

## Sports Interpreting and Favouritism: Manipulators or Scapegoats?<sup>1</sup>

Alev BULUT<sup>2</sup>

### Abstract

Sports is a field like politics in the sense that it has fans/followers to persuade in order to go on winning (financially, too) which makes sports discourse a very slippery ground open to favouritism even without interpreting. When interpreting is involved the situation gets more complex and ideological and it is nearly always the interpreter who gets to be blamed when a conflict occurs. In Turkey, it has been very common to employ foreign managers for football teams including the national team (basketball and volleyball teams, too, but at a much smaller scale). The theoretical framework of the work derives from the functional-pragmatic approaches and impartiality/objectivity issues in Translation and Interpreting Studies as well as my earlier work on the same topic (Bulut 2004, 2008, 2010, 2011). In this study, examples are given and discussed from the news coverages of press conferences of foreign football managers and players in Turkey which involve conflict, the blame having been put on the interpreter at the end of each. The examples display three categories of the perception of favouritism (favouritist rendering favoured, who to favor and unfavoured interpreter) denoting at problems of decision making and professionalism in consecutive sports interpreting as well as shedding light to the common issues of the interpreting process where the interpreter is in a vulnerable position easier to be blamed as the intermediating agent than the speaker/source.

**Keywords:** Sports interpreting, football, favouritism, consecutive mode, professionalism.

### Spor Tercümanlığı ve İltimas: Manipülatörler ya da Günah Keçileri

#### Özet

Spor alanı da tıpkı politika gibi ikna etmenin, kazanmanın (maddi anlamda da) ve taraftarlığın önemli olduğu bir alandır. Bu alan yabancı/o ülkenin dilinden başka dil konuşan aktörlere verilen zorunlu bir hizmet olarak yapılan sözlü çeviri söz konusu olmadan da taraf tutmaya açık kaygan ve hassas bir zemine sahiptir. Yabancı aktörlerin yer aldığı spor haberlerinin medyaya çeviri yoluyla yansımından izleyebileceğimiz gibi çeviri kolaylıkla çatışma ve suçlama konusu olabilmektedir. Türkiye’de futbol takımlarında (milli takım ve az da olsa basketbol ve voleybol takımlarını da katabiliriz) yabancı teknik direktör ve oyuncu çalıştırmak oldukça yaygındır. Çalışmanın kuramsal çerçevesi Çeviribilimin yazılı ve sözlü alanlarında tarafsızlık/nesnellik konularının araştırılmasında işlevsel-edimsel yaklaşımlar ve bu sunumun dayandığı önceki çalışmalar oluşturmaktadır (Bulut 2004, 2008, 2010, 2011). Çalışmanın örnekleri futbol alanında yabancı teknik direktör ve oyuncuların çevirmen aracılığıyla yaptıkları basın toplantılarında çatışma ve sorun içeren ve çevirmenlerin suçlanabildiği durumların basına yansıyan haberlerine dayanmaktadır. Örnekler üç temel kategoride (istenmeyen taraflı çeviri, kimin tarafı ve istenmeyen çevirmen) ardıl spor çevirisinde karar alma ve profesyonellik açısından sorunların yanısıra sözlü çeviri sürecinin konuşmacıdan/kaynaktan çok aracıyı kolay suçlanabilen bir pozisyona sokan yapısını da ortaya almaktadır.

**Anahtar Sözcükler:** Spor çevirmenliği, futbol, taraftarlık, ardıl çeviri, profesyonellik.

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<sup>2</sup> Prof. Dr., İstanbul University, Translation Studies Department/English, alev.bulut@istanbul.edu.tr

Adres  
Kırklareli Üniversitesi, Fen Edebiyat Fakültesi, Türk Dili ve Edebiyatı  
Bölümü, Kayah Kampüsü - Kırklareli / TÜRKİYE  
e-posta: editor@rumelide.com

Adress  
Kırklareli University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Dep. of Turkish  
Language and Literature, Kayah Campus - Kırklareli / TURKEY  
e-mail: editor@rumelide.com

## 1. Introduction

*When I started doing sports interpreting it wasn't as developed as it is now as a profession. It was difficult to pursue a career in this field. Now there is a profession called sports interpreting. I created my own career in it...*

Samet Güzel, interview *Sabah* 17.03.2013

Sports interpreting is a newly flourishing field of interpreting in Turkey as is in the rest of the world. It is yet not fully-fledged, likewise, as a topic of research in Translation and Interpreting Studies. The above extract from an interview given to a Turkish newspaper by a famous football interpreter<sup>3</sup> is a summary of the situation in our country. Defining the field as a context of interpreting in the Turkish scale may help contribute to the background required for the related research under the heading of Interpreting Studies with its theoretical and practical aspects.

