

Research on the Strategies for Improving Bilingual Journalists' Interview Ability

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ABSTRACT

The Globalization of news communication has put forward new requirements for journalists' ability, and bilingual journalists who can work in two languages proficiently play a key bond angle in transmitting information and communicating different cultures. It is necessary to deal with the differences in language conversion in the interview, overcome the barriers to understanding caused by different cultural backgrounds, and quickly respond to unexpected situations in the interview process. Therefore, this paper discusses effective strategies for bilingual journalists to improve their interview ability and provides specific and feasible suggestions for cultivating more competent international journalism talents.

KEYWORDS

Bilingual journalists; Journalist interview; Ability improvement

1 Introduction

At present, the ties between countries are becoming closer and closer. Bilingual journalists play a special role in this process because they can cross the language barrier to communicate; their ability directly affects the quality of news reporting and the effect of cross-cultural communication. The lack of language ability in bilingual reports will directly affect the accuracy of information transmission and communication efficiency, and cultural cognitive differences will lead to unintentional misunderstanding in cross-cultural communication. The on-the-spot response-ability to deal with unexpected situations is an important guarantee to ensure the smooth progress of the interview. Therefore, this paper will deeply analyze the key factors affecting the interview effect of bilingual journalists in order to provide clear ideas and improvement directions for the ability training at the practical operation level.

2 Basic competency requirements for bilingual journalists

2.1 Language proficiency standards and requirements for bilingual journalists

Bilingual journalists need to possess a certain level of language proficiency close to that of a native speaker. They also need to understand complex, fast language and understand each other exactly as if they were speaking their language, including thoughts and emotions that are not directly spoken. At the same time, due to the timely feedback of oral communication in the interview site, bilingual journalists need to convert the information in the interview site immediately and accurately. In the process of transformation, in addition to the differences in vocabulary, they also need to consider the differences in thinking and cultural differences in the information dissemination process. Bilingual journalists need to decode language to ensure that the message is delivered without losing crucial content or distorting the original meaning. Especially in tense real interviews, journalists need to listen while quickly grasping the point in their brains to organize the other language. For example, in the live coverage of international emergencies, one can quickly understand the important information released by the official point immediately in another language clearly and properly conveyed to the audience to ensure that the core idea is correct ^[1].

2.2 Cross-cultural communication skills for bilingual journalists

In addition to language competence, bilingual journalists' key challenge is communicating the different cultural habits behind both sides, which requires strong cross-cultural communication skills. It requires journalists to be sensitive to the interviewee's culture's social rules, values, common communication patterns, and customs. It can flexibly use this knowledge to communicate in practical interaction. Journalists should be aware of words or behaviors that are common in their own culture but may be inappropriate or offensive in the other culture and adjust their questions and expressions to the other culture. For example, Asian respondents, who are used to euphemisms and value "Face" and group relations, should not ask too direct and incisive questions. They need to be more prepared and methodical and create an atmosphere of trust; the other person is willing to talk further. Successful cross-cultural communication is based on sincere respect for each other's cultural habits. Journalists need to constantly remind themselves to put aside the inherent

perspective of their own culture to understand each other and get real, valuable information while respecting the other person's culture^[2].

2.3 The resilience and thinking ability of bilingual journalists in the process of interview

Interviews are often full of surprises and uncertainties, which requires a bilingual journalist's on-the-spot reaction and thinking ability. Resiliency should be based on solid preparation, clear thinking, and accurate judgment. Journalists need to be able to immediately hold their ground and flexibly adjust their plans in the face of unexpected situations so as not to lose the core objectives of the interview but also to make good use of or defuse unexpected situations, even seizing deeper reporting opportunities from the breaking news requires the journalists to maintain a state of constant attention and calm thinking. In addition, a journalist needs to think while listening to content in both languages: the other side says there is no contradiction in the content. What is the key message behind the sentence? What might it mean that the interviewees are not saying everything they want? How to seize the opportunity to continue to ask skillfully, improve the accuracy of the information, tap the potential news value in the face of important people, or talk about complex and sensitive issues, journalists should be able to find the real valuable information points in the "Polite words," and have the courage and strategy to raise in-depth core issues, and finally grasp the essence of the problem through the phenomenon.

