



The Effect of Remote Simultaneous Interpretation on the Practice of Conference Interpretation in Cameroon

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ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the effect of remote simultaneous interpretation (RSI) on the practice of conference interpretation in Cameroon. The study aims to examine the prevalence rate of RSI among conference interpreters and assess the effect of RSI on the structure of the interpretation market as per the prospects of the profession in Cameroon. The research methodology involves a concurrent triangulation design, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. The sample population includes trained and un-trained interpreters (professional and natural interpreters). Data was collected through structured questionnaires and interviews. The findings reveal a high rate of use of RSI in Cameroon, as RSI establishes its self as a means of increasing accessibility to interpretation services. The prospects of RSI in Cameroon are bright and interpreters intend using both online and in-person interpretation modes, thus reshaping the structure of the interpretation market in Cameroon. Recommendations to interpreters, to go in for specialised training and improve on their internet facilities infrastructure.

1. BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The interplay of technology and interpreting is not new. Technology has always had an impact on interpreting, especially since the 1920s when the first simultaneous interpretation systems was invented (AIIC 2019). Simultaneous conference interpreting was made possible by technological advances, specifically through the telephone technology, known as the first telephonic interpreting equipment. It is

definitely the Nuremberg trials (1945–1946) which gave high visibility to simultaneous interpreting. Simultaneous interpreting has been experimented at the ILO (International Labour Organization) and at the League of Nations with limited success (Baigorri Jalón, 2004, chapter III), perhaps to a large extent because of resistance by leading conference interpreters who were afraid that this development would reduce their prestige and be detrimental to working conditions (Baigorri Jalón, 2004, p. 148).

Over time, the advent of the internet and globalisation, alongside the emergence of more efficient technologies have allowed more sophisticated set-ups with different consoles, headsets, microphones and booth designs, amongst others.

More recently, new advances in information and communication technologies (ICTs) have been virtually reshaping the interpretation practices, thus leading to the possibility for Remote Simultaneous Interpreting (RSI) in the form of teleconference interpreting (TI) to cover both telephone and videoconference, understood here as one of the modalities covered by Distance Interpreting (DI). These advances have once more impacted the practice of conference interpreting, as we see the development of cloud-based conferencing platforms allowing for (or specially designed to support) simultaneous interpretation. They often use soft (virtual) interpreting consoles but can often be connected to traditional hard (physical) consoles. These cloud-based conference interpreting platforms are called Simultaneous Interpreting Delivery Platforms (SIDPs).

The Covid-19 pandemic, with its wide-ranging restrictions on large gatherings and travel, temporarily put a halt to traditional multilingual on-site meetings. Within only a few weeks, the latter went from being the norm to becoming the exception. Conversely, the number of meetings mediated through online conferencing tools (e.g. Adobe Connect, Google Hangouts Meet, Skype, Webex, Zoom, etc.) skyrocketed, although reliable figures quantifying this increase are not available. The recent COVID-19 pandemic thus accelerated the implementation of Work from Home (WFH) method, thereby fostering the proliferation of Hybrid Meetings (HM) hence highlighting the more, the impact of new technologies on the practice of interpretation. Remote Simultaneous Interpreting stands out as one of the most impactful change brought in by the new technologies. The purpose of our research is to identify the effect of RSI on the practice of conference interpreting in Cameroon, and how they have been welcomed on the Cameroonian market, to what extent they are implemented and used in the country.

1.1. Statement of the Problem

Language, media, technology, and indeed, the world is constantly evolving and unless interpreters adapt to the evolution, they will not be able to keep up with the demands of the profession (AIIIC, 2016). These new technologies have brought significant changes in the practice of interpretation in the world in general, and in Cameroon in particular, with the advent of remote interpreting probably coming up as a type of interpreting. The next possible question here is to know the effectiveness of the use of these new technologies on the Cameroonian market and the impact these new technologies have on the performance of interpreters, on their experience, and the possible consequences.

1.2. Research Questions

The research problem of this study may be best articulated by the following questions:

- i. What is the prevalence of RSI among conference interpreters in Cameroon?
- ii. What is the future of conference interpretation in Cameroon?

