

Boostcast EP 3 - Assembly

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SPEAKERS

Dieter Runge, Darko Bartula


D Dieter Runge 00:08

Hey, welcome back to boost cast. I'm your host, Dieter Runge. Boost cast provides a unique global language industry and language business centric experience with in depth interviews is our centerpiece. Alongside and inside these conversations always try to infuse some language related technology, news, cultural highlights, reviews, occasional touch of music, art and humor, but it's all from the perspective of where life intersects with language. My guest today, Darko bartula. Darko is a season senior conference interpreter, specializing in Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian and Montenegrin to English interpretation. Darko excels in simultaneous, consecutive and two cottage interpreting. And in his career, he's collaborated with international organizations like the UN NATO and the EU interpreting for world leaders and diplomats in legal, government, medical and financial sectors, as a certified RSI specialist dark Coast trust wise clients as a reliable choice for many high stakes interpretation events across diverse fields, notably among his vast experiences, tying with the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal, where Dougal was involved in the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, or otherwise known as UNMIBH, in 1999 and we'll want to touch on that a little later in our discussion for sure. But Darko, before we get started, before we even go there, I wanted to let our audience know how you've been an instrumental part of the boost legal story and journey to date as well. You were literally one of the very first interpreters whom we recruited to help us field tests and use the boost legal remote interpreting platform way, way back, back, back in 2015 providing you know feedback and helping us think about the interpreter's perspective and experience as we build out our product. So on behalf of the entire Bucha team, I really wanted to make a special mention of that and that we are eternally grateful for the guidance that you provided back in the day and and the fact that we're here together on this podcast, and you were still working with us to this day, it absolutely fills my heart. So thank you, Darko, seriously, thank you, welcome. Welcome, welcome.

D Darko Bartula 02:24

Thank you, Dieter, thanks for inviting me. It's a great, great pleasure to be reconnecting with you after so many years. You and your project actually changed my life. Changed my career.


When I started it back then in 2015 16, I never stopped it. Actually, there was no single day that I didn't use the boostlingo platform, that I did not interpret on it, that I did not help clients bridge the language barrier. So I'm really proud that I can say on and off that I was one of the first Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian, Montenegrin interpreter for the boostlingo platform, which is today, enormously big project. And I'm so, so proud that I met you at the beginning, and now you are actually a celebrity. You travel all over the world promoting your project, but I hope we'll be able to associate again, Darko, personally, maybe somewhere,

 Dieter Runge 03:25


flattery will get you everywhere with me. Darko, you know that?

 03:30

Darko, can you serious? No, I appreciate it. I'm a little I'm blushing now.

 Dieter Runge 03:37

Can you share with us, with our audience, a little bit about your journey into the field of conference, interpreting? And translation. You know what drew you to specialize in the international criminal law and the type of events that you've ended up interpreting? For

 Darko Bartula 03:53

sure? Thank you. Although I initially pursued a career in electrical engineering the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, my home country, which began in 1992 when I was just 17, profoundly changed my trajectory. The conflict and its aftermath brought numerous international organizations and diplomats to the region, creating a significant demand for interpreters and translators. In 1997 at 22 I applied for an interpreter's position with the United Nations, and that's how it all started. The fact that I learned English in primary and secondary school contributed to that, but also the former Yugoslav country's TV stations never dub English or American content. So we watched movies and MTV and everything since our childhood. And I think most of people here learn some English since I started with the UN over the next five and a half years, I worked as a as an interpreter for international police. Force, which was one of the UN's section, reforming the local police and later with civil affairs collaborate, collaborating closely with diplomats and politicians in 2003 when the so called anib United Nations mission Boston, hertz closed down, I transitioned to the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, which was completely different United Nations agency at that time, headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, where I spent next 13 years as an interpreter and translator, primarily for the prosecutor's office, as well as the trial chambers and registry, although I took on some conference interpreting assignments during that period of time, most of my work involved consecutive interpreting as the tribunal began to wind down with all trials nearing completion and the organization significantly downsized, or was downsizing, I left the unicti in 2015 with the highest commendations in performance reviews, just two years before its final closure in 2017 following my departure, I transitioned to freelance interpreting, which

allowed me to fully embrace conference interpreting and expand my expertise. I also took on remote over the phone and read the video remote interpreting assignments, which eventually led to the good fortune of connecting with you. Dieter,

D Dieter Runge 06:31

yeah. I mean, you know, we're, you're at Darko, I think you're going on 2025, years of now in this space, right? Like

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positive. I to almost 28 almost 28 so maybe let's

D Dieter Runge 06:48

talk about some of the challenges that you faced when you find yourself interpreting in some of these high stakes environments, and also maybe give us a sense of how you've seen the role of the interpreter evolve in the context of what you see in some of these international criminal law and UN agencies that you work for in the past.

