve their goals. Dayter (2021, p. 29) highlights the need for the interpreters to act as "pragmalinguistic agents". In addition to facilitating communication, interpreters provide cultural and linguistic insights that can help avoid misunderstandings and foster positive relationships between individuals and organizations from different backgrounds.

Professional interpreters listen to the speakers and comprehend the meaning behind their words. This process demands an understanding of the language being spoken and an awareness of the social and cultural communicative context. Acting as an interpreter, a person must "communicate the speaker's intended messages as accurately, faithfully, and completely as possible" (Setton & Dawrant, 2016, p. 123). Therefore, he/she must have strong language skills and a deep understanding of the socio-cultural settings in which communication occurs.

In his seminal work, Pöchhacker (2004, p. 57) points out that "if what the interpreter says must make sense against the listener's horizon of socio-cultural knowledge, and if the interpreter is the only person capable of assessing that knowledge, he or she may well have to paraphrase, explain or simplify in order to achieve the communicative effect desired by the speaker". In this regard, the interpreter should possess pragmatic competence in interpreting settings. The latter refers to "an interpreter's ability to understand verbal discourses with conventional and culturally-loaded expressions in a given language and to make appropriate amendments so as to produce a natural and spontaneous interpretation" (Lu, 2019, p. 42). In interpreting, pragmatic competence is essential because it enables interpreters to convey not only the literal meaning of the message but also the underlying intent and social implications.

Interpreters with strong pragmatic competence can identify and convey the nuances of language use, such as idiomatic expressions, sarcasm, and cultural references, that are often lost in literal translations. They can also adapt their interpretation style to the specific context of the

communication, such as the social setting, the participants' relationship, and the purpose of the communication.

Pragmatic competence comprises several components (Fig. 1). The former requires linguistic knowledge, including vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and phonology. This includes knowledge of both the source and target language and the ability to recognize and understand the differences between them.

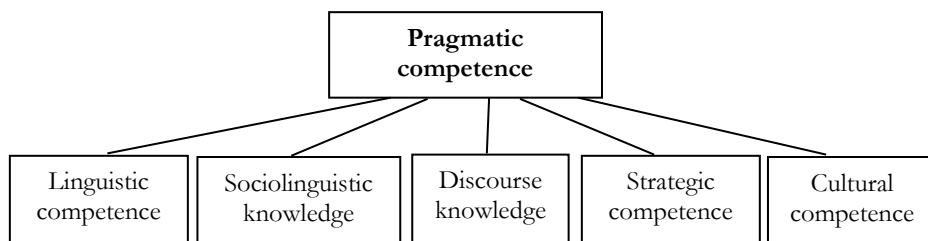


Fig. 1. Components of pragmatic competence
Source: authors' own conception

Pragmatic competence also requires an understanding of the social context of language use. The former includes knowledge of the social and cultural norms affecting language use, such as politeness, register, and social hierarchy. Finally, discourse knowledge refers to understanding and producing cohesive and coherent spoken or written texts. This process encompasses knowledge of the discourse organization and structure and the ability to use discourse markers, connectors, and other cohesive devices.

Strategic competence refers to the ability to use language strategically to achieve communication goals. The former comprises the ability to use repair strategies to correct misunderstandings and adapt communication style to adjust to the situation and the participants' needs. Finally, cultural competence refers to navigating cultural differences and communicating effectively across cultural boundaries. It includes understanding cultural norms and values and the ability to recognize and adapt to cultural differences in communication styles. Overall, these components work together to enable individuals to effectively use language in various social and cultural contexts, making pragmatic competence an essential skill for effective communication.

Many studies have focused on strategies for enhancing future interpreters' pragmatic competence in interpreting (House, 2008; Rafieyan, 2016; Setton & Dawrant, 2016). The latter is necessary for several reasons. Firstly, interpreters characterized by well-developed pragmatic competence

are better equipped to interpret the meaning behind the speaker's words accurately. Secondly, pragmatic competence can help ensure that the communication is accurate and effective in achieving its intended purpose. Thirdly, interpreters adapt their style and approach to suit the speaker's needs and bridge cultural gaps. Finally, strong pragmatic competence is a crucial component of professionalism in interpreting. Interpreters who demonstrate strong pragmatic competence are viewed as more skilled, reliable, and trustworthy by their clients and colleagues.

