DEVELOPING A COMPUTER ASSISTED NOTE-TAKING ANALYSIS SYSTEM (CANA) FOR QUANTIFYING FEATURES OF CONSECUTIVE INTERPRETERS' NOTES

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Abstract：Note-taking features (representing corresponding note-taking techniques) have been the focus of the study of note-taking in consecutive interpreting. However, the coding and quantifying of note-taking features have been done manually up to date, without an effective tool available to researchers, which has constrained the quantitative empirical research of note-taking. Therefore, this study developed a Computer Assisted Note-taking Analysis system (CANA) for the coding and quantifying of features of interpreters' notes. After three rounds of testing and debugging, CANA was applied to the coding of 709 pages (containing 44,360 note units) of interpreters' notes. Results showed that CANA was easy to learn and use, and offered virtually all the operations necessary for the coding and quantification of note-taking features. With the assistance of CANA, the speed of coding was improved by about four times. CANA was thus verified as an effective tool for quantifying interpreters' note-taking features. CANA could be applied to the research, learning and teaching of note-taking for consecutive interpreting. This study also shed light on the future building of a corpus of interpreters' notes.

Key words: interpreters' note-taking; note-taking features; computer assisted; CANA; category coding; note corpora