



## Ideologically loaded language in conference interpreting: the case of the European Parliament

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A growing body of research has questioned the “clear conduit” model of conference interpreting which persists in professional training and the public perception. While this classic model is built around an impartial interpreter who ideally makes no alterations to the message being interpreted other than switching the language code (e.g. Gile 2009), studies have explored the issue of interpreter agency (e.g. Angelelli 2004; Monacelli 2009; Bartłomiejczyk 2016) and the possibility of meaningful ideological shifts between political source speeches and their interpretations (e.g. Beaton-Thome 2013, Bartłomiejczyk 2020). However, the latter have been limited in scope, focusing either on a single debate or a single speaker. Here, the findings of those studies are built upon by extending the scope to thematically diverse but related plenary debate contributions by ideologically diverse speakers.

This paper presents the results of a qualitative pilot study of English language speeches at the European Parliament and their interpretations into Polish. Contributions by politicians representing the far right, the far left and the centre of the political spectrum were analysed using methods of the discourse-historical approach. The analysis of linguistic labelling of social actors (e.g. migrants, the European Union) and social phenomena (e.g. the migration crisis) as well as their linguistic characterisations reveals the ideological orientation of the speaker regarding the actors and phenomena in question (e.g. praise for the EU’s response to arriving migrants). By analysing both the source speeches and their interpretations it is possible to investigate whether ideologically salient language in the source speech is rendered closely, mitigated or strengthened in the interpretation. The results of this analysis suggest that the ideological load of the speeches is mitigated in their interpretations regardless of the speaker’s ideological orientation, resulting in their rhetorical impact being weakened.

### References

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