Achieving a high level of pragmatic competence in interpreting is a process that requires ongoing effort and dedication. Explicit instruction of pragmatic features such as idioms, figurative language, and cultural references can help future professionals develop their pragmatic competence. It can include providing explanations and examples, as well as communicative activities. In addition, using authentic resources such as videos, news broadcasts, and recordings of real-life interactions can expose interpreters to a range of pragmatic features and help them develop their interpretation skills.

Feedback is crucial for trainees to understand how others perceive their interpretation. Instructors can provide feedback on the accuracy of the interpretation as well as the appropriateness of the interpretation in terms of context and pragmatic features. Encouraging students to reflect on their interpretation performance and how it may differ from the original speaker's intended meaning can help them develop their pragmatic competence. Understanding cultural norms and values is essential for adequate interpretation. Instructors can provide cultural awareness training and encourage students to research the speakers' cultural background.

However, misunderstandings are common in interpreting as the target audience may fail "to understand what their non-native interlocutors intend to communicate with an utterance in a specific communicative circumstance or do not capture the intended pragmatic force of their utterances" (Cruz, 2013, p. 27). In this respect, translation transformations and pragmatic competence in interpreting are closely linked and crucially important. Translation transformations refer to the changes that occur in code shifting. These changes can be linguistic, cultural, or pragmatic. Translation transformations can impact the interpreters' pragmatic competence by changing the meaning, tone, or context of the original message. For example, certain expressions or idioms may lack an equivalent in the target language, resulting in a loss of meaning or tone in the translated text. Similarly, cultural differences can impact the interpretation of a message, as certain concepts or beliefs may not have a direct equivalent in

another culture. Interpreters with strong pragmatic competence can navigate these translation transformations by adapting their interpreting style and approach to suit the audience's needs.

By implementing these strategies, interpreters can develop their pragmatic competence and become more effective interpreters in various socio-political contexts.

Semiotic and Pragmatic Approaches to Political Discourse Interpretation

Political systems constantly undergo changes which are reflected in language. The cognitive and social experience of the nation is therefore stored and transmitted through it. However, political language cannot be considered purely terminologically used for specific purposes since it determines its value in discourse. The latter embodies many concepts, yet it lacks a precise, comprehensive definition. Commenting on the issue, (de la Fuente et al. 2020, p. 2) associate discourse with a written text which can be amply characterized as a coherent sequence of sentences providing information on a common topic. However, such an explanation seems to overlook that political discourse can be realized in both written and oral forms. The latter includes public political speeches, TV, and radio interviews, press conferences, pre-election debates, and TV news. Whatever type of oral discourse is considered, politicians keep pointedly exploiting political rhetoric to enhance the impact on the recipient audience and make it more impressive. Furthermore, its function is often to propagandize politicians' messages to the target audience.

Interpreting has been carried out for a long time yet understanding the peculiarities of the complex process of transforming information from the source language into the target one has become the central issue for research worldwide. Recent trends in linguistics, translation, and interpretation studies have led to a proliferation of research works on political discourse (Cap, 2015; Guo, 2015; Jabali, 2021; Matsushita & Schaffner, 2018; Nerubasska & Maksymchuk, 2020; Nerubasska et al., 2020; Onyshchak, 2021). Cap (2015) applies proximization theory to determine the essential features of evaluative rhetoric in political discourse. The scholar has drawn conclusions based on the comprehensive analysis of the US rhetoric of the Iraq war (2003–2004).

Guo (2015) highlights the point that Chinese interpreters' political awareness is vital yet not crucial in political conference interpreting. The speech of the Japanese Prime Minister on the 70th anniversary of the surrender of World War II has become the object of Matsushita &

Schaffner's work (2018). The reports on the speech in English and German have been compared, and the advantages of multilingual collaboration in global news translation have been pointed out. Skopos theory is viewed as the best approach adopted in translating political discourse since it "looks at both theoretical aspects of the process of translation and pragmatic ones", Jabali (2021, p. 82).

The study of translation strategies in the translation of the American President's inaugural address has been conducted by Onyshchak (2021). It has reported that political discourse undergoes interlingual changes and the message is often fully syntactically rearranged to retain communicative function in the target language text.