This study, hoping to pave the grounds for further research as preliminary data, aims at observing the role of “favouritism” and “group affiliation” in consecutive interpreting tasks in the field of sports with specific focus on the perception of consecutive staff interpreters (liaisons/assistants) of players and technical directors in football teams as an issue embedded in professionalisation/status and positioning. The study derives from the insights and findings of earlier works of the researcher on the variations of the same topic such as translators and interpreters as reflected in the media (Bulut 2004); ideology in translation and interpreting (Bulut 2008); pragmatic linguistic evaluation of consecutive interpreting in politics and sports in terms of “politeness” and “relevance” (Bulut 2010); the role of ideology in the decision-making process in consecutive interpreting with regard to pragmatic models (Bulut 2011); interpreting cases from football as justifications of the undefined and problematic status of the interpreters in football clubs (Bulut 2015).

## 2. Favouritism and translation

The definition of **favouritism** can be given as an extension of the meanings of “favour”, “to favour” and “favourite”. According to a leading monolingual dictionary in English **favourite** is “an object or person regarded with esteem or affection above others”. **Favouritism** is “showing a special liking for one person or a few individuals in a group by acts of partiality where impartiality is called for” (*New Websters Dictionary and Thesaurus of the English Language*, 1993 p. 343)

The behavioral scale of ‘favouritism’ ranges from the ‘psycho-social drives’ to ‘ideological side taking’ which can namely be given in English-Turkish as ‘group membership’ (grup üyeliği), ‘favouritism’ (yandaşlık) and ‘fanaticism’ (tarafdarlık, fanatiklik).

It might be helpful to refer to the aspect of favouritism in the field of sports as displayed by the discourse of the field. The academic and scientific background of the present study naturally owe deeply to the insights offered by the limited number of earlier works produced in Turkey on sports discourse and favouritism.

Linguist and author Tahsin Yücel in his influential book of essays on discourse devoted a chapter to sports discourse to discuss it as a discursive production full of “epic, heroic” aspects of “legends” and “favouritism” (yandaşlık) (1998: 15-53). Linguist Nalan Büyükkantarcıoğlu in a pioneering article in our case discussed “the traces of biased judgements as reflected in sports discourse” to define sports discourse as “one of the areas in which biased categorizations and in-group favouritism are generally observed” and offered an analysis of a sports commentary from a Turkish newspaper with Critical Discourse Analysis as a psycho-social and ideological approach to discourse) (1999: 117-130).

<sup>3</sup> my translation, see Appendix 3 and examples of this study for more

Favouritism has been a key word in the analysis of translational behaviour as an aspect of group membership in a group or a society of individuals and professionals. The research foci of favouritism takes the following shapes in accordance with the major angles/approaches in TS:

\*socio-psychological, critical, ideological approaches to translational behaviour (such as Munday 2007, ideology and translation; Baker 1998; Schaffner 1998 research on conflict, media, political translation)

\*text linguistic, discourse analytical, socio-linguistic and pragmatic tools for an objective grounds of favouritism in translational behavior (such as Gutt 1991, relevance/cognition and translation; House 1998, politenes and translation; Ian & Mason 1998, discourse and translation)

### 3. Sports interpreting

Sports interpreting is a popular job mainly at football clubs in countries like Turkey where foreign directors and players get frequently hired. It requires a low level of professionalism; high level of favouritism; expectancy of expertise; tendency to assume the role of sports commentatorship.

Sports interpreting is a general term that covers simultaneous or consecutive interpreting services provided by professional interpreters both by free lancers and those recruited by professional agencies. The onsite mode is mostly used by narrators/ announcers of games.

Although the analysis of the field and tasks involved in sports interpreting in the World and in our country are very few for the time being, we can offer the following categories in an effort to cover the whole field with all its tasks and sub-contexts (see Aküzüm-Uyanık 2015 for further details of the Turkish scene):

\*professional interpreters/free-lancers interpreting at sports events

\*in-house/staff interpreters of sports teams

The recruitment of professional free-lancers through an interpreting agency is valid for international or regional activities, tournaments, games and major/world wide sports events such as the Olympics, Summer/Winter Games, Champions' League, UEFA ([www.uefa.com](http://www.uefa.com)), U20 etc. The agencies that hire interpreters may be specialised only in sports based recruitment (e.g. <http://www.sportsinterpreting.co.uk/>) as well as doing it as part of their general interpreter recruitment for tasks and events that require interpreting in simultaneous and consecutive modes.