D Darko Bartula 07:10

Sure, the Tribunal's mission to prosecute war crimes and deliver justice for victims often placed us in extremely challenging and high risk situations. Some witnesses, including insiders who provided critical information, were tragically murdered shortly after cooperating with us. It was harrowing to read in the media about witnesses, sometimes even protected ones, being executed, often with a shot to the back of the head. Another challenge involved property searches of war crimes suspects, many of whom were fugitives. At that time, their families still resided in these homes. And although we were accompanied by NATO soldiers with full face Bala klavas and came with like 30 military personal carrier vehicles and maybe two helicopters over our heads, only the tribunal investigator and I as the interpreter were unmasked. Arriving at around 3am we would deliver a court warrant and ask the family together in one room while soldiers conducted the search the civil the visibility left me worried about potential retaliation. One unforgettable moment came just day after interpreting during the search of the home of most wanted person indicted for war crimes then and today were criminal I served there as an interpreter for the UN ICTY president. Unicty, why? Stands for United Nations, International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Maybe I will say few times unicty. Why? So I served as an interpreter for the UN ICTY president during a meeting with Bosnian member of the presidency. I have even a media article here. I'll send you this picture that is a scan. So the day after that search of the most wanted war criminal, actually I appeared. I worked as an interpreter for the President of the ICTY, Miss judge Patsy Robinson, and member of the then member of the presidency, Mr. Nebuchadman, this is me later, and there's

D Dieter Runge 09:24

your picture right there. Yeah, exactly.

your picture right there. Yeah, exactly.

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Darko Bartula 09:27

Scary. And basically, since that search was widely reported day before, day before in the media, and since this was widely reported in the media day after I knew the war criminals family could have easily recognized me. Yeah, this possibility of retaliation felt very real, but fortunately, none of us in the UN staff ever experienced any consequences like that. On one occasion, the son of a murdered man offered me a. An equivalent of 500 US dollars in local currency to reveal his father's killer. Ironically, just two days earlier, I had interpreted during a suspect interview with the killer himself. There was another occasion where a high ranking military officer offered the prosecutor, investigator and myself as an interpreter, a new car each in exchange for erasing all records of our interviews with him. Despite these pressures, I always upheld professionalism and integrity and never allowed such offers to influence my work. I'm sorry, yeah,

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Dieter Runge 10:35

I gotta ask you. I mean, this kind of work Sure, involves sensitive political and legal issues, obviously, deeply emotive, you know, harrowing stories, and yet you've got to be there in the moment, providing these language services. How do you I don't know if there's a special



11:01

way that you can do this,

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Dieter Runge 11:03

or if there's a frame of mind to people, but how do you, how do you maintain that kind of neutrality and manage any emotional or personal response that you might I mean, I don't think I would be cut out for that kind of job, but, you know, in a high tension scenario like that, I mean, what Do you do? What is your method to just maintain sort of neutrality and be



11:25

cool as a cucumber?

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Darko Bartula 11:30

Well, ethical dilemma set international criminal law are inevitable due to sensitive, high stakes nature of the work, but as an interpreter, my role was to ensure communication with absolute neutrality, separating personal values from professional responsibilities. There were times when the content I interpreted clashed with my own experiences or beliefs. For example, I once interpreted for an individual whose wartime actions caused immense suffering to the citizens of