Traditionally, translation was viewed concerning its outcome. However, recent decades have witnessed a notable shift from focusing on the translation product to the process leading to it. The translation is thus associated with meaning-making, which is possible by translating signs into signs, Marais (2019, p. 122). Furthermore, integrating cognitive mechanisms into translation and interpreting accelerated a semiotic model of translation to be assembled.

Semiotics is regarded as "a constellation of beliefs, values, and techniques which serve as a unifying matrix or technique mediating knowledge", Gorlee (2012, p. 18). Indeed, any language can be represented through a set of signs (code). Respectively, any oral message can be viewed as a chain of thoroughly selected and organized signs transmitting the items of information. Charles Morris (1938), one of the founders of semiotics, put forward the idea of dividing sign systems into three fields of study (Fig. 2).

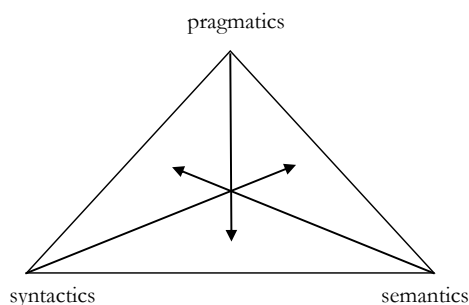


Fig. 2. Morris's semiotic model of human information processing
Source: *Morris, 1938*

As follows from Fig. 1 shown above, the systems are closely interconnected. Semantics is defined as the study of the relation between signs and designated objects. Syntax refers to the formal relations of signs to

one another. Pragmatics describes the relation of signs to interpreters. Regarding interpreting, we can assume that semantics serves as a formally encoded system of denotational meanings. Syntactic similarity presupposes the closest possible formal correspondence between the source and target messages. From a sentence construction perspective, cohesion and coherence prove to be powerful tools. However, every message should suit the aim of communicating and be equivalent to the source message pragmatically. In other words, the target text is received through encoding the signs constructing the source message. The former should also have the same impact on the recipient as the original one. Thus, interpreting can be framed as “a sophisticated adaptation of general semiotics”, Gorlee (2012, p. 18), the process of recording the oral message.

Nevertheless, treating a language as a code is somewhat conventional since the latter remains unchanged. On the contrary, language is in constant flux, Nykytchenko (2019, p. 64), enriched daily. As a vehicle of thought, it differs substantially from other sign systems. Firstly, it presents a hierarchy with a definite structure. Secondly, each linguistic sign has an asymmetrical structure, possessing the plane of content and the plane of expression. The latter can be assigned several senses, extending the language functions as a coding system. Thirdly, the overall sense of the message cannot be deduced from the sum of elementary signs. The internal integration of signs into a meaningful sequence promotes the transmission of complex communicative information. Interpreting is thus not a mere linguistic conversion of the sign sequence from one language to another. It encompasses “cultural, aesthetic, and situational layers”, Lee (2021, p. 181) and “a whole set of extra-linguistic criteria”, Bassnett (2013, p. 23).

Semiotics allows scholars to access the interpreter’s thought processes and analyze how different modes are organized, Dicerto (2018, p. 16). In the seminal article, Presner et al. (2021, p. 131) claim that “cognition coordinates the process of semiotic translation even though it does not serve to construct an accurate representation of the world.” The primary goal of semiotic translation incorporates decoding the original message, processing information, and its underlying encoding in the target language. Either simultaneous or consecutive interpreting may cause cognitive problems “conditioned by certain socio-cultural and historical experience shared by representatives of the target language culture” (Onyshchak et al., 2021, p. 226).

The fundamental perennial question of how much freedom an interpreter can assume when bringing a text across linguistic boundaries is still open to debate. Primarily, the notion of interpreting has been expanded by attaching greater importance to the dual cultural context. Henceforth, the

former resembles a cross-cultural dialogue that “facilitates the active search of diverse forms and mechanisms representing the alien culture” (Shapoval et al., 2022, p. 382).

The linguistic features are retained in the target language due to the assigned importance from the recipient’s vantage point, Toury (2012, p. 6). House (2016) pertains that the linguistic aspects of discourse can be located at various linguistic levels (Fig. 3).