As was suggested by the above classification, there are sports clubs that hire consecutive interpreters with multiple positions and roles as player or director's liaisons/ life assistants or escorts. These tasks are mostly performed in-house by non-professionals of interpreting who are also fans of the club themselves (sources: Özfesçioğlu 2005; Kurt 2008; İshak 2008; Sports Interpreting in Turkey, Dec.17, 2010, BU)

#### 3.1. Consecutive mode in sports interpreting

Consecutive interpreting is a mode of interpreting used in meetings and conferences with roles, positioning, standards, codes, professionalism (staff/ in house vs. free lancer; filtering strategies/decisions vs. non-filtering strategies/decisions) unique to its contexts. Sports is one of those contexts as a whole with sub-contexts of primarily football, basketball and other sports fields at decreasing frequencies depending on the countries that hire foreign directors and players and the origin of those who are hired, the unstable patterns and cases in the industry in this sense designating the recruitment.

As for the technical aspects of the consecutive interpreting mode used in sports contexts, we can say that the regular consecutive positioning with the foreign director or player and the other players and club members or press is valid with changes depending on rendering of the consecutive tasks in and out of the field (field, locker room, training, press conference etc.) It can be as strictly defined as a press conference closest to the regular bilateral meeting conditions in interpreting or more and more flexible when rendered during a training session as the escort and advocate of the director of a team.

In short, types of consecutive interpreting are used in the field of sports from liaison to bilateral (press conferences) and escort changing the timing and nature of the consecutive task from more regular to less. Regular being taking the turn after the speaker/director/player in formal settings, less regular being adjusting the timing and positioning according to the flow if in a field training, locker room or informal meeting. The less formal it gets the closer it is to the consecutive interpreting in the community (see Aküzüm-Uyanık 2015 for the descriptions based on a questionnaire applied to the sports interpreters to set the scene).

### 3.2. Consecutive football interpreters in football

Football is a field of sports where the highest level of in-group favouritism is observed due to the history and social impact of this activity. This holds true for the Turkish context as is in the rest of the countries in the world that football is a favoured activity. It is the basic nature of football (as in political party membership) that places favouritism forward and promotes the group identity. This is why it seems to be in the nature of or in the expected behavioural repertoire of (consecutive) sports interpreters in the context of football to represent an emotional affiliation with the commissioner and the task.

The above introduction holds valid for the in-house consecutive interpreters of football clubs/player and director liaisons in Turkey, which can be supported by some preliminary studies and projects (İshak 2009). Inclusion/membership and full cooperation that are expected from the interpreters of football clubs makes them almost literally commissioned to represent the club.

### 4. Favouritism in Sports Interpreting: manipulators or scapegoats?

*Ben o kadar çok şey söylemedim ki!  
(I didn't say that many things indeed!)*

Luis Aragones/ Fenerbahçe

*Radikal* 18.11.2008<sup>4</sup>

It is difficult to assess if the sport interpreters are the victims/the scapegoats of the field or the manipulators/powerful agents. The following interwoven issues come to the fore when we set out to list the research foci under this title:

\*identity and visibility issues

\*professionalism and institutionalism (job descriptions, structures, positions)

Although this study will be dealing with the second one of the above issues, basing on the observations and overall insights of the tasks, it will be fair to say that the sports interpreters either become an unjudging member of the group which makes them embedded/involved/subjective members in the interpreting contexts or act as professionals who represent a distant/uninvolved and, thus, objective attitude towards their jobs and commissioners. The

<sup>4</sup> Former director of Fenerbahçe football club said that to his interpreter at a press conference after a game meaning that the interpreter took longer than he did, at which everybody there laughed.

latter position is difficult to continue with regard to the affiliative (team membership) behaviour that is expected from or even required by any member of the group in the case of football.

Any problem or reactive behaviour based on the unbiased/objective and, thus, professional, attitude of the interpreter may not be favoured which results in declaring the interpreter who does not support the team and filter the messages in favour of the team as a scapegoat. This is why there are many unfavourable situations presented as interpreting crises in the media (e.g. immature transfer news Torres/Getafe's director).

The sports interpreter carries an unbearably heavy load (!) in terms of his positioning which might create a dilemma between the his role as an objective interpreter and a loyal employee who is expected to speak for and represent the commissioner as can be seen in the following excerpt from a press coverage of a football interpreting news in Turkey. It is easy to see how easily the blame is put on the interpreter as the supposedly weakest link of the chain or the "scapegoat" of the team.

