

# DCS/Interpretation Section

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# Demonstration

- Let us demonstrate some of these challenges: we will do that by listening simulated speech audio around 50 seconds long to a 47-second .
- As a first step, the original text of the speech will not be available. The script of the speech will be shown on the screen at a later stage. I will ask my colleague, a trained professional interpreter, to repeat the audio of the speech in the same language. This is called shadowing.

Jiayu, will try to repeat what she hears in the same language to see if she can catch up with the speaker in the audio, and without the text of the speech. You are invited to do the same from where you are if you like.

*Demo played and interpreter tries to catch up with the speaker in the audio*

My colleague will listen to the same audio again but with the text of speech provided. But before we listen to the second demo, I would like you at the same time try to pay attention to any possible mistakes.

Let's listen again:

**Demo played again and Jiayu repeats the exercise but with  
THE FOLLOWING ORIGINAL TEXT**

Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen

I would like to react to what the delegate from Miranaia has said in his earlier statement.

He accused our country of staging an unprovoked attack against the civilian population of the Miranaian city of Jumbara.

Excellencies

We have repeatedly condemned this unspeakable act of aggression and have nothing to do with the attack.

It is unacceptable to keep launching unjustified accusations against my country especially that all independent investigations have shown beyond any doubt that we had nothing to do with the attack.

Our intelligence services **strongly believe** that the criminal attack in **question has been ordered by the Miranaian security forces themselves with a view to sabotaging the ongoing peace talks**

Therefore, we call on the Miranaian authorities to refrain from any further accusations that will only lead to helping the real criminals get away with their heinous crime.



# Last minute change

- Delegate receives a last minute change in the written text from capital with modifications.

And here is the text of the delivered audio.  
the speaker changed a paragraph at the last  
minute as per last minute instructions.

Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen

I would like to react to what the delegate from Miranaia has said in his earlier statement.

He accused our country of staging an unprovoked attack against the civilian population of the Miranaian city of Jumbara.

Excellencies

We have repeatedly condemned this unspeakable act of aggression and have nothing to do with the attack.

It is unacceptable to keep launching unjustified accusations against my country especially that all independent investigations have shown beyond any doubt that we had nothing to do with the attack.

**Despite intelligence and media reports from the region we don't believe that the criminal attack in question has been**  
planned and ordered by the Miranaian security forces themselves allegedly to sabotage the ongoing peace talks.

Therefore, we call on the Miranaian authorities to refrain from any further accusations that will only lead to helping the real criminals get away with their heinous crime.

New paragraph read out in the oral statement

Despite intelligence and media reports from the region we don't believe that the criminal attack in question has been planned and ordered by the Miranaian security forces themselves allegedly to sabotage the ongoing peace talks.

Original paragraph modified upon delivery

“Our intelligence services *strongly believe* that the criminal attack in question has been ordered  
by the Miranaian security forces themselves with a view to sabotaging the ongoing peace talks”

As you have heard there are a few factors that may affect the quality of interpretation negatively or positively.

Some of these factors **may be controlled or limited** if taken into consideration and avoided.

## Miranaia incident

Difficulties:

Let's review those difficulties together:

- **Speed:** The speaker was reading very fast, way beyond the interpretable speed of a 120 words per minute, an international standard by the way.
- **Noise:** notifications and phone interference noise was heard in a way that drowned the voice of the speaker.
- **Technical:** lack of pauses, turning away from the microphone at times

# Recommendations

1. Availability of texts. When texts are made available, interpreters can prepare them in advance. This will help them better understand the ideas which are spelt out in the statement and determine the most accurate equivalent and terminology in the target language. A case in point, are Bible and Quran verses, proverbs, or quotes.
2. Noise reduction: Muting phones and laptops to avoid notification and interference noise is key to a clear and intelligible audio as you have seen in the demonstration above.
3. Natural conversation speed. Around 120 words per minute. Not News bulletin speed like the one we heard in the demo.

# Take away tips

- We have seen that the availability of the text made my colleague's task easier. However, the presence of unwanted yet controllable noise, made her task extremely difficult and **may have caused a diplomatic incident.**
- Our goal is to kindly bring your attention to some of the challenges that interpreters face WITH THE SOLE PURPOSE OF ADDRESSING THEM.

Together we can be sure that your  
messages can be heard clearly and well  
understood.

Thank you for your attention

QUESTIONS?