Sarajevo. He was the one who the prosecutor faced with a document where it says, shut down water to the Sarajevo citizens for next, let's say two months. I'm not sure that, but it was a quite long period of time, and I remember at that time we did not have water. People were trying to find all the ways to survive, and we were basically digging wells in the area, in the environment. And I learned at that time that if you just dig five meters down the soil, you will find water. So we found water everywhere in Sarajevo by digging those wells, but we had some pumps which actually gave us small amount of water. So we had to wait, like for five minutes to collect five liters or 1.5 gallons of water. And then people were queuing up in long queues, and after maybe some time, a shell would land and kill some of these people. So it was always a dangerous activity to go for a water. However, when the shelling was happening, of course, nobody was outside. People were in shelters. And on one of these situations, my little sister, then only three said to my mother, mommy, now they are shelling outside. Let's go outside and collect water, because there will be no people queuing at the water well. And they went because water was more valuable than life. Fortunately, they came back live. And after maybe 1520, years, I'm being an interpreter in a room with the prosecutor and one then authority who ordered to shut down water of Sara to sarawa citizens. And of course, it was difficult for me to think about these experiences from the past. But though difficult to hear that I set aside judgment and focused on accurate interpretation, knowing any bias would compromise the proceeding. On another occasion, I was offered a substantial bribe. I mentioned that before, with regard to that these three vehicles to reveal confidential information, or some money to reveal who killed the father of a guy. But of course, rejecting it was straightforward for me, because I understood that the trust in interpreters is fundamental to justice, and any breach would undermine not only the cause, the case itself, but the system as a whole. So I navigated such conflicts by relying on several principles, let's say commitment to neutrality for me meant remaining focused on facilitating unbiased communication without influencing outcomes. Professionalism definitely what I concentrated on, accuracy, tone and. Flow to emotionally distance myself from the content and reflection later, after these events, I was processing ethical challenges afterwards with my colleagues to ensure that they did not affect my work and they would not affect my work in the future. So yeah, while challenging these principles allowed me to uphold professionalism and integrity, contributing meaningfully to justice and honoring the standards of my role. It's

 Dieter Runge 15:29


me. And you know, when I when I reflect back, I remember the Olympics in Sarajevo, and then the conflict and and how quickly things changed and and now we're 2530 years past those events. And, you know, we look at global conflict all over the planet still, we say, Never again. And here we are in so many different places, on deployment, observing exactly the same kind of thing. Again.

 16:02


Maybe, you know it was, go ahead. I could say no. I just, I still, like

 Darko Bartula 16:09

you said that international organizations like, yeah, please go ahead. No,

 Dieter Runge 16:14

I should say, you know, as we reflect on, on your time, be an interpreter for the United Nations in Bosnia, Herzegovina,

 Darko Bartula 16:21

you know,

 Dieter Runge 16:23

how do you contrast that with what you see in the news today? Like, does it? Does it evoke, you know, those memories all back again, and you know what? What has changed? You know, and what will change, I have a hard time. Those of us that have grown up in the West never been, you know, in the midst of any of that kind of chaos, can't possibly understand. And I know, even for folks that have been in that to articulate, you know that experience, and then to have also been instrumental in in interpreting and providing language access and support to people in very, very, under very dire circumstances. How do you, how do, how do you on balance, like, how do you look at what's going on in the world today? And you know,

 17:23

you know,

 Dieter Runge 17:25


where do you where do you see this going? Where do you see this headed for the

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the conference interpreter?

 Dieter Runge 17:35

That's a very heavy question. I know.

 Darko Bartula 17:39

It's okay. It's okay. I'm not. I'm not. We had a saying in un and I'm sure it's also present everywhere, that we are not just interpreters. We are human beings. We have also our past, our history, the war in Boston, Herzegovina marked the rest of my life. Everything is somehow


here, divided to the period pre war and post war, still kind of 30 years after, almost 30 years after. So the fact that even worse atrocities are happening at the moment in Gaza, in Ukraine, in other places, makes me very sad, and I realized that it is not so easy these organizations. I worked for a noble organization which had noble goals and worked on something which was really something to be proud of, but it seems they are powerless with these strong powers that are running the world and have some greed or some other motive, which To me, is not understandable. I, as you know, I like sports, I like nature, I like communication with people. I don't see why people have to ruin something. I I don't understand that. My mind doesn't understand that. It seems like the case, if there is ever,

 Dieter Runge 19:17


it seems like we take two steps forward, and then two steps back again, two steps forward, and then every, you know, episodically, every 2030, years, we get bombed, 10 steps backwards again, right? It just exactly we're right back at the beginning. And you know, like you said, in regions like Gaza and Ukraine, Darfur, now, Syria, like, everywhere that we see the,

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you know, the folks just, you know, and it's, you know, it's nonsensical. It really is.

