

SPORTS INTERPRETING IN TURKEY

ESRA DEMİREZEN - SAFA KEKLİK - DORUK METİNER - IMT4125 FALL, 2019

INTRODUCTION

- The research will analyze the current problems that football interpreters face in Turkey, in order to unearth the methods that the interpreters use to overcome the translational challenges since the 2000s to present day.
- Through surveys, this paper aims to reach the interpreters of this field and get their honest opinions and look for different approaches to football interpreting as a profession. In order to do that, this study will benefit from the other studies which are fairly new in Turkey.
- The aim is to get some solid information by the interpreters themselves working on the field on what kind of challenges they face and how they overcome them.

LITERATURE REVIEW

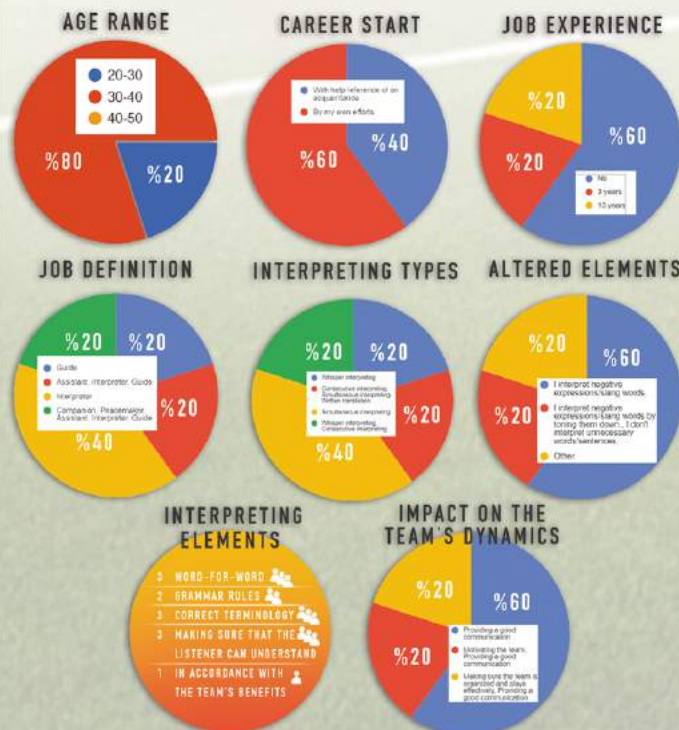
- In leagues such as the national Turkish division which wanted to keep up with tough competition on the Europe stages of football, started to hire foreign coaches and players in the late 70s and early 80s. Therefore, the need of hiring of interpreters to provide assistance with communication began (Bulut, 2018).
- Pioneer researchers in this field are Alessandro Ghignoli and Maria Gracia Torres Diaz, 2015 and Alev Bulut, 2016 in Turkey. These researchers focus on the history of sports interpreting and also the interpreters' roles and working conditions while doing their jobs.

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- Yue Jun (2007). Sports Interpreting in The Olympics. Chinese-English Translation and Interpreting UNSW, Australia.
- Ghignoli Alessandro (2015). Interpreting Performed By Professionals Of Other Fields: The Case Of Sports Commentators. Malaga University, Spain.

CASE STUDY

- This research was carried out with five male football interpreters through online interviews. The questions asked consisted of some demographics, how they define their jobs, what kind of strategies they follow during interpreting, which dynamics of the team they affect, whether or not they modify the interpreting by use of language and what kind of challenges they face and how they overcome them.
- When their major and graduation were asked, four out of five of them graduated from other majors such as architecture, tour guiding and public finance. Only one of them graduated from translation and interpreting department. Their graduation years are 2006, 2008, 2011, 2019.



FINDINGS

Our research has revealed that;

- The examples of an interpreter interpreting the instructions given by a foreigner coach to a native player or the other way around while the player gets ready to join the game as a substitute, has become a very common action in a match in Turkey.
- The role of the interpreters for teams is not just translating what is told in the press conferences and pre-match or post-match interviews. They are needed pretty much anytime when there are situations involving the foreign staff of the team.
- Interpreters are sometimes viewed as filters by the board of the team. Mostly, in problems between the team and players or coaches, the interpreters might find themselves in tough situation.
- Getting challenged by their ethic codes is one of the biggest challenges that a football interpreter can face in the field. Especially when they are torn between their own ethic codes and the benefits of the team that they are serving for.

CONCLUSION

In Conclusion;

- This field has its unique positive and negative endeavors.
- The best ways to overcome the challenges which the interpreters faced are loyalty to the employer, being a part of the team, defusing situations with high tensions when necessary, knowing the source and target languages well, understanding the accents, considering the benefits of the team but not abandoning the ethics of the job either such as interpreting what is said accurately, staying impartial, knowing their positions and remember that there need to be some ways to protect their rights.
- This job can be quite difficult at times but with commitment, passion and experience, it is possible to overcome these challenges.