1.3. Research objectives

Based on the aforementioned problems, the study aims at:

- i. Examining the prevalence of RSI among conference interpreters.
- ii. To attempt a guess on the future of conference interpretation in Cameroon.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

This section is made up of three main parts. Part one focuses on conceptual review that is, all the concepts pertaining to our study. Part two concentrates on theoretical review as we will elaborate and relate to our study a number of theories pertaining to our work. Part three lays emphasis on the empirical review, where we will explore and analyse existing literature related to the effect RSI has had in Africa.

2.1. Conceptual Review

In this section, we will present and review all the key concepts that revolve around this study, these include simultaneous interpretation, Distance interpretation, remote interpretation and the interpretation market.

2.1.1. Simultaneous interpreting

The first definition, from Herbert (one of the early simultaneous interpreters and interpreter trainers), identifies three varieties of simultaneous interpreting (Herbet, 1952). According to him, simultaneous interpretation included "whispering", whereby interpreters sitting next to a conference delegate whisper their interpretation to them; "telephonic simultaneous", whereby interpreters listen to the original through earphones and speak their interpretation into a microphone; and "translation at sight", whereby interpreters receive a text written in one language and read it aloud in a different language. Although it is true that all three tasks require the relatively instantaneous transfer from verbal input in one language to verbal output in another, from a processing point of view, the three are rather distinguishable - perhaps different enough to revisit Herbert's original definition.

In this light, it seems appropriate to begin with the current definition of simultaneous interpreting as suggested by the International Association of

Conference Interpreters (AIIC), according to which "in simultaneous mode, the interpreter sits in a booth with a clear view of the meeting room and the speaker and listens to and simultaneously interprets the speech into a target language" (AIIC 2019). Defining it in similar terms as Herbert but giving it the status of a modality in its own right. Simultaneous interpreting with text, also called sight interpretation (Lambert, 2004), refers to a scenario in which interpreters receive a manuscript of an address to be delivered, allowing them to read along (or ahead) in the text while listening to the speech.

2.1.2. Distance Interpreting

Distance interpreting (DI), as defined by the International Standardization Organization is, "interpreting of a speaker in a different location from that of the interpreter, enabled by information and communications technology (ICT)" (ISO 2017a: 2). It is a blanket term covering different technical arrangements enabling multilingual events whereby participants—including interpreters—need not share the same physical space. Importantly, the notion of distance is not specifically defined and can range from a few metres (when interpreters are located in a room adjacent to the meeting room) to a few

thousand kilometres (when interpreters are located in a different country or on a different continent). Although the nomenclature used to refer to specific types of distance interpreting set-ups has varied over the years, recently there has been a convergence on four discrete notions, as they capture what have been identified as the principal features of DI (Braun 2015; Seeber 2018). The International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC) defines four types of distance interpreting (AIIC Executive Committee 2018): Videoconference Interpreting (VCI), Audioconference Interpreting (ACI), Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) and Audio Remote Interpreting (ARI).

It is therefore not worthless to differentiate between teleconference interpreting and remote interpreting. The former includes audio and video-conference interpreting, implying that interpreters share the physical space of at least some (usually the majority) of the conference participants (see figure1). The latter comprises audio and video remote interpreting, and refers to scenarios where the interpreters are not located with any other conference participants, and indeed, not even necessarily with each other (see figure 2).

