



*Folitex: why it should
take the place of the
“wiretap interpreter”.*

Prof. dr. Heidi Salaets
&
Dr. Katalin Balogh

Terminology

FO - rensic

LI - linguistic

T - tap

EX - expert

Outline

- **Terminology: old and new**
- April 2014 national conference KU Leuven
- April 2016 international conference KU Leuven
- Conclusion

Terminology: interpreter - interpreting?

The term 'tap interpreting' (literal translation of the Dutch '*taptolken*') dates back to the beginning of tap interpreting practices in Belgium. At that time, tap interpreters were asked to interpret intercepted conversations and police officers, sitting next to them, wrote their translation down. The term was thus well-chosen (Salaets, Alsulaiman, Biesbrouck, 2015)

Not merely interpreting

- decrypting and “decoding”
 - interpreting AND typing
 - adding non-verbal cues
 - adding paraverbal information
 - summarizing
 - distinguishing chats from informative parts
 - adapt language bound and culture-bound elements to the **audience**
- being the police or the court



Terminology: transcription- "transcriber"?

- Transcription

= transfer of **verbal and paraverbal** message of an auditory source into a written target tekst

Body  language

= language bound and culture-bound elements are adapted to the target audience → translation

Terminology: translator – translation ?

Translation = from a written source

The source = at best a **transcription**

< oral source

- Explicitation
- Adaptation to the target audience

TIME constraints

MAIN DIFFERENCE ...

with ordinary conversation is the
communicative goal namely:

NOT to be understood

(at least not by everybody)

MAIN DIFFERENCE ...

W

C

NO

(at



CHAPATTE
Indi Herald Tribune

KU LEUVEN

Terminology

Wiretap ???

WIRE?

VoIP, Internet, Tweet,

Skype , Wifi ... → **Darknet**

+ encrypted (foreign companies)

+ Spyshops (products to track tapping, materials for fencing-off or to avoid tracing)

+ prepare communication technology to avoid tapping (before: Black Berry- “Pingmessages” could not be traced)



Can you translate literally /word by word?



Legal Innovation - 21-22 April 2017
- Wrocław

International Symposium « Wiretap interpreting » - Antwerp 21-4-2016

KU LEUVEN

Outline

- Terminology: old and new
- **April 2014 national conference KU Leuven**
- April 2016 international conference KU Leuven
- Conclusion

Belgium

Calculated fees for
FoliteX amount(ed)
up to 3.028.358,96 €.
(2009)

2011 file: 537 telephone taps in
2001, 6.031 in 2010 and 6.671 in
2011 → annual expansion and
12 times more in 10 years time.

Belgium → google “OG Tolkwetenschap” or “RG Interpreting Studies” KU Leuven

Tolkwetenschap → Studiedagen/congressen → **Studiedag taptolken 29 april 2014**

Studiedag taptolken - terugblik

Op 29 april 2014 vond de studiedag taptolken plaats in Antwerpen.

De **presentaties** van de sprekers vindt u hier (volgens programma):

- de presentatie van de campusdecaan prof. dr. Steurs
- de probleemstelling van dr. Salaets
- de inleiding van dr. Alsulaiman
- de presentatie van onderzoeksrechter Van Cauwenberghe
- de presentatie van gerechtstolk en taptolk El-Ajjouri
- de presentatie van masterstudente tolken Biesbrouck

**in Dutch
only**



Belgium: the first local conference with...

- Information about the difficult task of a “tap interpreter” as witnessed by Mr. El Ajourri, “tap interpreter” himself
- A short workshop on how to work with ***Nicetrack (the tap-system)*** by police officer Moonen
- A first research done by a master student (Silke Biesbrouck)
- A testimony of investigating judge Van Cauwenberghe who speaks about his experience with tapping

Belgian judge:

- principle of proportionality (only allowed for certain crimes) and subsidiarity (if there are no other means than tapping)
- 3 important characteristics of the “interpreter”:
 - Objectivity
 - Professional secrecy
 - Decision making: what is (not) relevant is also decided by the “interpreter” (if we want it or not...)

Belgium : conclusion of the judge

“Please no more cuts in the budget, there is still work to do.

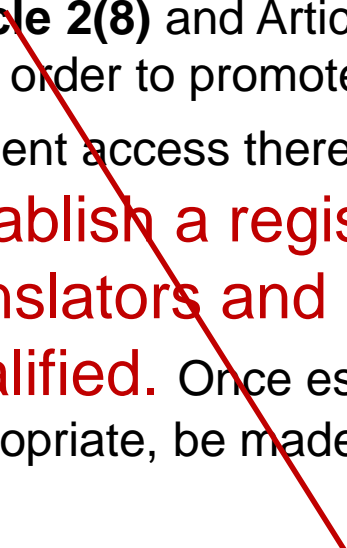
Quality costs money especially in these times that more foreigners are arriving and come in contact with Justice” → 2010/64/EU

Article 5

Quality of the interpretation and translation

1. Member States shall take concrete measures to ensure that the interpretation and translation provided meets the quality required under **Article 2(8)** and Article 3(9).