3 The key factors affecting the interview ability of bilingual journalists

3.1 The influence of language ability on interview results

Journalists need to truly understand the meaning of the interviewee, not only the words but also the unspoken thoughts and subtle emotions of the other person; even if there is a slight deviation in understanding when journalists ask questions, they will miss important information and even get it wrong. At the same time, journalists in a foreign language must ask questions and express themselves accurately and naturally. If the question is not phrased properly, the wording is incorrect, or the other side can not understand, answer the question incorrectly, or accidentally offend the other. Poorly organized sentences can make communication difficult for the other side, affecting the depth of responses and even reducing their willingness to cooperate. When a journalist speaks with obvious grammatical errors, although the other side may sometimes guess the general meaning, it can damage the journalist's professional image and credibility, making the interviewee reluctant to open up and speak the truth. Moreover, in actual conversations, journalists must be able to organize appropriate sentences in real time to ask questions, follow up, and respond as the topic progresses. Suppose journalists are slow to react or express themselves awkwardly when switching languages. In that case, the smooth rhythm and natural feel of the entire dialogue will be disrupted, making it difficult for both sides to establish a comfortable communication state^[3].

3.2 Influence of cultural background on interview skills

Where the journalists and the interviewees come from and what cultural background they have profoundly affected how the interview is conducted and what methods are used to be effective; this is mainly reflected in the fact that people have very different views on communicating properly. For example, people in different cultures have completely different habits about how to speak politely, how direct to be, how to show enthusiasm, what to ask, and what not to ask. This difference directly determines what strategies journalists should use to communicate. For example, when facing interview subjects who are very particular about hierarchy and speak in a more reserved and euphemistic way, if a journalist adopts a particularly direct approach, even frequently interrupting each other with a questioning tone of question way, they will be seen as impolite or in the provocation, the other side will become very defensive, only the surface of the polite words to deal with, no longer deep conversation. Moreover, the interviewee comes from a culture that is used to speaking candidly. In that case, if the journalist talks too euphemistically, the other side will feel that the journalist is not frank enough or is hiding and has no patience to continue talking. Therefore, understanding the other side of the cultural habits helps journalists to more accurately understand the true intention behind the other side of the words, but also to avoid accidentally touching each other's cultural sensitivity, resulting in the relationship being frozen or even unable to continue the interview^[4].

3.3 The role of situational judgment and interpersonal communication in the quality of the interview

Successful interviews do not just follow a set process. They occur on real occasions and with real people, and the process is full of change. This requires the journalists to be flexible in responding to the situation and establishing a good

interactive relationship with the interviewee. Journalists need to perceive the "atmosphere" of the interview setting keenly. Is the current conversation relaxed or particularly tense and oppressive? What is the emotional state of the interviewee at the moment? Are there others present nearby, and could this affect the authenticity of what the interviewee says? The demeanor and speech of the journalist can be perceived by the other side, influencing the establishment of the relationship and the direction of subsequent communication. In addition, during the conversation, journalists always grasp the dynamic changes in the dialogue; the need to immediately seize the other side's reaction revealed important signals. The incongruity of the other person's words, the evasive look in their eyes, and the sudden increase or decrease in tone are often details that point to useful clues or hidden talking points. Journalists also need to determine where the conversation is going. Good journalists know how to adjust to the situation on the ground and create a safe, respectful, and trustworthy atmosphere. This kind of effective interactive relationship based on flexible judgment and good communication on the spot is the key guarantee for the interview to dig out the deep-seated content.