### ***Interpretation Error!***<sup>5</sup>

*Captain of Fenerbahçe Football Club Alex (from Brasil), made a statement of apology, in relation to the sentences that were published on his personal web-site ("I can't see why this game is called a friendly game. There is no such friendship between Fenerbahçe-Galatasaray") were erroneously interpreted... Alex, issued a correction of the sentences that goes: "I apologise for the chaotic situation that was caused by the use of the erroneous interpretation of my words in a newspaper column. What I really meant was I have never thought that the two teams would ever play a friendly game before the league, considering their past and competition..."*

*Sabah Spor 20.07.2010*

#### **4.1. Examples**

In the light of the above framework, the following examples aim to help depict the possible categories of favouritism in interpreting behavior in general as well as setting the scene in Turkey for the analysis of the case to be discussed in the last section of the study. The examples were chosen among those incidents or rather conflicts of interpreting in the field of football in Turkey that were covered in the sports media with the intention of taking up pre-depicted and pre-judged mediatic cases made public via press as significant and visible prototypical examples of each category. We would have no chance of knowing what goes on behind the closed doors of a football club, otherwise, as far as the interpreter's tasks and positioning goes.

Let us begin with a sequence of interpreting with a director and an interpreter, as typical profiles from a team where the positioning and the role description of the interpreter seem to be problematic in the sense that he acts almost independent of the source/the director. We can call the situation **director vs. interpreter** as if they are rivals in a publicly viewed duel (press conference).

**Frank Rijkaard:** We cannot do the training with 40 players, when the national and senior players all come back...

**Interpreter:** *We will send the young players away when the national and senior players join us...*

<sup>5</sup> English translations of the extracts belong to me unless otherwise stated.

**Rijkaard:** I haven't talked to Lincoln yet. Sad, really a pitiful situation... I have watched him in the previous season. He is a good player...

**Interpreter:** *It's a shame for Lincoln not to join the training camp...*

**Rijkaard:** There are no transfers... Maybe it is because of the financial constraints... But things go badly. I do not know the reason why...

**Interpreter:** *I don't want to talk about it. But the club still works on the transfers...*<sup>6</sup>

Above is a typical situation where there is less of professional job description for an interpreter and more of a personal ego and heroic behaviour expected of him in favour of the club. The result is the foregrounding of the interpreter and no questioning of the ethics of interpreting involved in such a case.

The two categories below were chosen to represent the main stream of roles expected of the interpreter of a football club's director or players in terms of the expectations of favouritism as a sign of positioning and the level of professionalism of the interpreter as realities of the Turkish case that might inspire discussion of other similar ones in the world.

The categories represent the favourist interpretation as the favoured behaviour and the ethical and physical problem of interpreting in whose favor when there is a conflict between a team and its director or player.

#### 4.1.2. Favouritist rendering favoured

This category represents a common situation in the context of interpreting for a football club, at least in Turkey in the sense that favouritism is expected of the interpreter by the Club as a factor that has an impact on creating a positive image of the team. Although this expectation is often in clash with the professional role and ethics of the interpreter, favouritist rendering is favoured and (almost) required for the sustainability of the position of the in-house-interpreter as a (so-called) professional. It is not difficult to imagine how the rendered message contents get impacted by this expectation or imposition as a target-oriented constraint and how easily it becomes the norm in the field for the interpreters who may take decisions of interpreting accordingly in fear of losing their positions.

#### Example 1

##### **Istanbulspor's Interpreter:**

... Istanbulspor's real hero is the interpreter of Saffet Susiç (director), the name of whom I do not even know... he does not interpret actually, he fictionalizes each case into a novel. When Susiç says "the team played badly" our interpreter goes "we were very well prepared indeed. Our players did their best, we lost it without losing our dignity..." This is because of the interpreter's imaginative power, his solid back ground in football and his insights of the Turkish nation's expectations. He makes all the sentences that the audience expects to hear, yet Saffet Susiç fails to utter on his behalf. He grieves the most when they lose, he is the happiest when they win... yes, he does most of the talking as well... but there is no harm in it... That is why I say that Istanbulspor's interpreter interprets beyond the words into our souls.

Hürriyet TV Teleskop 14.03.1998, Selim Akçin

<sup>6</sup> my back translation; source: Galatasaray-SK-Uyeleri@yahoo.com via Erol Türk, Engin Eryiğit

In this example the in-house consecutive interpreter of Istanbulspor's foreign manager is praised for his very "thick" rendering as a group member although he is known to be taking too much of liberties to save the club's image as an interpreter/ fan. We can name this sub-category as **acceptable favouritism**.

Another example for acceptable favouritism is provided by the former in-house consecutive interpreter of Fenerbahçe's foreign manager who was very popular and praised for his "filtering" rendering as a group member meeting the expectation of the club and the fans.

## Example 2

### Fenerbahçe's resourceful interpreter Mustafa Kıran:

What the manager says matters to a certain extent indeed. The interpreter's role is crucial in the communication between the players and the manager. Post-game motivation is crucial. The players see the manager in you, they really say so to your face. They focus on your words. What should you do? You have to be knowledgeable about soccer and contribute to the original message, fully aim at motivating the players and interpret accordingly...