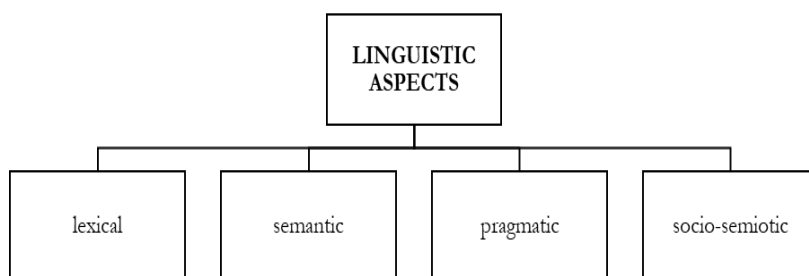


Fig. 3. Linguistic aspects of discourse
Source: House, 2016

Political discourse interpretation is “a central rhetorical figure orienting different values and vectors of cultural production” (Karpinski & Basile, 2021, p. 51). To date, there has been still an ongoing debate as to its substantial role in the life of the social community. According to Boase-Beier (2020, p. 416-417), it “can contribute to the maintenance and consolidation of structures of power, by facilitating communication between rulers and ruled in multilingual societies or increasing the international prestige of a given culture.” Political texts abound with culturally significant lexical units revealing universal and specific features of national cultures. The adequate choice of language units plays an essential role in interpreting as they aim to reach the final goal of communication – the impact on the recipient.

Language cannot be detached from the people using it and “people’s ‘existential’ characteristics”, Mey (2016, p. 35). Therefore, it is vital to examine how politicians employ expressive means and persuasion strategies in public speeches, taking a pragmatic approach to studying political discourse. In his study of political discourse, Li (2020, p. 94) uses the term ‘political move’ to refer to “the discursive means intended to achieve a political agenda.” Pragmatics focuses on the resulting message’s

communicative effect and the selection of linguistic means retaining it. The impact of extralinguistic factors on the recipient audience is also significant. To avoid translating the political message ‘freely’, the interpreters tend to “share knowledge about systems of pragmatic principles and social practices, above all those of verbal interaction; and they have to share systems of knowledge about the physical, the social and the subjective world” (Lauerbach & Fetzer, 2007, p. 8).

Pragmatic relations of communicants to the message are determined by their belonging to a specific ethnic or social group and the use of expressive language means and functional styles. Correspondingly, pragmatics involves stylistics concerned with the communicative effects of discourse, Browse (2018, p. 16). It should be noted that the target language specificity determines syntactic and semantic modifications to be made. Conversely, the target language message adheres quite closely to the pragmatics of the original and may be the most difficult of all aspects to explain fully. The issue is due to “its reliance on context, recursive beliefs, and inference – all of which are highly variable from person to person, utterance to utterance, and context to context”, Biener (2021, p. 158).

This paper contributes to the open-ended discussion on the pragmatic aspect of political discourse interpretation. Particular attention is paid to the comprehensive analysis of stylistic and extra-linguistic means, ensuring that the communicative function of both source and target language utterances is the same.

Interpreting political speeches: a case study of Joseph R. Biden’s speech in Poland

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has hit the newspaper headlines. It has considerably influenced the content broadcast on television. Consistently, the whole world is engaged in analyzing the best practices in the war exposure to the global community. Thus, the study of the means fostering the pragmatic effect in foreign official speeches and their translation peculiarities from semiotic and pragmatic perspectives seems relevant and promising.

Stylistic devices play a crucial role in creating a pragmatic effect. Therefore, the speaker should select specific expressive means to clarify his/her intentions and create the appropriate atmosphere for the proper information perception. Respectively, interpreters are called upon “to transmit linguistic markers of narrative perspectives, such as the stylistic features that indicate multiple points of view” (Tahiri & Capriqi, 2020, p. 204).

The expressive power of oral political discourse is mainly dependent on its phonic imagery. The predominant phonetic stylistic means in President Biden's speech are alliteration and assonance, creating a euphonious effect: "Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Mayor, members of the parliament, distinguished guests, and the people of Poland, and I suspect some people of Ukraine that are here" (PBS NewsHour, 2022). "Of decency and dignity and freedom and possibilities" (PBS NewsHour, 2022). Alliteration was rendered by employing the sounds [p] and [m] in the target message: "Pane prezydent, pane premier-ministre, pane mer, chleny parlamentu, shanovni hosti, i narod Polshchi, i ya dumaiu, shcho tut ye deiaki liudy z Ukrainy" (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022). Regarding the typological discrepancies between English and Ukrainian, it was impossible to find accurate words preserving vivid imagery brought about by the speaker exploiting assonance: "Poriadnosti ta hidnosti, svobodi ta mozhyvostiakh" (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022). However, the translation outcome still carries a manipulative potential. The verbalized concepts are encoded and immediately recognized, inducing the recipient audience to focus on "how the discourse was uttered, rather than what was uttered", Furko (2020, p. 67).