 Dieter Runge 19:54

And, like I said, I'd be really curious to ask you, like in those in. Interpreting situations, how? How do you navigate the power dynamics in these settings, like, what? What role do you feel the interpreter might play in conversations, supporting those kinds of high stakes, interpreting events?

 Darko Bartula 20:21

Well, working with high profile individuals in legal and diplomatic contexts requires navigating complex power dynamics while maintaining professionalism and impartiality. The interpreter's role is to facilitate seamless communication, ensuring the focus remains on the parties involved, while accurately conveying both meaning and the tone. Key strategies include professionalism, cultural sensitivity and adaptability. With regard to professionalism, I'd say maintaining neutrality, discretion and confidentiality builds trust and ensures the integrity of discussions. Cultural sensitivity encompasses recognizing and respecting diplomatic protocols and the nuances of formal language, which is essential, adaptability. High profile conversations can be unpredictable, requiring flexibility and composure to handle unexpected shifts in tone or content. One particularly memorable experience that I'd like to share with you was interpreting a discussion between the renowned Queen's counsel prosecutor Jeffrey nice. He was the prosecutor in the famous case against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, who died in the prison or detention unit of the ICTY. And so there was a discussion between Mr. Jeffrey nice and former Yugoslav president of presidency, Mr. Raizdarevich, he's still alive. He's in his 97 or something like that, very senior gentleman. But I'm happy that he's still alive, because I could learn a lot from him. So both individuals used highly diplomatic and I might say aristocratic

language, reflecting their extensive international experience, Mr. Nice as a prominent barrister who got from Queen Elizabeth this title, Queen's Council and Mr. Live this data, which he was even before becoming president of presidency of the former Yugoslavia during 1988 and 1989 he was ambassador of Yugoslavia to many countries, including UK. So the conversation, lasting several hours, required me to carefully navigate through their eloquent exchanges. It wasn't until lunch that I realized Mr. Direwicz spoke flawless English. He kindly told me to take a break while they continued speaking directly. When I asked him why he hadn't corrected me or revealed his fluency earlier during my interpretations, he explained that during my interpretations, he was already preparing what to say for his next point. So his patience and consideration deeply impressed me and demonstrated the grace with which he conducted himself. Experiences like this illustrate how interpreters act as both facilitators and silent participants in significant conversations, and by navigating these settings with professionalism and precision interpreters play a key role in fostering understanding and mutual respect among influential figures.

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Dieter Runge 23:50

You've you've worked in a lot of different legal scenarios, legal legal environments. How you say that the legal system in an international law might differ that from a national legal system. How would that impact the interpreter that is situated in legal interpreting on an international scale and in a sort of more of a national and regional scale? What are the differences that you've seen? I Hmm.

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Darko Bartula 24:23

First of all, I spent most of my career at the International Criminal Tribunal and interpreting illegal law enforcement and diplomatic settings differs greatly from national settings in that sense that the legal systems that these two different courts use are different. For example, in the ICTY, we used something from Anglo Saxon in. A system, and we also use something from the continental civil law systems, which shape the structure and practices of the tribunal. So this hybrid nature posed specific challenges and opportunities for interpreters, as it required adapting to varying legal traditions and their respective technologies. For example, under the influence of common law, prosecutors, particularly those from United States, the tribunal introduced the practice of plea agreements or plea bargaining. This was a novel concept for many of us as it did not exist in our local legal traditions. At that time, I recall how significant this shift was as plea agreements were eventually adopted in some national legal systems. Years later, the combination of these two systems meant adjusting to distinct courtroom dynamics. Common Law, proceedings were adverse, adversarial, with a strong focus on oral arguments and rapid exchanges during cross examinations, requiring interpreters to work quickly and with precision. In contrast, civil laws inquisitorial nature, with its emphasis on written records and detailed investigations led by judges demanded a different approach, one that required a strong grasp of procedural procedural details and precise terminology. So this experience taught me the importance of flexibility, yeah, thorough preparation and cultural sensitivity in legal interpreting, ensuring that I could effectively bridge gaps between distinct flame legal frameworks and enable clear communication in these complex settings. It