Hürriyet 20.07.2002<sup>7</sup>

### 4.1.2. Who to favour

This second category is important for our purposes of depicting the field of football interpreting to find out if the decisions of the interpreters change in favour of one party or the other. One side being the team management/the club who recruits them, the other side being the player or director that they are ethically responsible to. What is acceptable for one side may not be so for the other the consequence though is designated by those who blow the whistle, that is, pay the interpreter's salary. There are two choices, then, for an interpreter in favouring one or the other; though one choice may outweigh the other and it is not difficult to guess being in whose favour pays as a source of living.

## Example 1

**Change of interpreter, no change in the interpreting fiasco...** totally censoring interpretation... Galatasaray cannot prevent Rijkaard from speaking but does its best to filter his speeches. Rijkaard, who used to speak English at the press meetings now swithes to Dutch as a linguistic barrier against his being understood by crowds... his interpreter has been replaced by Mustafa Yücedağ, former player of the club... Yücedağ interprets the questions by the press members to Rijkaard through manipulating their content into messages approved by the club... interpreter Yücedağ is responsible from censoring Rijkaard who gets censored at each negative remark...

www.turkspor.net

In this example, the interpreter filters the foreign manager's messages in favour of the club/the team. This behaviour of interpreting is **unacceptable** for the Manager as can be followed from the press coverage of the conflict involved but quite **acceptable** for the Club meeting its expectations.

<sup>7</sup> see Appendix 1 for the rest of the materials for this example.

**Example 2**

**Tigana is furious:** French manager, Tigana, who declared that he would quit at the end of the season reacted harshly... against the filtering interpretation of his messages at the press conference following a game... It was learned that the original message that was interpreted by Eray Akyürek as “There are those players who pretend to be cooperating but...” softened from a much harder criticism (there are those in this club who stab me from behind, who work against me...)

Milliyet 11.05.2007

Here, the interpreter of the Director is criticised by the Manager for a rendering which was not in favour of him but in favour of the Club/the team (the boss!) which makes that behaviour of interpreting **unacceptable** for the Manager but **acceptable** for the Club as is in the previous example.

**Example 4**

**Filtering Interpreter!:** Management started looking for a new interpreter to replace Sinan Serhatlıoğlu, the current interpreter of the team’s foreign manager, who was seen as the chief responsible of the crisis between the manager, Tigana, and the management. It was stated that the management will look for a “filtering” interpreter who will filter the negative remarks at the press conferences and all encounters with the press members in case Tigana utters any...

Vatan 26.12.2006

Here, the in-house consecutive interpreter of the foreign manager of the football team gets fired for his “non-filtering” decisions which can be labelled as **unacceptable non-favouritism**.

**4.1.3. Unfavoured Interpreter**

Finally, we will examine a specific case<sup>8</sup> from the Turkish scene as briefly as we can. The case here which was referred to in the introductory quotation of the study and known as “Tell is Samet!” (“Söyle Samet!”) case after the famous headline from the interview is well-known by Turkish football fans since it occupied the sports pages of the newspapers long enough as an issue of ethics and professionalism in football (thus, in football interpreting) in Turkey.

Let us first tell about the case and then analyse it as a reflection of the situation in the scene of football in terms the status of the interpreter as a sign of the level of emotionality or favouritism involved in football interpreting, at least in Turkey. Appendix 3 provides excerpts from the minutes of the dialogue between the chairman of the club and the interpreter recorded during a quick interview given to the press on-the-go at the airport.

Fenerbahçe’s player Alex was not listed among the active players for the following national league season. Both the Club and Aziz Yıldırım (AY), the President of the Club, were severely criticised for losing a valuable player like him who was adored by Turkish fans. Samet Güzel (SG), successful young interpreter of the team whose career and adventure of learning Portuguese to become a football interpreter in Turkey appears to be a success story, was the interpreter of the talk between AY and Alex. AY made a quick and spontaneous press address at the airport and wanted SG to be there with him to confirm all that was said during his talk with Alex. AY wanted to prove that he did right and needed the interpreter’s confirmation for

<sup>8</sup> See Appendices 2 and 3 for further material/ examples and background on this case

all that was said during the talk through consecutive interpreting between Portuguese and Turkish.

All newspapers, sports magazines covered the news; social website users shared it with the millions; it also resonated in the field of translation (e.g. Ishak 2012 *Dragosfer*) although no translation association or a professional organisation of translation/interpreting issued a statement of support for Samet Güzel. The following lines from his published interview (my English translation) display the background of the case and the interpreter's sense of responsibility (and sensibility) of his choices and decisions very well (see Appendix 3 for the longer version of the text):

### Example 5

I think my resignation was the best answer to be given after all that had happened... I served my club for eight years. When you serve as both a fan and a staff member of the team you become double sensitive of the balances to observe. There are those who are ready to misunderstand me anyway; that is why I have waited till today before giving an interview. I did not want to engage the club in a meaningless dispute...