2. In order to promote the adequacy of interpretation and translation and efficient access thereto, **Member States shall endeavour to establish a register or registers of independent translators and interpreters who are appropriately qualified.** Once established, such register or registers shall, where appropriate, be made available to legal counsel and relevant authorities.



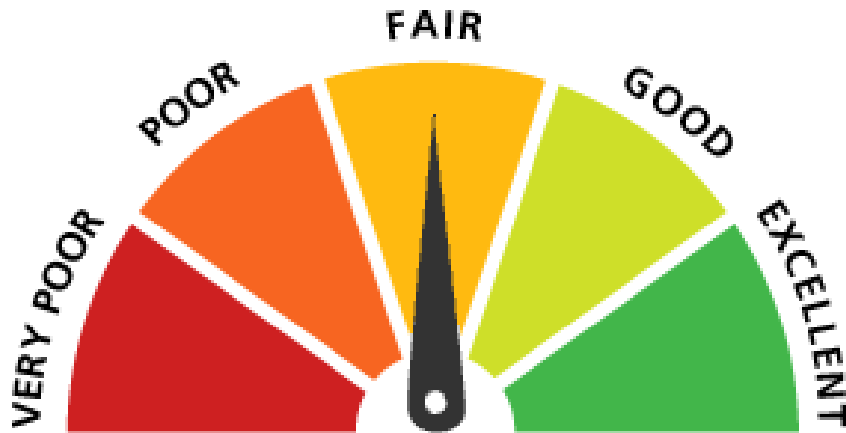
8. Interpretation provided under this Article shall be of a quality sufficient to safeguard the fairness of the proceedings, in particular by ensuring that suspected or accused persons have knowledge of the case against them and are able to exercise their right of defence.

BUT !!!



In Belgium the Register of legal interpreters and translators is in place since 1-4-2017 , 4 years after the due date 2013

Quality



Basic LIT training – KU Leuven (Antwerp Campus)

- Legal knowledge
- Deontology – code of ethics
- Terminology – legal Dutch
- Translating competences (= knowledge, skills, attitude)
- Interpreting competences (= knowledge, skills, attitude)
- Police module

+ **specialization** modules

e.g. “FOLITEX” from 2018 on

Outline

- Terminology: old and new
- April 2014 national conference KU Leuven
- **April 2016 international conference KU Leuven**
- Conclusion

Linguistic
tap expert? (LiTE)

Forensic
tap expert ? (FoTE)

Forensic
Linguistic tap expert
(FoLiTex)

Forensic

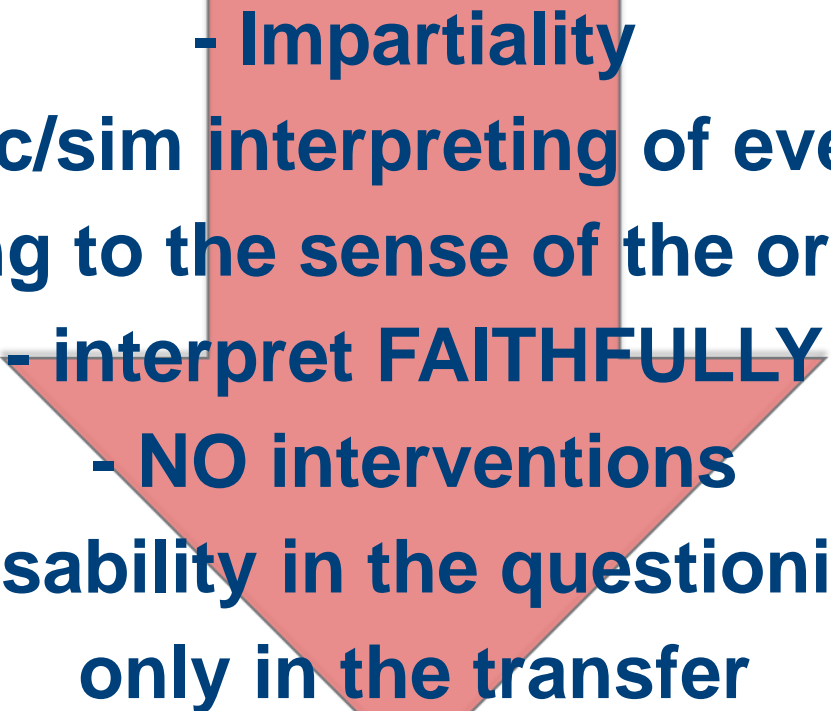
Linguistic

tap expert

Questioning (police officer *Steenacker*)