The comprehensive analysis of the language corpus demonstrates that the metaphor is frequently applied to adopt an emotional tone to the message and provoke intellectual responses by evaluating issues and actions. Chandler (2017, p. 74) believes that "within a language, many words may refer to 'the same thing' but reflect different evaluations of it." For instance, Joseph Biden uses the metaphor *to steel one's nerves* to dramatize and emotionalize the discussed situation in Ukraine: "We need to steel ourselves of a long fight ahead" (PBS NewsHour, 2022). However, it is somewhat neutralized in the target language message and thus loses its stylistic loading and pragmatic effect: "Nam potribno nabratysia syh dlia dovoi borotby" (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022).

Metaphors in public speeches often bring bright and image-bearing pictures to the recipients' minds. Furthermore, apart from signifying the concepts implied in the target domain, metaphors embrace "pragmatic 'added value'" (Pang & Huang, 2021, p. 133). In his speech, American President exploits the unconscious emotional associations connected with the authoritarian power: "When Pope John Paul brought that message in 1979, the Soviet Union ruled with an iron fist behind an Iron Curtain" (PBS NewsHour, 2022). While rendering the metaphor into Ukrainian, the interpreter resorts to generalization: "Koly Papa Ivan Pavlo vystupyv z tsym poslanniam u 1979 rotsi, Radianskyi Soiuz pranyv zaliznoiu rukoiu za zaliznoiu zavisoiu" (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022). Nevertheless, the metaphor is canonized and represents a tangible symbol in both languages, bringing cultural and historical knowledge to recipients' minds.

Sustained metaphors in Biden's speech evoke vivid associative pictures, emphasizing opposing democratic and totalitarian rulers in power: "*Let us resolve to put the strength of democracies into action to thwart the designs of autocracy*" (PBS NewsHour, 2022). The metaphors in the sentence above underline different values rooted in different cultural traditions. They are capable of triggering unconscious images and are highly persuasive. However, in the interpreted message, their stylistic colouring is irreversibly lost: "*Davaite vyrishymo zastosuvaty sylu demokratii v dii, shchob zynyshchyty zadumy avtokrati*" (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022). The source language metaphor strikes the nonnative listener more forcibly.

Another case of employing the metaphor can be seen in the following sentence: "*Brutality will never grind down their will to be free*" (PBS NewsHour, 2022). Under the expression *to grind down*, the speaker originally means oppressing someone so that he/she loses hope and courage. Its pragmatic effect in the translated version is not preserved since the interpreter chooses to manipulate the sense and substitute the verb in the phrase: "*Zhorstokist nikoly ne zynyshchyt yikhniu voliu buty vilnymy*" (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022). The analogy was used to extend the target language audience's understanding of politically expedient problems.

The choice of the word *presa* is fully justified for lexical metonymy *the press* in English since both lexical units stand for the people writing for the newspapers. Synecdoche is used to refer to people inhabiting the western part of the world and America: "*Within days of his invasion, the West has moved jointly with sanctions to damage Russia's economy*" (PBS NewsHour, 2022); "*In the years before the invasion, we, America, had sent over \$650 million, before they crossed the border, in weapons to Ukraine, including anti-air and anti-armor equipment*" (PBS NewsHour, 2022). The interpreters avoided using a synecdoche shift in translation: "*Za kilka dniiv pislia vtorhnennia Zakhid spilno naklav sanktsii i zavdav zhytkiv rosiiskii ekonomitsi?*" (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022); "*V roky, shcho pereduvaly vtorhnenniu, persh nizh Rosiia peretnula kordon, my, Ameryka, nadislaly v Ukrainu zbroiu, u tomu chysli protypovitriannu ta protybronovu tekhniku na sumu ponad 650 milioniv dolariv*" (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022). Likewise, lexical metonymic transformations are not introduced to render metonymies naming locations where appointed officials carry out their duties. Compare the following sentences: "*These officials and oligarchs have reaped enormous benefit from the corruption connected to the Kremlin*" (PBS NewsHour, 2022); "*Tsi chynovnyky ta olibarkhy otrymaly velycheznu koryst vid koruptsiinykh zv'iazkiv z Kremlem, i teper jim dovodytsia bolisno platyty za tse*" (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022). Since the name of the Russian government is well familiar to the target language recipient due to its extensive exposure in the media, the metonymy is fully preserved.