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Dieter Runge 26:48

seems like there's there's some overlap, but there really is those, those regional differences are really what need to be brought to bear, and those skill sets, like you said, the cultural and contextual sensitivity. It's just mandatory in those circumstances, maybe switch gears a little bit, because we do like to talk about technology and interpreting here, and I want to give that a little bit of time with you. Since I have you here, given the rise of remote interpreting and digital platforms. You know, we've seen it made it has made interpreting more accessible. Some also argue that it's been more challenging in terms of maintaining quality and neutrality. Do you think that the shift to remote interpreting has in any way diluted the standards of interpretation services and international law.

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Darko Bartula 27:45

Well, the shift to remote interpreting, which happened to me when I met you, and the shift to digital platforms, has certainly made interpreting more accessible, allowing interpreters to work across borders without the logistical challenges of travel. However, it has also introduced complexities that can impact the quality and neutrality of interpretation services, especially in high stakes fields like international law. I'd like to mention some challenges and maybe some adaptations to maintain standards. And maybe we can discuss about it. What do you think about it? One of the challenges of remote interpreting was a loss of non verbal cues. Yeah, remote interpreting limits an interpreter, an interpreter's ability to observe body language, facial expressions and subtle interactions in the room, if it is over the phone, interpreted quite often, I interpret trials over the phone. Still today, these cues are often critical for accurately conveying tone emphasis or intent in sensitive legal technology proceedings. The other challenge is technological barriers. This can be put audio quality, unstable internet connections and platform limitations, which can interfere with interpreters, ability to hear clearly and deliver accurate interpretation. Such issues can disrupt the flow of proceedings and potentially affect the fairness of communication. Another challenge is reduced neutral neutrality perception the virtual setting can sometimes create a sense of detachment or reduce the perceived impartiality of interpreters. In face to face settings, interpreters are physically present and visible, reinforcing their neutrality as a bridge between parties. With regard to adaptations, to maintain standards, despite despite these challenges, the rise of remote interpreting does not necessarily mean a dilution of standards, provided that interpreters and institutions adapt effectively, training, for example, and preparation, I think I passed more. Than 200 different training courses since I started working as an OPI and VRI interpreter for different language agencies which provide their different trainings, and they have different mandates that they have to fulfill, but interpreters must be equipped to handle remote platforms and adapt their skills to the unique demands of virtual settings, such as, for example, delays or unclear audio. And hence, technology, courts and institutions must invest in robust platforms with high quality audio and video to ensure interpreters can perform their roles effectively. For example, we interpreters. It's always expected from us to have headsets for HIPAA reasons, so that we can be heard properly, but still very rarely, the parties we interpret for providers, and

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Dieter Runge 30:48

it could be anything, right, anything,

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Darko Bartula 30:52

yeah, they don't use any of that, yeah. So we always, you know, I, for example, depend on always investing into the into best equipment possible so that I can adjust the quality of sounds. Yeah. The other thing that is the adaptation to maintain standards is neutrality reinforcement, establishing clear protocols for remote settings can help maintain the interpreters perceived impartiality, even in virtual environments. So in my experience, remote interpreting requires more preparation and adaptability from the interpreter. While it can never fully replicate the nuances of in person communication, it can still meet high standards if both interpreters and institutions commit to addressing its challenges. So the key is to ensuring, to ensure that the tools and processes support the interpreters ability to deliver accurate and unbiased communication even in the digital space.

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Dieter Runge 31:52

Yeah, it's always interesting for for remote interpreters never know what the next setting is going to bring. Sometimes it's a, you know, a fairly easy transition. And other times it brings with it so many, many things that you weren't prepared for or did not expect. I guess, you know. And of course, we have to touch on AI. AI is, you know, the subject du jour, and certainly in the legal sorry, in the language industry, more so you know, for the interpreting and translation space, we see the growth of, you know, the use of AI for interpreters and the translators.



32:46

Do you think that

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Dieter Runge 32:47

this use of AI will undermine these human elements of the profession, especially, you know, when we look at legal and diplomatic settings, what's your what is your dark What's your perspective on the future of AI in this field, particularly with your experience in the criminal justice, international criminal justice and International Criminal Court spectrum, like, where do you see AI as a positive and also perhaps as a negative role in that?