**Responsability of the police officer
= leader**

Interpreter has a very limited role:

- 
- **Impartiality**
 - **Consec/sim interpreting of everything according to the sense of the original =>**
 - **interpret FAITHFULLY**
 - **NO interventions**
 - **No responsibility in the questioning as such, only in the transfer**

Difference with **tap**

Responsability of the interpreter
drastically increases
compared to
questioning

Responsible of correct TRANSCRIPTION
for 2 kind of “audiences”
POLICE
COURT

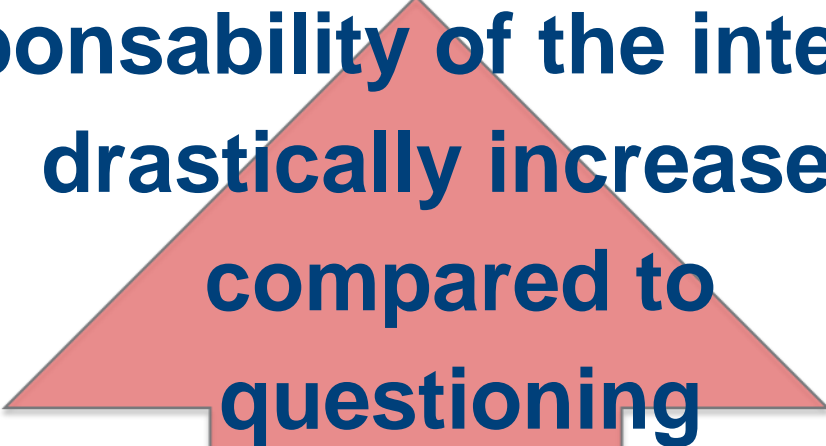
Consequence 1: enormous quantity of data
→ faithful translation IMPOSSIBLE →
synopsis /summary up to 10% only

Consequence 2: more languages →
sometimes it is work for more than one
interpreter
→ Different “interpretations”

Consequence 3: time pressure → new taps,
police raid, catch red-handed

Difference with tap

**Responsability of the interpreter
drastically increases
compared to
questioning**



**Folitec becomes partially a police
officer → needs police skills/
insights/training**

Forensic

Linguistic

tap expert

Dr. Krzysztof Kredens (Centre for Forensic Linguistics –Aston University)

When we listen to someone speaking, what we hear depends on three things:

- ▶ the sounds that they utter;
- ▶ the context of other sounds in which the particular sounds to which we are attending are uttered; and
- ▶ the listener's knowledge and expectations about the language the speaker is using, and the situation in which they are speaking. (Fraser 2003: 204)

‘[S]peech perception is an active, rather than a passive, process, with the hearer actively constructing, rather than passively picking up, the speaker’s message’ (Fraser 2003: 205)

Examples of hearing errors (Fraser 2003) (Kredens 2016)

What was said

I'm a student too, I'm not just a wife
Got a notebook handy?
maple leaf
but lizards don't even have teeth

I think I see a place
this report is tolerable
Australians all let us rejoice
the girl with kaleidoscope eyes
all staff email
gladly thy cross I'd bear
this guy's in love with you
when the going gets tough

What was heard

I'm a student too, in Manchester
got an opal candy?
make believe
at least when it's finished we can have
tea

I think I see his face
this report is horrible
Australia's only ostriches
the girl with colitis goes by
all star female
gladly the cross-eyed bear
the sky's in love with you
go and get stuffed

Case Study (Kredens 2016)