Wide usage of epithets characterizes the speech of the American President to refer to the current Russia-Ukraine war and how it unfolds: 1) logical epithets: “*It was a long, painful slog*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022); 2) epithets proper: “*She became one of the most ardent supporters of democracy in the world*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022); 3) associated epithets: “*To date, the United States has sanctioned 140 Russian oligarchs and their family members, seizing their ill-begotten gains, their yachts, their luxury apartments, their mansions*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022). In the case of the logical epithet, the interpreter exploits loan translation to render them: “*Tse buła dovba, bolisna borotba, yaka tryvala ne dni y misiatsi, a roky y desiatylittia*” (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022). In the latter examples the near equivalent has been applied to preserve the source language meaning of the word: “*Vona stala odnieiu z naipalkishykh prykhylynyts demokratii u sviti*” (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022); “*Na sobodnishnii den Spolucheni Shtaty vvely sanktsii proty 140 rosiiskykh olibarkhiv ta chleniv yikhnikh simei, konfiskavavshy yikhni zlochynni zdobutky – yikhni yakhty, yikhni rozkishni apartamenty, yikhni osobniaky*” (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022). The choice of the equivalents is rational since the target language message can be easily understood and does not need further clarification.

One of the most widespread figures of speech in Biden’s address is an allusion. American President mentions *the first Polish pope, the Soviet repression, the philosopher Kierkegaard, Madeleine Korbel Albright, the Berlin Wall, the Cold War, the Nazi Holocaust, Abraham Lincoln, Article 5, the Iron Curtain, and the Pan-European Picnic*. The latter lets the audience make direct connections with the important people, objects, and events. They are preserved in the translated message by loan translation: *pershyi polskyyi Papa, radianski represii, filosof Kierkebor, Madlen Korbel Olbrai, Berlinska stina, kholodna viina, natsyistyskyyi Holokost, Avraam Linkoln, stattia 5, zalizna zavis, Panievropeiskyyi piknik*.

The figures of contrast are employed to confront two notions situationally. First, at the level of word combinations, this is realized through the oxymoron: “*Every generation has had to defeat democracy’s moral foes*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022). The interpreter uses contextual substitution to adjust to the context pragmatically: “*Kozhnomu pokolinniu dovelosia peremohty smertelnykh vorobiv demokratii*” (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022). The meaning of the antithesis is realized in a composite sentence: “*Rather than breaking Ukrainian resolve, Russia’s brutal tactics have strengthened the resolve*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022). Like in the source language, the antithesis in the target language is realized through antonymic phrases applying loan translation: “*Zamist tobo, shchob zlamaty ukrainsku rishuchist, zhorstoka taktyka Rosii zmitsnyla tsiu rishuchist*” (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022).

The climax which increases the emotional tension and significance of the utterance is found in the following fragment of Biden's speech: "*The gravity of the threat is why the response of the West has been so swift and so powerful and so unified, unprecedented, and overwhelming*" (PBS NewsHour, 2022). The same pragmatic effect is reached in the interpreted speech by exploiting loan translation: "*Serioznist zaborozy ye prychnoinu tobo, shcho vidpovid Zakhodu bula takoinu shvydkoinu, takoinu potuzhbnoinu i takoinu odnostainoinu, bezpretsedentnoiu ta vrazhainuchoiu*" (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022). Moreover, synonyms in intensifying function may serve the same purpose: "*Our allies and partners have stepped up as well*" (PBS NewsHour, 2022); "*And thanks to the courage and bravery of the Ukrainian people, the equipment we've sent and our colleagues have sent have been used to devastating effect to defend Ukrainian land and air space*" (PBS NewsHour, 2022).