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Darko Bartula 33:21

Yeah, maybe I should start with other questions first, and then maybe end with, where do I see the future of AI in the profession? First of all, technology, including AI, I apologize, and remote interpreting platforms has significantly impacted conference interpreting and translation, of course, especially in legal, diplomatic context. As you said, these advancements bring both opportunities and challenges. So some of the positive impacts are increased accessibility. So remote platforms let interpreters participate in Proceedings worldwide, eliminating travel barriers and broadening access. Efficiency gains. AI tools like transcription software and terminology databases reduce preparation time and enhance accuracy in high pressure assignments. But on the other hand, some challenges AR has limitations despite advancements. AR lacks cultural sensitivity and contextual understanding, making human interpreters essential for nuanced communication, a loss, for example, the other example is

loss of non verbal cues remote settings. Reduce the ability to observe body language critical in legal and diplomatic context, infrastructure also dependency. Reliable internet and platforms are crucial as technical issues can disrupt proceedings. With regard to adaptation in high stakes fields, technology should complement, not replace human interpreters. So. Uh, artificial intelligence aids preparation with glossaries and transcription, but cannot match human discretion in sensitive contexts. Remote platforms require additional training to manage delays and virtual dynamics effectively. With regard to uh, where they see the future of AI in the profession. Or should interpreters be worried, for example, yeah, rather than worrying, interpreters should focus on how technology can enhance our skills. The demand for human interpreters in legal and diplomatic contexts remains robust, but professionals must adapt to economic technology integrated future by leveraging AI tools to improve preparation and efficiency, focusing on honing the human aspects of interpretation, such as cultural competence, emotional intelligence and ethical judgment. In conclusion, AI will continue to play a supporting role in the profession, streamlining tasks and increasing accessibility. However, the core of legal and diplomatic interpretation, which is which are, accuracy, trust and human connection, will always require skilled professionals, so interpreters who embrace technology while emphasizing their unique human strengths will thrive in the evolving landscape. Yeah,

 Dieter Runge 36:18

and then I think we're seeing already that we're already seeing the limitations of AI in the context of interpreting. And to your point, interpreters who are upskilling and continuing to leverage some of these technologies to augment their their delivery of interpreting services. Will, I think, will prosper we, all, you know, find ways to to use technology to streamline the things that we do, some of the more repetitive, banal tasks can be relegated to these, these new technologies. They do a pretty good job. And then there's, you know, certain things where emotional intelligence and just the human touch, you know, I just don't see that anytime in the near future as being something that, like you said, if you AI can't read the room, it's not going to be able to look at body language

 37:20


or do a vibe check.

 Dieter Runge 37:24

And couldn't be something more important that you need to do in international crime tribunals. I mean, goodness, I we're running, running close to time, but there's a couple things I wanted to to still talk to you about we may have to, we have to tackle it in a subsequent

 37:45

podcast. But


 Dieter Runge 37:49

Dieter Runge 37:15


what it yeah, there's just so much You've such a storied career in this. What advice would you give to I go to a lot of conferences. I was just recently at posit here in Australia. I'm listening to a lot of podcasts and webinars, and people are very, very concerned about there's not enough enrollment in academia for new interpreters and translators and professional linguists, and I want to try to, you know, give a message of positivity and hope and excitement to folks to continue to forge a path forward as a language professional. So I'd be very keen to get advice from you for the young professional or the the interpreter or translator just starting out entering the field of interpreting translation, and especially those who may aspire to work in high, high level international context like you have, what? What would guidance would you give? What top 323, things would you would you say to someone entering the field now,

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knowing what you know,

 Darko Bartula 39:04

sure, sure, my advice is to focus on combination, on a combination of technical skills, cultural awareness and professional development. Success in this field requires more than just linguistic ability. It demands a deep commitment, deep commitment to learning, adaptability and professionalism. Here are some key tips that I can say. Number one, master your languages, achieve near native fluency in your working languages, and specialize in fields like legal or diplomatic terminology, medical terminology, financial terminology, in these days, AI or it terminology, number two, be a lifelong learner. Always stay teachable. That's something that I learned more than 20 years ago. Always state we should always stay teachable. So. So lifelong learners stay informed about global affairs and continuously improve your interpreting techniques. Number three, cultivate cultural sensitivity. Understand the cultures of your languages and practice empathy to build trust in sensitive situations. Number four, maintain ethics. Be neutral, confidential and honest about your limits. Seek clarification when needed. Number five, gain experience. Start small network and learn from experienced interpreters. I think it's an important one. Embrace technology

