

The Interaction of Interpreting Power and Military Power: The Parasitic Identity of Interpreters in the Korean War

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In the context of the Korean War, interpreting is hardly a profession despite the fact that interpreting professionalism matters more in conflict than in any other social situation. The identity of interpreters is complex and shaped by various roles related to language services. Their experiences in interpreting are overlapped and interacted with the war and political conflicts, resulting in a mixed profession that is intertwined and dependent on professions such as "liaison," "propagandist," and "instructor of POWs." As a result, the identity of interpreters is a "parasitic" one closely tied to their national identity. Their decisions on which content to interpret, how to interpret it, and even whether to interpret at all are either re-actively or proactively a result of interaction between interpreting power of themselves and military power of the conflict environment.

Key words: Interpreters in the Korean War; power of war interpreting; mixed profession; parasitic identity