The hyperbole used in the sentence "*All of us, including here in Poland, must do the hard work of democracy each and every day – my country as well*" (PBS NewsHour, 2022) mounts the expressiveness of the American President's speech and exaggerates the situation at large. The corresponding target language fragment demonstrates the omission of an intensifying synonym. It thus does not retain the intended pragmatic intent: "*Usi my, v tomu chysli y tut, u Polshchi, shchodnia povynni vykonuvaty vazhku robotu zarady demokracji*" (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022). Likewise, meiosis is presupposed to make a deliberate diminution of the distance, focusing on its significance: "*The reason we want to make clear is their movement on Ukraine – don't even think about moving on one single inch of NATO territory*" (PBS NewsHour, 2022). The antonymous translation is exploited to render a similar meaning in Ukrainian: "*Prychyna, yaku my kbotily poiasnyty Rosii, – tse yii napad na Ukrainu: navit ne dumaite pro te, shchob rukhatysia na shodnyi diuin na terytoriiu NATO*" (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022).

In the sentence below, zeugma combines two unrelated abstract and material objects and produces a thoughtful effect on the audience: "*I was saying to the mayor, they were opening their hearts and their homes simply to help*" (PBS NewsHour, 2022). The pragmatic effect is retained in the translation outcome through loan translation: "*Ya skazav meru, shcho vony hotovi vidkryty svoi sertsia ta svoi domivky, shchob prasto dopomohty*" (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022).

Syntactic means play a significant role in realizing the pragmatic potential of the utterance. Rhetoric questions prove to be a potent means of attaching an expressive value to the text. Analyzing Biden's speech in Poland, we cannot deny the fact that rhetoric questions are frequently used to enhance the expressiveness of his speech: "*My God, what is going to happen to me? What is going to happen to my family?*" (PBS NewsHour, 2022). To render the sentences into Ukrainian, the interpreter applies permutation in the first

one without changing the rest of their syntactic structure: “*Bozhe mii, shcho zi mnoiu bude? Shcho bude z moieiu rodynoiu?*” (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022).

Anaphora appears to be an indispensable tool to reach the communicative intent in the speech. The repeated words and word combinations below occur at the beginning of each consecutive sentence structure to render the modal meanings of certainty and indignation: “*But they have always, they have always been under siege. They have always been embattled*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022); “*Its hallmarks are familiar ones – contempt for the rule of law, contempt for democratic freedom, contempt for the truth itself*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022). The following sentences can trigger peculiar linguistic interest: “*It was a message about the power, the power of faith, the power of resilience, the power of the people*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022). The utterance emphasizes the key universal values. It sounds emphatic due to an integrative use of anaphora and reduplication. However, this effect is not retained in the target language. The interpreter exploits omission causing radical recast: “*Tse bulo poslannia pro mobutnist – mobutnist viry, stiikosti ta syly liudei?*” (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022).

To make the speech more dynamic and reduce its redundancy, American President exploits a plethora of elliptical sentences: “*America’s first woman Secretary of State*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022). “*All 180,000 of them*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022). “*From oil companies to McDonald’s*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022). Most examples are unlikely to produce decoding problems. However, the interpreter does not permanently preserve this stylistic device in translation. For example, while analyzing the sentence “*Fought over not days and months but years and decades*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022), one can notice that there is no subject. The interpreter employs amplification to make the implicit meaning compressed in English grammatical structures easy to decipher, adding the subject: “*Tse bula dovba, bolisna borotba, yaka tryvala ne dni y misiatsi, a roky y desiatylittia*” (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022). The general principle is that the elliptical construction needs expansion when translated into the target language. Furthermore, changes in the word order may be introduced to comply with the target language norms: “*Left Russia completely*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022). “*Povnistiu pokynuly Rosiiu*” (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022).

Enumeration proves to be a tangible instrument of conveying the information the American politician wants to impart. The deictic components in Biden’s speech reveal the orientation of his message concerning people who stand high in the global community’s favour: “*Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Mayor, members of the parliament, distinguished guests, and the people of Poland, and I suspect some people of Ukraine that are here*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022). The speaker’s communicative intent is retained in translation by loan translation: “*Pane prezydente, pane prem’ier-ministre, pane mer,*

chlenu parlamentu, shanovni hosti, i narod Polshchi, i ya dumaiu, shcho tut ye deiaki liudy z Ukrainy?” (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022).