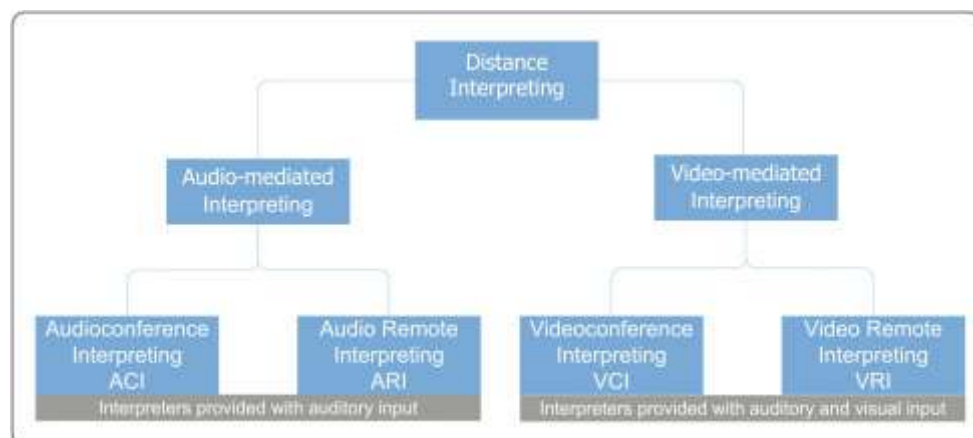


Figure 1: DI modalities by medium of communication

Source : From Avidicius (2018)

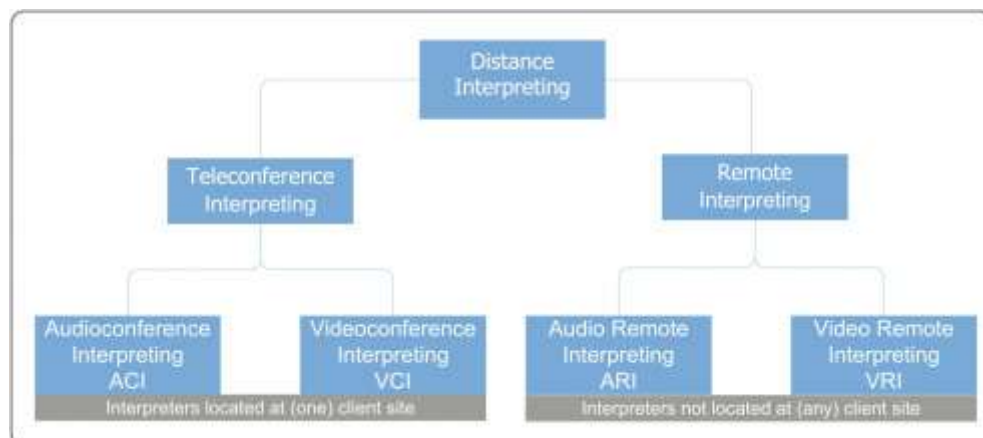


Figure 2: DI modalities by distribution of communicators

Source : From Avidicius (2018)

2.1.3. Remote Simultaneous Interpreting

The term Remote Simultaneous Interpreting (RSI) was used as early as 1998 following an experiment at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Remote Simultaneous Interpreting (RI), refers to the use of communication technologies to gain access to an interpreter in another room, building, town, city or country to interpret a speech as it is been delivered. In this setting, a telephone line or videoconference link is used to connect the interpreter to the primary participants, who are together at one site. Remote interpreting by telephone is nowadays often called *telephone interpreting* or *over-the-phone interpreting*. Remote interpreting by videoconference is often simply called *remote interpreting* when it refers to spoken-language interpreting. In sign-language interpreting, the term *video remote interpreting* has established itself. Remote interpreting is best described as a method of delivering interpreting. It has been used for simultaneous, consecutive and dialogue interpreting.

It is significant to note that the temporary suspension of in-person meetings during the 2020 pandemic provided a segment of the interpreting profession with just enough time to upskill to remote simultaneous interpreting (RSI) and be ready to serve a vastly different virtual meeting industry either from their home office computer set-up or from dedicated centres equipped to support RSI in near-traditional conference room conditions and respecting a certain set of standards.

2.1.4. The Interpretation Market

An interpreting market is taken to include all stakeholders, from the institutions that train interpreters, the interpreters themselves, hiring agencies and individuals and institutions that use the services of interpreters.

