**Simultaneous Interpretation : Definitions**

**Simultaneous interpretation is a mode of translation in which the interpreter converts what is said in real-time. It differs from consecutive interpretation in that there are no pauses in conversation. This type of interpretation is suited for large-scale events and situations where a pause in conversation is not possible.**

**The interpreter must translate the sentence into the target language while simultaneously listening to and comprehending the next sentence. Strictly speaking, “simultaneous” is a misnomer: interpreters cannot start interpreting until they understand the general meaning of the sentence.**

**Simultaneous interpreters process and memorize the words that the source-language speaker is saying now, while simultaneously outputting in the target language the translation of words the speaker said 5-10 seconds ago. The goal for simultaneous interpreting is not to paraphrase, but to convey the exact message.**

**In this mode of interpretation, the interpreter listens to a spoken text through headphones, and speaks the translated text into a microphone. As soon as the interpreter comprehends the general meaning of the sentence, s/he begins the interpretation. The simultaneous interpretation is rendered to listeners via their earphones.**

**One of the advantages of simultaneous interpretation is that audience members hear the message at the same time as they see the speaker's facial expressions and gestures, which often results in a better overall experience. Moreover, because the presentation is never interrupted for the interpreter, its time is not extended as is the case in consecutive interpretation.**