Detachment serves to make a logical emphasis on the sentence structure that seems formally independent of its wording: “*One little girl said, Mr. President – she spoke a little English – is my brother and my daddy, are they going to be okay?*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022). Although the phrase’s stylistic loading and pragmatic potential are preserved in the target message, the very sentence confronts the interpreter with certain problems. The replacement of sentence structures is employed: “*Odna malenka divchynka – vona trokhy rozmovliala anbliiskoin – skazala: “Pane Prezydent, mii brat i tato ... chy bude vse dobre z nymy?”*” (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022).

Polysyndeton is used for the rhythmical organization of the American President’s speech: “*We must remain unified today and tomorrow and the day after*” (PBS NewsHour, 2022). Such stylistically motivated redundant repetition of conjunctions fosters underlining the most significant information. However, in translation, there is a mismatch in form and sense in the sentence due to the concretization applied in its final part: “*My povynni zalyshatysia yedynymy sobodni i zavtra, i pishiazavtra, i na roky i desiatylittia*” (Hovoryt velykyi Lviv, 2022). In brief, in this case translation is more concentrated on the pragmatic function rather than the structure of a sentence.

Considering the multiple translation strategies employed while interpreting the American President’s speech in Poland, we can presume that the interpreter’s intuition worked well to avoid rendering the message literally. The interpreter managed to maintain the original utterance semantics and syntactic structure, albeit domesticated the text to make its comprehension easier. The faithfulness to the pragmatic function of the target language cultural reference is predominantly achieved.

Conclusion

This study set out to determine the peculiarities of oral political discourse interpreting from semiotic and pragmatic perspectives. Its results indicate that stylistic devices and expressive means play a profound role in oral political discourse construction. The latter promote a better understanding of core concepts and values and reach the genre’s communicative purpose. Their proper interpretation demonstrates the interpreter’s pragmatic competence and skillfulness in adapting the messages.

The phonetic stylistic devices (alliteration, assonance) help to add emotiveness and expressiveness to Joseph Biden’s speech. The lexico-semantic stylistic devices actualized in the speech include figures of

substitution (hyperbole, meiosis, metaphors, metonymy, synecdoche, epithet) and combination (synonyms, oxymoron, antithesis, climax, zeugma). Syntactic stylistic devices presuppose reduction of the sentence model (ellipsis), its extension (reduplication, anaphora, enumeration, polysyndeton), change of word order (inversion, detachment) and transposition of sentence meaning (rhetoric questions). Thus, the trichotomy of phonetics, semantics, and syntax formulate the basics of semiotics and pragmatics of interpreting.

It is also concluded that the studies on political discourse translation vary in their approaches and methodology. However, the current research has demonstrated that the interpreter must consider relevant extra-linguistic and linguistic factors. Moreover, a semiotic and pragmatic approach to political discourse interpreting helps decipher the information which is not explicitly exposed to the masses yet bears pragmatic loading.

Another significant finding is that the interpreting model does not only focus on equivalence at the lexical level. The situational level is also essential since the same situation may be viewed from various angles and verbalized differently. Achieving the same communicative function and similarity in portraying the situation often leads to creating a new political identity.

Finally, the adequacy and clarity of translation are often not achieved due to misinterpretation or translation shifts. The latter can lead to instilling false values, mass misconceptions, negative mediation, or even altering socially accepted ideologies. Pragmatic potential and semiotic encoding in the American President's speech in Poland are retained through various translation transformations. The latter include loan translation, generalization, antonymous translation, amplification, concretization, and near equivalence. However, the interpreter fails to realize the speaker's communicative intent by employing omission. The finding proves that certain modifications in the target language text do not necessarily relate to stylistic reasons but result from the interpreter's conscious decision.

Pragmatic competence is a crucial skill for political discourse interpretation. The latter involves interpreting speeches, debates, interviews, and other forms of political communication. In this context, interpreters must not only convey the literal meaning of the speaker's words but also accurately convey the intended meaning and the rhetorical strategies being used. The study results demonstrate that the interpreter of Biden's speeches into Ukrainian has a strong grasp of the English language and American political culture. Moreover, the former is entirely familiar with Ukrainian political culture and is able to adapt the language and style of the speech to fit the audience and context.

Further research is required to address the issues of pragmatic adaptation through multimodal means in the target language text.

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