Kelly (2010: 3) states that:

“The interpreting market is divided mainly into two parts – the supply side and the demand side. The organizations that purchase interpreting services are categorised within the demand side of the market, while both the agencies that contract interpreters and the interpreters themselves form part of the supply side of the market. Organizations engaged in workforce development – such as professional associations and universities – are also included within the scope of suppliers in the broader analysis”

According to AIIC, the interpreting market can either be private or public. In the private market, AIIC used the rule of ‘direct contract’ through which it obliged any client to directly contract individual interpreters. This prevented intermediaries (conference organisers) from making profit on

interpreting services provision. They in turn opposed this arrangement and resorted to recruiting non-AIIC interpreters, forcing AIIC to abandon this policy altogether in 1971 (Mikkelsen 2015: 31). For the public market, AIICs main instrument to enforce respect for interpreters working conditions has been and continues to be collective agreements with the most important inter-governmental employers of freelance interpreters, mainly the UN and EU institutions. From the website of AIIC, the sectors with which it presently negotiates agreements include the EU, the UN, the Global Union Federations, and the World Customs Organisations. These contracts are renegotiated every five years, since 1969.

The interpretation market is defined as the sum of the segments, as well as an analysis of the trends and factors which play an important role in the market. These factors are: the market dynamics, involves the drivers, restrains, opportunities and challenges through which the impact of these factors is outlined by (Global Interpretation Service Market size by Application, by Geographic Scope and Forecast, June 2021).

2.1.4.1. The African Interpretation Market

Viewed by AIIC Africa, the main working languages used in the African market are English, French, Arabic, Portuguese, and Spanish as well Chinese and Russian. And evidently, since Africa is a continent with rich linguistic diversity, African languages are also used in national parliaments and international meetings, with Swahili leading the pack. Interpretation services are sought by the African Union (AU) and its organs, the African Development Bank (AfDB), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), United Nations organisations and agencies, financial institutions, international NGOs and government institutions, to name a few. Other clients that know AIIC refer to the blue book (AIIC Directory) or its online version to find interpreters based on their needs. Using this tool and others, UN agencies have generated databases, which they use to contract interpreters for events around the world. The slump in global economic activity has not spared the African industry. Budgetary constraints slashed event management allocations. Consequently, the market has suffered a serious backlash and competition for offers is stiff. Under the circumstances, professionals with niche markets strive to secure their client base on excellence and professionalism.

A new development in the AIIC Africa Region is the increase of interpretation schools in the Region. Besides the European Commission and United Nations Office at Nairobi-sponsored interpreter training programmes run by the Pan African Masters Consortium in Interpretation & Translation (PAMCIT) in Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, and Senegal. There are many other private initiatives on the continent. Cameroon, for example, which had one interpretation school for 25 years, has witnessed a

five-fold increase in the number of schools. These initiatives will go a long way in boosting the number of trained interpreters in the African market, and consequently, the supply of skilled professionals.

In a market threatened by economic constraints, the last thing needed was the stealthy arrival on the scene of the deadly Coronavirus in 2020. Many meetings were cancelled. As the world yearns for a return to normalcy after the Covid-19 curve drops, the glimmer of hope now lies in remote simultaneous interpreting (RSI). Although it remains unknown how successful several initiatives launched to adjust interpretation practice to suit current changes imposed by the virus will be, it is crystal clear that the market will never be the same again. Technical guidance on RSI is crucial. Hence the need for interpreters to envisage a major paradigm shift with training to harness technological assistance.

2.2. Empirical Review

RSI has emerged as a ground-breaking solution in the field of conference interpretation, revolutionizing the way multilingual events and meetings are conducted. This paper examines the empirical evidence surrounding the adoption and utilization of RSI, exploring its benefits, challenges, and implications for effective cross-cultural communication. It delves into the specific context of Africa, a continent known for its linguistic diversity and unique challenges in conference interpretation, and will further narrow its scope to Cameroon, a country where RSI has gained significant traction. By analysing the experiences and perceptions of stakeholders involved, this empirical review aims to shed light on the transformative power of RSI and its potential to bridge language barriers and foster intercultural understanding in an increasingly globalized world.

2.2.1. Effect of using RSI in Africa

Remote simultaneous interpretation (RSI) is a mode of interpreting that allows language interpretation to take place in real-time, while individuals are participating in a meeting or event from remote locations. RSI has emerged as an important tool for overcoming language barriers in Africa, especially in a continent where linguistic diversity is high and multilingualism is prevalent (Ortega-Cantero, 2020). The use of RSI in Africa has been observed to have positive impacts ranging from facilitating cross-cultural communication and cooperation to improving the business environment and enhancing international trade and diplomacy. We are going to establish the effect of using RSI in Africa through the analysis of various relevant research studies.