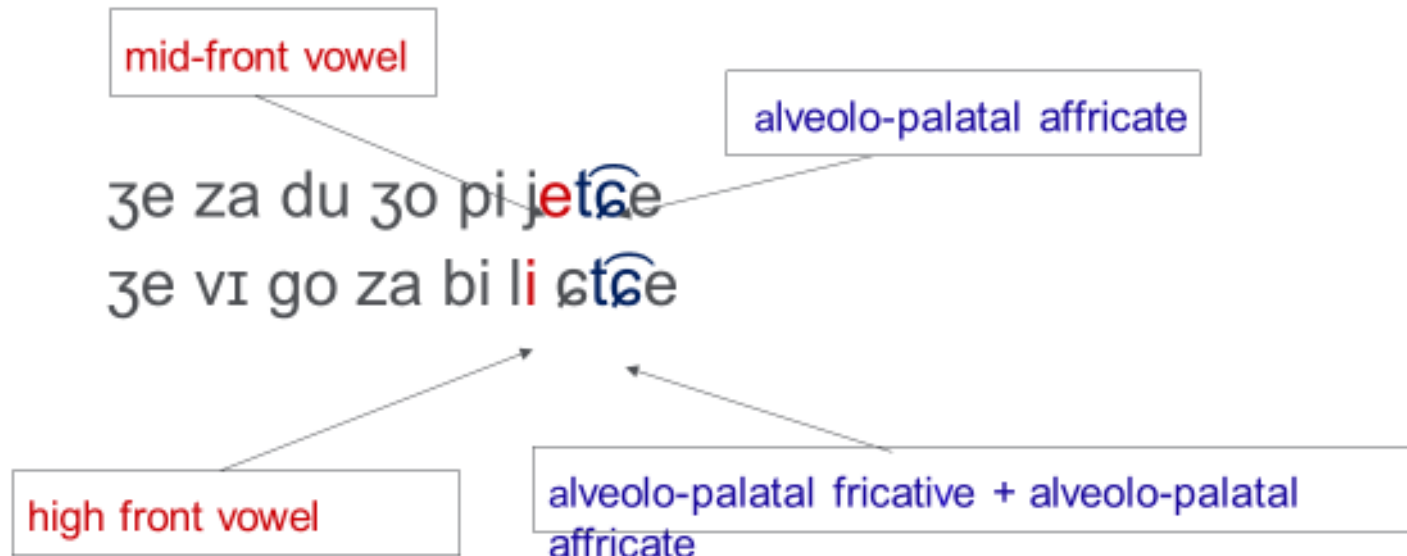
Najgorsze jest, że za dużo pijecie.

The worst thing is that you drink too much.

Najgorsze jest, że wy go zabiliście.

The worst thing is that you killed him.

Case Study (Kredens 2016)



Would you like to have a cup of coffee with me some time?

Would you be interested in ingesting a dark liquid containing caffeine in my company in a catering establishment at an unspecified time in the future?

OR

I like you. Let's get to know each other better.

→ Kredens 2016: speech act identification : *what to words say and given the context, what do they do?*

Kredens: some recommendations

- ▶ Choose a set of transcription conventions
- ▶ Make sure the format reflects suspect's and interpreter's turns
- ▶ Be consistent
- ▶ Do not omit hesitation and discourse markers
- ▶ **Do not guess** (use the labels 'inaudible' or 'unclear')
- ▶ Provide information on extralinguistic interaction elements
- ▶ Render participants' input faithfully - do not correct the mistakes
- ▶ Remember that pauses can be meaningful

- ▶ Overlapping speech?

Outline

- Terminology: old and new
- April 2014 national conference KU Leuven
- April 2016 international conference KU Leuven
- **Conclusion**

First...

- Training →
- Certification →
- Proofs of professionalism (PF) →
- A Register of LIT →
- Professional organisations for LIT (BBVT/UPTIA & Lextra Lingua)
-



Next ... specialization modules



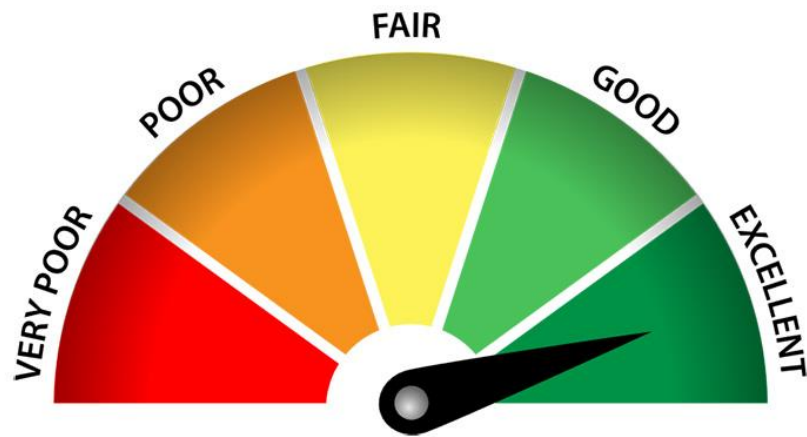
- Working in prisons
- Working with minors
- Working for the police
- Working with VCI (**Katalin Balogh**)
- **FOLITEX**
- ...

FOLITEX project running

KU Leuven , Antwerp Campus

- Prof. Abied Alsulaiman
- Prof. Katalin Balogh

- Do research on authentic tap materials
- Formulate recommendations
- Manual
- Folitex specialization module



The first step to getting anywhere is deciding you're no longer willing to stay where you are.



THAT IS WHY ...

Folitex

as a term

but especially as a specific
expertise in its own

should take the place of the
“wiretap interpreter”



heidi.salaets@kuleuven.be
katalin.balogh@kuleuven.be