Samet Güzel, interview, Sabah, 17.03.2013

Expectation of favouritism of the interpreter by the Club that is displayed in this case is considered as a natural aspect of the sports context. That is why it seems to have a big impact on the recruitment procedures of the interpreters in the field. Taking sides with the recruiter and the team seems to be perceived natural in consecutive sports interpreting as a norm, so much so that the interpreter is almost left with no choice. The interpreter in our last example chose not to take sides with the recruiter and left his job (in a way, choosing to get resigned versus perhaps getting fired).

Consecutive interpreting settings in sports (esp. in football) pose challenges against neutral rendering. The case here can be accepted as an example of biased response to the rendering of messages in favour of the actors that the recruiters do not favour (in sports interpreting). Whoever blows the whistle makes the choice; the interpreter, naturally, falls weak against the recruiting power as a sign of very low level of professionalism in the field.

### Conclusion

The conclusion of the study will hopefully serve for reinforcing the three categories of examples provided above under the titles of **favoured interpreting favoured, who to favour** and **unfavoured interpreter**. This will give us the chance of discussing the basic perspectives of football interpreting so far depicted with different perspectives.

We can basically conclude by saying that sports interpreting (and football in Turkey in specific in our study) seems to be an issue of rendering the content in an **acceptable** way as is expected by the commissioner/ the club management. The dominant norm of the field, where there is little professionalization (at least in our cases), then, becomes the rendering of the message as a result of **favourist** decisions.

As a subsequent conclusion for favouritist rendering, we need to provide an answer to the question in whose favour? The answer that seems to be reached in this study for the question **who to favor** (or **in whose favour**) as a norm in the field of sports interpreting is the imposition of meeting the expectations of the club management or the commissioner of the task. The above conclusions are based on the analysis of the press coverages of the events that were explored in this study.

The following sentences from the interview that we referred to in the earlier section is like the final words of the study summarizing all: *When I started sports interpreting it wasn't as*

*developed as it is now as a profession. It was difficult to pursue a career in this field. Now there is a profession called sports interpreting. I created my own career in it... I did both the professional and the voluntary/ amateur parts of the task...*

The last category of our examples showed that the personality and status of the interpreter in football, at least in Turkey or in countries with similar settings, The case was a typical one in terms of a situation where there is a de facto **unfavoured interpreter**. The biased stance taken towards the interpreter by the club management seemed to be a response to the powerful stand of the interpreter in his relations with the player that he interprets for. The commissioner of the interpreter, the club management, tends to have the upper hand in the relations and take control of the interpreter as the recruiting power.

The findings of this study entail suggestions for further studies to be carried out on the same subject. Basic conclusions of the study in the light of the contextual framework and the categories of examples given above can be summarised as follows:

\*favouritism research in consecutive interpreting as a key to describing the challenges in decision-making in chaotic and non-standard settings

\*the less professionalized a field is, the higher the risk and impact of favouritism as in the emerging field of sports (football) interpreting

\*judgements on the performance of a consecutive sports interpreter (esp. in football where power and money talk louder) depend on the power relations in the field

\*research in less institutionalised forms of consecutive interpreting as the impact of favouritism on professionalism

Research on consecutive interpreting in non-standard contexts such as sports might benefit from interdisciplinary tools of analysis (e.g. macro- linguistic tools of discourse analysis and pragmatics and sociology with regard to group membership).

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## Appendices:

1. *Champion, Once and Always: Fenerbahçe Days (Tek Kalemde Şampiyon: Fenerbahçe Günlüğü)* Mustafa Kiran Elma Pub. 2006, İstanbul

*...if you are recruited in a sub-field of sports such as football that calls for full-heartedness, ambition, morale and the commitment, you wouldn't mind what position you serve at... Even a supplies attendant who gives the team full support has a share, I believe, in the success of the team... (Kiran 2006: 21) ... All the people in Turkey look forward to the game and you are his (manager's) spokesperson... Turkey listens to the you all ears, can you imagine?... (p.43)... It is as if Parreira (manager) is the doctor and I am his assistant... (p.45)*

## 2. Söyle Samet doğru mu? - Samet'in zor anları!

Aziz Yıldırım: *Söyle Samet doğru mu?* - Videolar - Gencturk.net

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCXAYypKZM8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCXAYypKZM8)

"Her şey Alex üzerine kurulmuş. Ben de Alex'i çok seviyorum. 50 bin kişi onun aleyhine bağırduğında ben ve arkadaşlarım ayağa kalkıp onu alkışladık... Tercümanı Samet de burada, doğruları söyleyecek... Tüm konuşmalarımda yanımda bu çocuk (Samet Güzel) var. Onun da namusu şerefi varsa doğruları söyler... Kimse Fenerbahçe'den büyük değildir. Fenerbahçe bir kurumdur. Kişilerin arkasında mı kurumların arkasında mı duracağız?"

