

## **Impoliteness Interpreting: A Gender Talk?**

*Caiwen Wang, University of Westminster/UCL, UK*

Situations where a source speaker speaks rudely or attacks the addressee's face pose a challenge for interpreters, due to the potential conflicts to which impoliteness is prone. 'As non-marginal human linguistic phenomena within certain types of discourse the concepts of conflictive illocutions (in general) and of impoliteness (in particular) within interaction are [...] worthy of study, critical consideration, and research' (Bousfield 2008, p. 1). Within the field of Interpreting Studies, Magnifico and Defrancq (2016, p. 31) noted that '[t]he study of im/politeness in interpreting is fairly recent, and the few studies conducted highlight the need to do more research into the topic'. The current study drew upon Bousfield's (2008) linguistic model of impoliteness and used the political speech by a former UK politician at the European Parliament following the UK referendum on Brexit to generate simultaneous interpreting data. Data from 12 freelance conference interpreters, six males and six females, were analysed. The aims are to assess whether there are any differences in interpreting impoliteness between freelance male conference interpreters and freelance female conference interpreters, and to contribute to both our knowledge of impoliteness interpreting (e.g., Bartłomiejczyk, 2016) and the literature on 'the reality of simultaneous interpreters in the largely unchartered private market' (Adams, 2021), given that 'a significant majority of conference interpreters are freelance interpreters who work in the private market' Diriker (2015, p. 175). It is hope that the findings will stimulate discussions and/or debates on professional ethics and interpreter training.

## References

- Adams, Heather. 2021. Cognitive load among conference interpreters on the private market: trickier than you might think? Lecture at the Stirling Centre for Interpreting, Translation and Intercultural Studies, 12 Nov. 2021
- Bartłomiejczyk, Magdalena. 2016. *Face Threats in Interpreting. A Pragmatic Study of Plenary Debates in the European Parliament*. Katowice: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego.
- Bousfield, Derek. 2008. *Impoliteness in interaction*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Diriker, Ebru. 2015. "Conference interpreting". In Holly Mikkelsen, Renée Jourdenais (eds.). *The Routledge Handbook of Interpreting*, pp. 171–185. London – New York: Routledge.
- Magnifico, Cédric, & Defrancq, Bart. 2016. Impoliteness in interpreting: a question of gender? *The International Journal of Translation and Interpreting Research*, 8(2), pp. 26–45.  
<https://doi.org/10.12807/ti.108202.2016.a03>