

Simultaneous Interpreting in the European Parliament: Linguistic Quality of the Political Discourse: An Empirical Analysis

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Abstract : The paper examines the impact of the Members' of the European Parliament (MEPs) language choice on the linguistic quality of their political discourse as delivered by the interpreters. The study, designed by the author, who is an EU interpreter herself, consisted of three phases. First, a number of speeches of Polish and Spanish MEPs were analyzed to determine whether the incidence of use of certain figures of speech depending on whether the speech had been delivered in English or their respective mother tongue. Then the use of figures of speech was also analyzed based on speeches by some British MEPs, in order to determine what was the incidence for the native users of English. Subsequently, the speeches were compared with their interpretations to find out whether the interpreters managed to convey accurately the means of oratory used by the MEPs. The final result shows that in case of institutional environments dependant on simultaneous interpretation the speakers' choices can, in fact, influence the linguistic quality of the political communication.

Keywords : content accuracy, European Parliament, political discourse, simultaneous interpreting

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