One study by Labuschagne and Kaschula (2021) examined the use of RSI in a multilingual online conference in South Africa. The study found that the use of RSI overcame language barriers, facilitated communication, and created a more inclusive space for participants. Furthermore, feedback from participants indicated that the quality of

interpretation was high, and the technology used was stable and reliable. The study concludes that RSI has the potential to empower multilingual communication in Africa.

Another study by Abello-Contesse et al. (2021) investigated the impact of RSI on the interpretation quality of a conference that brought together actors from French-speaking African countries and their English-speaking counterparts. Findings from the study indicated that RSI improved the quality of interpretation and facilitated communication between participants, leading to a better understanding of complex topics. The study concludes that RSI offers an effective solution to language barriers and enhances the quality of interpretation in African conferences.

Similarly, research conducted by Ssekiboobo et al. (2021) studied the use of RSI in a virtual international conference hosted in Uganda. The study found that RSI enabled interpreters to provide an accurate interpretation of speakers' ideas and messages. The use of RSI also allowed remote participation from speakers and attendees who would have otherwise faced financial, logistical, and geographical barriers to attend the conference. The study concludes that RSI increases accessibility and inclusivity in virtual conferences in Africa.

One of the primary effects of RSI in Africa has been the facilitation of cross-cultural communication and cooperation. With RSI, people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds can converse and collaborate in real-time, overcoming language barriers, which have often hindered effective communication and cooperation. According to Oladejo & Abdulbaqi (2021), RSI has enabled Africans to work across borders and regions effectively and efficiently, thus promoting cross-cultural communication and collaboration.

Furthermore, RSI has enabled the participation of Africans in international conferences, seminars, and workshops, where they can share knowledge and experiences with peers from around the world, thus improving the quality of their work and enhancing their expertise (Ortega-Cantero, 2020).

Secondly, RSI has positively impacted the business environment in Africa. The technology has made it possible for companies to engage with potential clients and investors from different linguistic backgrounds, thus expanding their customer and investment base. For instance, RSI has enabled African businesses to communicate easily with their counterparts in Asia, Europe, and America, expanding their markets and opportunities (Adekunle, 2021). Furthermore, the technology has enabled Africans to participate in global trade and commerce, facilitating international transactions and negotiations in real-time.

Lastly, RSI has had a significant impact on diplomacy and international relations in Africa. The technology has enabled African diplomats and leaders to communicate effectively with their counterparts, bridging gaps caused by language and cultural differences, facilitating negotiations, and enhancing diplomatic relations (Ortega-Cantero,

2020). For example, RSI has enabled the participation of African leaders in international forums such as the United Nations General Assembly, where they can engage with their counterparts from other countries on important global issues, enhancing their leadership skills and promoting regional and global cooperation.

The empirical evidence shows that the use of RSI in Africa offers several benefits, including overcoming language barriers, and increasing accessibility and inclusivity. RSI has its limitations and challenges, such as cost, quality of interpretation, and technical difficulties (Oladejo & Abdulbaqi, 2021), its benefits far outweigh the challenges, making it an essential tool for promoting communication and cooperation in a highly diverse and multilingual continent like Africa. Further research is necessary to establish the long-term impact of RSI on multilingual communication and interpretation quality in Africa. Nonetheless, the existing studies indicate that RSI is a valuable tool for bridging language barriers and facilitating communication in African conferences and meetings.

The above literature helps us understand the various changes RSI has brought about in Africa since its creation. Mindful of these changes, this study sets out to investigate the effect of Remote simultaneous interpretation on the practice of conference interpretation in Cameroon, under the prism of prevalence of RSI, then look ahead as to know the fate of conference interpretation in Cameroon.

2.3. Theoretical Review

This theoretical review highlights two key theories that underpin this research. By examining the principles and insights offered by The Evolution theory and the Technological Determinism theory, this dissertation aims to advance our understanding and contribute to the existing body of knowledge in interpretation. Each theory brings a unique perspective and set of concepts, offering valuable lenses through which we analyse and interpret the findings that will be presented later in this study.

