Translation and Interpreting Compared with Language Mediation in the Classroom

Dimension	Interpreting / translating	Language mediation (in the classroom)
Goal	Accurate rendering of an utterance	Meaning-oriented, audience-oriented relaying of content
Closeness to the original	High formal and content-based closeness	Selective, adaptive, reductive
Role of the person	Impartial intermediary	Active constructor of meaning
Handling of information	Completeness is the aim	Selection and condensing are necessary
Audience orientation	Addressees usually clearly defined	Addressees must be actively considered
Cultural dimension	Implicitly present	To be explicitly addressed
Understanding of error	Deviation from the original is problematic	Reformulations that preserve meaning are legitimate
Training context	Professional qualification	General foreign language teaching
Strategies	Memory, note-taking and reformulation techniques	Paraphrasing, simplifying, contextualising and comparing

© Christian Fiedler