 Dieter Runge 40:39

that's that's a big one. And every time I bump into interpret, all the time, I ask them, you know, what, what are you doing to promote your career? And a lot of times I get crickets. Well, let's talk about what you can do to to, you know, to expand on that career. But I'm

 Darko Bartula 40:55

also, I have also a little bit of room for improvement within that one when we were about to close down the UN ICTY. They sent us some psychologists who taught us how to overcome the transition period. Yeah, and amongst other things, I remember that they told us that we should not see ourselves again, the same story only as an inter as interpreters, and we should maybe understand that we may be working in other fields afterwards. Even I myself a bit between the

full time employment and my freelance interpreting career, worked a little bit as a real estate agent, so they told us, you should build your LinkedIn profile, and then in that profile you should put all the skills you can imagine that you can do. You are not just people who know the language and who communicate and who bridge the language barriers. You can also be great. It experts, great administrators, drivers, personal assistants. And at that moment, we had an exercise, and I actually started listing, what else can I be, besides interpreter. And I remember now that it was like two full pages, like more than 40 different things. But then I built the basic shape of my LinkedIn profile, which made one of the boostlingo clients contact me, providing the opportunity to interpret and then I got in touch with you who taught me how to use the platform. So LinkedIn basically connected me to you after that, from time to time, I post something, but I'm not so active because I simply have too much work that I don't need to have more. And I'm not about promoting myself that much. Maybe this podcast will, I don't know, change some things. Maybe I will change also my approach, but definitely networking and sharing from experienced colleagues. That definitely is one of the

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Dieter Runge 43:15

I think you touched on a really important point, actually, which is that, you know, you know, recently, at the oz conference, I spoke to a lot of students who were studying to be interpreters and translators. And it was interesting to me that I asked them about other roles in the in the language industry that they might be interested in, or where they might see themselves working in 510, years or so. And there really was a very limited perception. And I just wonder, you know, career planning in these schools, it's, it's, it's like, it's almost as if academia exists outside of the rest of the language industry, and there's not enough advocacy for Hey, absolutely, you could be an interpreter, but guess what? You could also be a project manager at a language service company, or you could be a vendor manager at a company that requires these language skills. There are so many facets of community in the community, World of multilingual communication, where having the learn the discipline of being an interpreter or translator and being so knowledgeable in your language pairs is so important. Where I don't you know AI is going to support these roles again, but being a naturally gifted linguist and having those IT skills, as you mentioned, puts up a world of beyond in the language industry. And I think, I guess it's coming on us of veterans. Right to you. To you to give that message of hope and positivity. But I really think that it starts in the schools and the places that provide these training and even the organizations that provide, you know,



45:13

agencies that provide

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Dieter Runge 45:16

professional development courses, to evangelize the opportunities that are out there. Anyways, I got off my sofa, but you did bring up a really good point about that. Do you see any, any sort of, like, one last point on that? Do you see any, any trends that, maybe, from your perspective, that may be shaping the future of legal and particularly criminal or diplomatic criminal trials,

international trials and diplomatic interpreting, and anybody that is leaning towards sort of that area of interpreting. Are there any emerging areas or specialties that new interpreters might consider or be aware of? Does it mean any in particular that

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Darko Bartula 46:01

Sure, sure. May I just say something else before I answer that? Something related to the previous point? I don't know if the time allows. Yeah, absolutely. We interpreters. We were always taught that we should know a little bit of everything. We should know a little bit about football, a little bit about politics, a little bit about food, a little bit about music, art, everything. So interpreters should not be generally experts in something like something very narrow, but we should know wide variety of things. So that is true for every interpreter who has some kind of career behind himself or herself, after maybe 10 or 20 years, definitely, you've seen a lot, and we should, in case, if some of us could not adapt to the evolving changes of the AI industry and everything. If some of us cannot have that, we should not be closed to the option that we can do something else, because we are very versatile people. And with communication, we can do all sorts of things. We can do. We can be perfect public affairs officers, we can be perfect communication experts. We can be perfect. I don't know, stewardesses, we can be perfect, sports, people, all sorts of things. So there is always a hope and a potential and future for us interpreters, because our foundation is great. We know a lot about many things. And if you allow me, I can now answer, try to answer your question,