4 Strategies to improve the interview ability of bilingual journalists

4.1 Strengthening the integration of language training and cultural knowledge

The key to enhancing the interviewing skills of bilingual journalists is to truly intertwine language learning and cultural understanding, allowing both to improve simultaneously. The effective way is to let language learning take root directly in the cultural soil. The materials used in learning a foreign language should be filled with the flavor of the real culture, such as watching the target country's popular talk shows, real people dialogue records, or representative news reports. When learning a new word or expression, do not just know the literal meaning. Figure out who uses it in real life, what situation it is used in, and how it feels to say it (is it polite or casual? Will it cause misunderstandings?). When practicing listening in a foreign language, it is important not only to understand the literal meaning but also to pay attention to the "subtext" in the conversation, such as whether the other person is politely declining, joking, or expressing politeness in some way. When practicing asking questions, one must deliberately adjust the phrasing according to different cultural backgrounds. For instance, the same pointed question can be expressed in a manner acceptable within the other person's culture so that it does not come across as rude, and the person is more willing to respond. This allows the journalists in the actual interview language expression to naturally conform to each other's cultural habits and understand each other's meaning more accurately, reducing the language or cultural misunderstanding so that the interview gets stuck or the risk of failure^[5].

4.2 Improve cross-cultural communication skills and methods

A grasp of cultural background is just the foundation; journalists need to put this knowledge into practical skills to deal with people. Before an interview, a journalist should approach the subject curiously, seeking to understand their communication habits. The interview should start with a quick and easy initial feeling; when chatting with someone, pay special attention to observing: the other person seems nervous or relaxed, talks fast or slow, and likes to be direct or around the corner. Journalists have to adjust their speaking and questioning styles on the spot. When designing questions, it is important to consider what journalists themselves want to ask and how the other side will perceive the question within their cultural habits. When pursuing the truth or raising doubts, it is essential to employ skills; it is best to choose methods of expression that are easier to understand and less likely to offend within the cultural framework of the other side. Suppose the other side, because of cultural differences, has misunderstandings or is not too happy. In that case, journalists must be found promptly and immediately find ways to explain or ease the atmosphere. Bilingual journalists should change their fixed cultural knowledge into the ability to quickly perceive the situation and adjust their strategies in time in specific conversations, with the ultimate goal of making the interview go smoothly and getting real and useful content.

4.3 Pathways for Enhancing Practical Skills and Cultivating Innovative Thinking

The main way to improve bilingual journalists' ability is to interview many real people and stories and carefully summarize and reflect after each visit. Having to let the journalists do more real interviews, the object should be diversified, the topic should be difficult and easy, and the environment should also be changeable. After each interview, ask yourself: "What questions did you ask? Why? How did the other person react? Did you miss a chance to ask? What question did you ask yourself that was not good or misunderstood?" This kind of reflection can also be discussed with other experienced partners to discover more blind spots journalists themselves have not noticed. After accumulating considerable practical experience and reflective insights, journalists should be encouraged to step out of old routines and

explore new ideas boldly. This can involve exploring new forms of interviews or designing unique questioning angles and approaches tailored to specific interview subjects and topics. The entire enhancement process involves bundling practice, reflection, and courageous innovation together, with the ultimate goal of enabling journalists to demonstrate their independent thinking habits and distinctive interviewing styles in real, dynamic, and complex interview settings involving different cultures.

5 Conclusion

The article clarifies that enhancing the interviewing skills of bilingual journalists requires integrating the underlying culture while learning the language and understanding the true usage of words and speaking habits; during interviews, one must learn to be adaptable, pay attention to the other side's reactions, and adjust one's approach accordingly; it is essential to engage in continuous real interview practice, reflect and summarize afterward, and be willing to try new questioning methods to overcome difficulties. Therefore, relevant news organizations should use real situations to teach language in training and pay attention to the actual use of language in different cultures. Journalists should engage with various authentic interview subjects and environments during interviews. Additionally, they should establish a system of continuous training that incorporates analysis and summaries after each interview and attempts at new questioning methods to accomplish interview tasks in different cultural contexts better.

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