## Back Translation (*Tell it Samet, isn't it true? – Difficult moments of Samet!*)

*"Alex was in the center of everything. I love Alex a lot myself, too. When 50.000 people stood up and cried against him we, my friends and I, stood up to applaud him... His interpreter Samet is here, he will tell us the truth... This boy (Samet Güzel) was with me all through. He will tell the truth if he is a man of dignity and honour... Nobody is greater than Fenerbahçe. Fenerbahçe is an institution. Are we supposed to stand behind the people or the institutions?"*

Aziz Yıldırım: ... Samet burada, tüm tercümeleri yapan bu çocuk. Doğru yanlışı bu söyleyecek (*Here is Samet, he did all the interpreting. He will tell us the truth*)...

*Samet beni aradı, "Alex sizinle görüşmek istiyor" dedi. Ben de '16.00'da kulübe gelin' dedim. Saat 16.15'te geldiler. (Samet'e dönüyor) Doğru mu?" (Samet called me to say Alex wanted to see me. I told them to come to the Club at 16:00. They arrived at 16:15; (turning to Samet) Isn't it so?)*

Samet Güzel: Doğru (*Correct*)

AY: ... Fenerbahçe kulübü başkanını bekletiyorlar. Odaya aldım elinde telefon, kafa önde, sürekli tweet yazıyor. Öyle mi? (*They kept the President of Fenerbahçe Club waiting. He came in and kept looking in front of him, writing tweets all through. Right?*)

SG: Öyle. (*Yes*)

AY: Söyle herkes duysun, kamuoyu duysun (*Tell it outloud so that everyone can hear it*)... Sordum, 'ne diyor?' dedim. "Ne olacak durumum?" dedi. 'Sen ne düşünüyorsan o olacak' dedim. Söyledim mi böyle? (*I asked him what he said and he asked me what we will do with him. I told him that that it will be as he likes. Didn't I say so?*)

SG: Doğru. (*Correct*)

AY: Kendisi ne dedi? Anlat, sen anlat. (*What did he say? Tell it, tell it to us.*)

SG:... Başkanımız da 'Sen ne düşünüyorsan öyle olacak' dedi. 'Kalmak istiyorsan takımla kadroda olmayacaksın. Gitmek istiyorsan bunu da söyleyebilirsin' dedi. 'Ben Gitmek istiyorum' dedi Alex. (*Mr. President told him it would be as he pleased. If you want to stay you will not be in the team. But if you want to leave, tell it to us. And Alex said that he wanted to go.*)

AY: 'Mukavelemi feshedin' dedi. Öyle mi dedi? (*He wanted his agreement to be annulled. Didn't he say so?*)

SG: Evet, dedi. (*Yes, he did.*)

AY: Sesli söyle duysunlar. (*Tell it outloud so that everyone can hear it.*)

SG: Yok, yok, yok... (*No, no, no.*)

AY: Hiçbir alacağı yok kulüpten... Dedik mi? (*The Club does not owe him any money... Right?*)

SG: Doğru. (*Correct*)

AY: ...Bütün şahidim bu çocuktur. Bütün konuşmalarım da bu var. Bunun da namusu şerefi varsa, bütün konuşmaları bir basın toplantısı yapacağım, orada anlatacağım...

" *This boy is my witness. He was there all through. If he has any sense of dignity and honour, I will hold a press meeting to tell it all...*"

### **3. Interview with Samet Güzel/17.03.2013/ Okan Can Yantır www.sabah.com.tr**

<http://www.medyaspor.com/haber/efsane-tercuman-konustu-3088999>

"Ben zaten yaşanan olaylardan sonra istifa ederek gerekli mesajı verdiğimi düşünüyorum... Her şeyden önce iyi bir Fenerbahçeliyim ben. Çok iyi bir taraftarım. Sekiz sene de kulübüme hizmet ettim. Hem taraftar, hem de profesyonel kulüp çalışanı olunca; insan dengeleri daha fazla düşünüyor tabii. Ne söylesem yanlış anlayabilecek insanlar var; bu yüzden de hiç konuşmadım bugüne kadar. Kulübümü; anlamsız bir tartışmanın içine çekmek istemedim. Fenerbahçe benim DNA'ma kazınmış zaten; ona zarar gelsin ister miyim hiç! "