2.3.1. The Evolution Theory

The evolution theory, also known as the Darwinian theory of evolution (1859) whose proponent is Charles Darwin, suggests that species change over time through a process of natural selection. This means that organisms with traits that are beneficial for their survival are more likely to reproduce and pass on those traits to their offspring.

When applied to professions, the evolution theory can mean that certain professions become more relevant and thrive while others become obsolete and disappear. This can happen as a result of changes in technology, consumer demand, or other factors that may affect the profession's ability to adapt to new conditions.

For the case of interpretation, mindful of the recent advances in technology, interpreters are required to have a better knowledge of these

technologies, to be able to optimise their renditions, and ensure seamless interpretations.

In conclusion, the fate of a profession is determined by its ability to adapt and evolve to changing conditions. Professionals who are willing to learn and grow with the times will likely thrive in their careers, while those who cannot may struggle to find work or have to transition to a different field. The ability to adapt and evolve is key to the survival of any profession in the long term.

2.3.2 The Technological Determinism Theory

Technological determinism is a theory that posits technology as the primary driver of social change and development (McLuhan, 1964). According to this theory, technological advancements shape and influence various aspects of society, including individual behaviour, cultural practices, and economic structures. Technological determinism suggests that technology has an inherent power to shape and determine the direction and trajectory of social progress (McLuhan, 1964). It argues that the introduction and adoption of new technologies bring about changes in social norms, power dynamics, and modes of communication.

This theory implies that society and individuals must adapt to technological advancements to keep pace with the changing world. It highlights the transformative power of technology and its influence on how individuals work, communicate, and engage in various activities within society.

However, it is important to note that technological determinism does not imply that technology is the sole determinant of social change. It recognizes the interaction between technology and society, acknowledging that social, cultural, and economic factors also play a role in shaping the impact and consequences of technology.

While technological determinism provides valuable insights into the influence of technology on society, it also has its limitations such as Technological Bias. Technological determinism can exhibit a bias towards viewing technology as inherently positive or deterministic, ignoring the potential negative impacts or the fact that technology is shaped by human decisions and values.

In conclusion, when applying the theory of technological determinism to the impact of RSI on the practice of conference interpretation, it is important to consider its limitations and contextual factors specific to the region. Technological determinism may overlook the unintended consequences and unforeseen outcomes of technological change. It can fail to account for the social, ethical, and environmental challenges that may arise as a result of technology adoption.

3. METHODOLOGY

This section aims at presenting and discussing the methods used to carry out the research. It presents the research design, administration of

research instruments, sample, and methods of data processing and analysis.

3.1. Research Design

Concurrent triangulation, a mixed-method research methodology that combines the collection and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data simultaneously, will be used in this study. For this project, quantitative data will be gathered using a survey, and qualitative data will be gathered through in-depth interviews.

3.2. Sample Population

The sample for this study will consist of professional interpreters and un-trained interpreters (natural interpreters), who work in different parts of the Cameroonian market. Questionnaires were put to forty-six (46) practitioners, of which six (6) were natural interpreters, seven (7) conference interpreters and thirty-three (33) senior translators and conference interpreters. All in all, four people were interviewed. A senior translator-Interpreter who has retired from the United Nations and is currently a freelance, with more than forty-eight years of working experience, the president of the Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters of Cameroon (APTIC), the head of the interpretation unit at the Ministry of external Relations of Cameroon, and an interpreter working at the senate of Cameroon.

3.3. Data Analysis

Data was collected through *Google forms* which was generated online. The data was processed with Excel, critically analysed using SPSS (25) and then presented in figures and tables. Views from interviews were explored and the researcher attempted to find the rationale behind them.