47:48

yes, absolutely. We definitely

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Dieter Runge 47:50

have time to squeeze it in, um, again, just any off top of your head, like any trends, or any any, anything that you are watching happen in real time and thinking, yep, that's, you know, if I was jumping into the interpreting racket. Now this is what I,



48:07

you know, I would look at

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Dieter Runge 48:11

or expend some energy in anyways.

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Darko Bartula 48:16

Thank you. The future of legal and diplomatic interpreting. But I also would say interpreting in general is being shaped by several key trends that new interpreters should be aware of.

Increased use of remote interpreting, the demand for virtual platforms continues to grow, making remote interpreting a standard practice in legal and diplomatic settings, interpreters must become proficient with these technologies and adapt to the unique challenges of virtual communication, such as managing delays and maintaining engagement. Another one is maybe integration of AI tools. The AI is being increasingly, increasingly used for transcription, terminology, management and even basic interpretation, while it cannot replace human interpreters in nuanced settings, familiarity with these tools can enhance efficiency and preparation. Another one is focus on cultural and emotional intelligence. As global diplomacy becomes more complex, interpreters will need heightened cultural sensitivity and emotional intelligence to navigate sensitive discussions and diverse cultural contexts effectively, specialization in emerging fields, areas like international environmental law, cyber crime, a global health are growing in importance. Interpreters with expertise in these fields will be in high demand in both legal and diplomatic contexts, then emphasis on the multilingual proficiency as international cooperation expands, interpreters fluent in multiple widely used and regionally applied languages will have a significant advantage. So new interpreters should invest in mastering these trends, staying adaptable. And continuing to develop both their technical and cultural skills to thrive in this evolving profession.

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Dieter Runge 50:07

Fantastic. Darko, I really want to thank you for your time today. It's very special to reconnect with you today and have this conversation with you, especially considering the journey of boosting go and your continued evangelization of the remote interpreting profession, and you epitomize the interpreter that has embraced the technology and is helping carve a path forward with it. So my just really, really appreciate your what your trailblazing and and just, you know, we didn't barely touch on some of the stories. I'm sure that when I, when I look at the some of the you know, the things that you've interpreted for, there are some stories I probably don't want to hear. I probably they'll probably give me nightmares. But what you do your work is just so darn important and really appreciate. You know how you've put yourself out there in those circumstances, I can only imagine. I can't I can't relate, but I can imagine what it what it might have been like, and I look forward to expanding on some of those stories in a future episode of Bucha with you. At some point, it'd be great to dive a little deeper on some of the some of the interpreting stories that you have. So thank you. Thank you so much for joining, joining us today, and and look forward to to reconnecting soon in real time, somewhere somewhere in Europe, or maybe somewhere somewhere in an event in the US, but maybe, maybe in the Alps. I know you're an avid skier and an avid Snow, Snow buff, and that's still on my bucket list. It'll be my pleasure,

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Darko Bartula 52:13


my pleasure. And now it goes on the record that I host you on one of

D

Dieter Runge 52:18

the Alps. It'll hold you to it. Darko, there are,



 Darko Bartula 52:22


there are there are many of them. They are fantastic. On the other hand, thank you very much for inviting me to participate in this noble project of yours. Thank you for your service to the community in general. You founded the platform, which I believe now unites the whole world. I receive calls from Australia quite often. I receive calls from Canada, from UK. At the beginning, it was just us. So I am aware of how this is expanding. Thank you for starting this boost cast project as well. I'll be happy if I can contribute in any way in the future, but I'm sure there are many, many other colleagues who are equally or far more qualified than I am, so it will be also pleasure and honor for me to hear their stories. Thank you to your team.

 53:18

We're We're deeply honored to seeing you

 Dieter Runge 53:21

here on Bucha Darko. Thank you so much and and we want to thank you for your time here today. Thanks so much.

 Darko Bartula 53:27

It was my pleasure. Thank you. Goodbye. Wow.