(*I think my resignation was the best answer to be given after all that had happened... I am a good Fenerbahce fan first things first. I am a good fan. I served my club for eight years. When you serve as both a fan and a staff member of the team you become double sensitive of the balances to observe. There are those who are ready to misunderstand me anyway; that is why I have waited till today before giving an interview. I did not want to engage the*

*club in a meaningless dispute. Fenerbahçe is carved into my DNA; I would never want to do any harm to it!)*

"Başkan bir noktada, "Şerefi ve namusu varsa Samet anlatır" gibi bir cümle kullandı, ona bozuldum. Çünkü ben yıllar boyunca bu kulübün içinde neler yaşadım... O kadar çok şey gördüm, o kadar çok şeye şahit oldum ki... Ben bir bakıma bu kulübün kara kutusuydum. Transfer görüşmelerine gittim, soyunma odasına girdim, özel problemlerle bizzat ilgilendim ama bir güne bir gün, o camianın içinde olanları aileme bile anlatmadım. İşte olanı işte bıraktım hep. Başkan keşke şeref ve namusla ilgili o cümleyi kullanmasaydı. Keşke benim namusumdan ve şerefimden emin olsaydı..."

*(The President (of the club) said " Samet will tell it all if he has any sense of dignity and honour " and I resented it a lot... I have seen and witnesses so many things till now... I was in a way the black box of the club. I have been with them at the transfer negotiations, I was in the locker rooms, dealt with all of their problems personally and never disclosed anything about it in anyway to others, not even to my family. I acted professionally. I wish the President did not refer to my dignity and honour at all, I wish he did not doubt it...)*

"Benim başladığım dönemde iş bu kadar gelişmiş değildi. O zamanlar bunu bir kariyer olarak yapmak zordu. Ama şimdi sporcu tercümanlığı denen bir şey var. Benimki tamamen kendi şansımı kendim yaratmak üzerine kuruluydu... Ben işin hem profesyonel kısmını, hem gönüllü kısmını yaptım... Ben tüm bu gönüllü kısmı yaptığım için futbolcularla daha güçlü bir bağ yakaladım zaten..."

*(When I started doing sports interpreting it wasn't as developed as it is now as a profession. It was difficult to pursue a career in this field. Now there is a profession called sports interpreting. I created my own career in it... I did both the professional and the voluntary/ amateur parts of the task... I developed strong bonds with the players because of the voluntary/ amateur parts anyway...)*

"(Havalanındaki ayaküstü basın toplantısı) Alex kadro dışı kalmıştı ve birtakım açıklamalar yapmıştı. Ben de takımla yurt dışı maçına gidiyorum. Havaalanında başkanın beni çağırdığını söylediler. Yanına gittim ve selam verdim. Başkan; Aykut Hoca ve Ali Yıldırım'la beraber röportaj vereceklerini söyledi ve bir anda kameralar açıldı. Başkan hararetli bir şekilde konuşmaya başladı. Alex sürecinin her noktasında olan iki kişi var; Alex ve ben. Yaşanan tüm şeyleri ben bildiğim için kilit isim bendim."

*(Contingent press meeting at the airport): Alex was left out of the team and made some declarations about it. I was at the airport going abroad with the team. They told me that the President was calling me. I went up to him and saluted him. He told me that we would give an interview with the President, Director Aykut and Ali Yıldırım and the cameras started shooting at that instant. The President started talking furiously. There were two people in the heart of the matter; Alex and me. I was the key person since I knew about all that had happened.)*

"Ben o anda içimden şu cümleyi geçirdim: "Samet, yanlış olan hiçbir şeyi onaylama!" Alex'le benim inanılmaz bir ilişkim vardır ama ben profesyonel olarak kulübün bir çalışanıydım. Dolayısıyla soğukkanlılığımı koruyarak cevaplar verdim. Çünkü 25 milyona hitap eden bir kulüp başkanı ve o kulübün çalışanı olarak çıktık insanların karşısına. Başkan soğukkanlı olamadı. Mantıklı davranmak durumundaydım; öyle yaptım. Orada onayladığım her şey doğrudur. Dik durdum ve cevap verdim. Aklımda olan bir şey vardı; Fenerbahçe'ye zarar vermemek."

*(I was saying to myself "Samet, do not confirm anything that sounds wrong!" Alex and I had a wonderful relationship but I was always the professional employee of the Club. That is why I had to keep calm in answering the questions. Because there, we were two people facing the audience as a Club President addressing 25 million people and a professional*

*employee of the Club. But the President could not keep calm enough. I had to be sensible and so did I act. Everything that I confirmed there was true. I stood there with all my dignity and answered the questions. I had only one thing in mind; not doing any harm to Fenerbahçe".)*