4. FINDINGS

4.1. The prevalence of RSI

Remote Simultaneous Interpretation (RSI) has gained significant traction in recent years, especially with the advancement of technology and the increased demand for remote communication. While the specific prevalence of RSI in Cameroon's conference interpretation industry may vary, it is likely that the adoption of remote interpretation platforms and practices has been increasing, especially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for virtual conferences and events. The research study revealed a significant prevalence of RSI among conference interpreters in Cameroon. The findings indicated that a substantial proportion of interpreters, approximately 89% of the participants, reported knowing and using RSI. It is the percentage or frequency of participants who have utilized or are familiar with remote interpreting services. Majority of those familiar with RSI were translators and conference interpreters 33 (71.7%), conference interpreters 6 (13%) and natural interpreters 2 (4.3%).

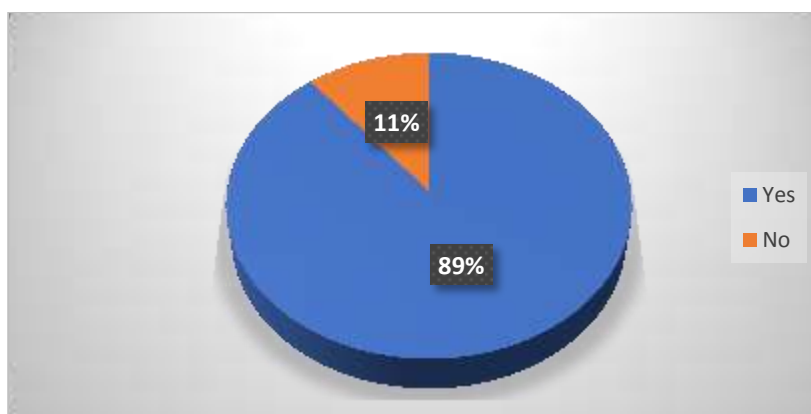


Figure 3: Prevalence of RSI among practitioners.

Table 1: Professional body most using RSI

Variable	Characteristics	Natural Interpreter	Conference Interpreter	Translator and Conference Interpreter
use of RSI technology in your simultaneous interpretation work	No	4 (8.7%)	1 (2.2%)	0
	Yes	2 (4.3%)	6 (13%)	33 (71.7%)

Majority of the practitioners knew about RSI platforms 40 (87%) and the most used platform was reported to be ZOOM by 35 practitioners that is, (87.5%).

Table 2: Knowledge of practitioners on RSI technologies

Variable	Characteristics	Frequency	Percent
Knowledge of RSI platforms	Yes	40	87%
	No	6	13%
Platforms	Zoom	35	87%
	Kudo	20	50%
	Interprefy	19	42.5%
	Webex	8	20%
	Interacio	1	3%
	Teams	1	3%

Majority of the practitioners reported to use RSI technologies regularly (52.2%), 37% percent reported to use it but not regularly.

Table 3: Use of RSI technologies among practitioners

Variable	Characteristics	Frequency	Percent
Use of RSI technologies	Yes, I have used RSI technology regularly.	24	52.2%
	I have experience with RSI technology but have not used it extensively.	17	37%
	No, I have not used RSI technology in my work.	5	10.9%

Majority of the practitioners were not trained on the usage of RSI technologies (71.7%). When interrogated of the reason, a big majority reported that the training was not available (52.2%)

Table 4: Training of practitioners on RSI technologies

Variable	Characteristics	Frequency	Percent
Training	Yes	13	28.3%
	No	33	71.7%
Reasons for not training	Unavailability of training	24	52.2%
	I didn't want to	4	8.7%
	Lack of funds	4	8.7%

It is important to consider that the prevalence of RSI may vary depending on factors such as the availability of technology, access to reliable internet connections, and the adoption of remote communication practices.

4.2. The prospects of conference interpretation

To validly try to guess the future of conference interpretation in Cameroon, some aspects have to be considered, such as getting feed-back from interpreters, to know their feel and compare both

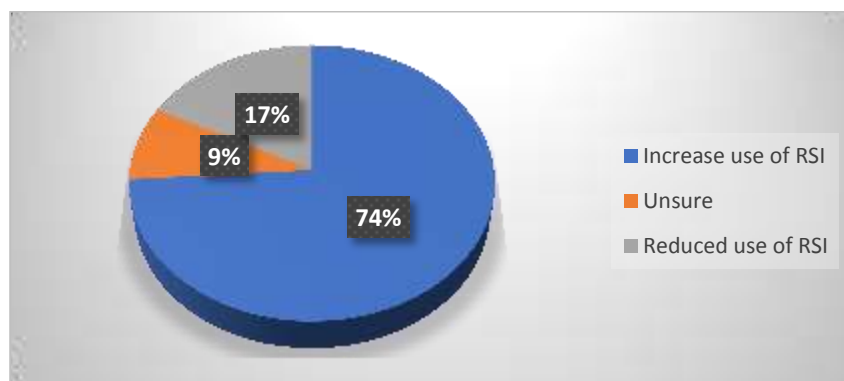
in-person interpretation and interpretation using SIDPs, then know their preference.

Majority of the practitioners interviewed reported that with RSI there is an improvement in quality compared to traditional in-person interpretation (41.3%). The main difficulty spotted by the practitioners was technical issues and connectivity issues (53.4%). On the other hand, the main benefit is the fact that RSI is cost savings in travel and accommodation (69.6%). While more than half of the practitioners said they didn't have a preference and used both types of interpretation equally (54.3%).

Table 5: Effect of RSI on interpretation

Variable	Characteristics	Frequency	Percent
Impact of RSI on interpretation	Improved quality compared to traditional in-person interpretation	19	41.3%
	Similar quality as traditional in-person interpretation	12	26.1%
	Decreased quality compared to traditional in-person interpretation	7	15.2%
	No idea	8	17.4%
Major difficulties of RSI	Technical issues and connectivity issues	26	54.3%
	Potential language or cultural barriers	2	4.3%
	Lack of training and proficiency in using RSI technology	15	30.4%
	Quality and reliability concerns	4	8.7%
Major benefits of RSI	Increased accessibility to interpretation services	26	56.5%
	Expanded reach to global audiences	27	58.7%
	Cost savings in travel and accommodation	32	69.6%
	Flexibility in scheduling and remote work	20	43.5%
Preferred mode of interpretation	In-person interpretation	1	2.2%
	Interpretation using RSI software	19	41.3%
	Both equally	26	56.5%

Majority of practitioners interviewed believe the future of RSI in Cameroon is bright as the reported they will be an increase in the use of RSI as time goes (74%).

**Figure 4: Future of RSI in Cameroon**

The prospects of conference interpretation in Cameroon, considering the adoption of Remote Simultaneous Interpretation, is promising. RSI opens up opportunities for interpreters to work beyond geographical boundaries and access a wider range of events and conferences. It offers flexibility in terms of scheduling and eliminates travel-related expenses. Additionally, the growing demand for remote communication solutions due to globalization and technological advancements creates a need for skilled interpreters who can adapt to remote interpretation platforms. However, it is essential to address potential challenges and ensure the quality of remote interpretation services. This includes providing interpreters with adequate training in using remote interpretation platforms, fostering proficiency in adapting to the technical aspects of RSI, and maintaining high standards of interpretation accuracy and professionalism.

5. CONCLUSION

Overall, the research findings highlight the relatively high rate of use of RSI in Cameroon and the significance of RSI as a means of increasing accessibility with virtual conferences, expanding reach to global audiences, and Cost savings in travel and accommodation thus contributing to a more connected and inclusive Cameroon. Hence, RSI as a mode on its own, on the Cameroonian conference interpreting market can be envisaged.

5.1. Recommendations

Based on this research on the effect of Remote Simultaneous Interpretation (RSI) on the practice of conference interpretation in Cameroon, the following recommendations can be made to interpreters;

Go in for specialized training programs and professional development opportunities for conference interpreters, to enhance your skills and competencies in RSI. Emphasis should be put on adapting to the remote interpreting environment, using RSI technology effectively, and addressing the specific challenges associated with remote interpretation.

Improve your technological infrastructure to support RSI in conference interpreting. This includes ensuring reliable internet connectivity, access to high-quality audio and video equipment, and appropriate software platforms for remote interpretation. Investment in infrastructure will enhance the overall quality and success of RSI implementation.

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