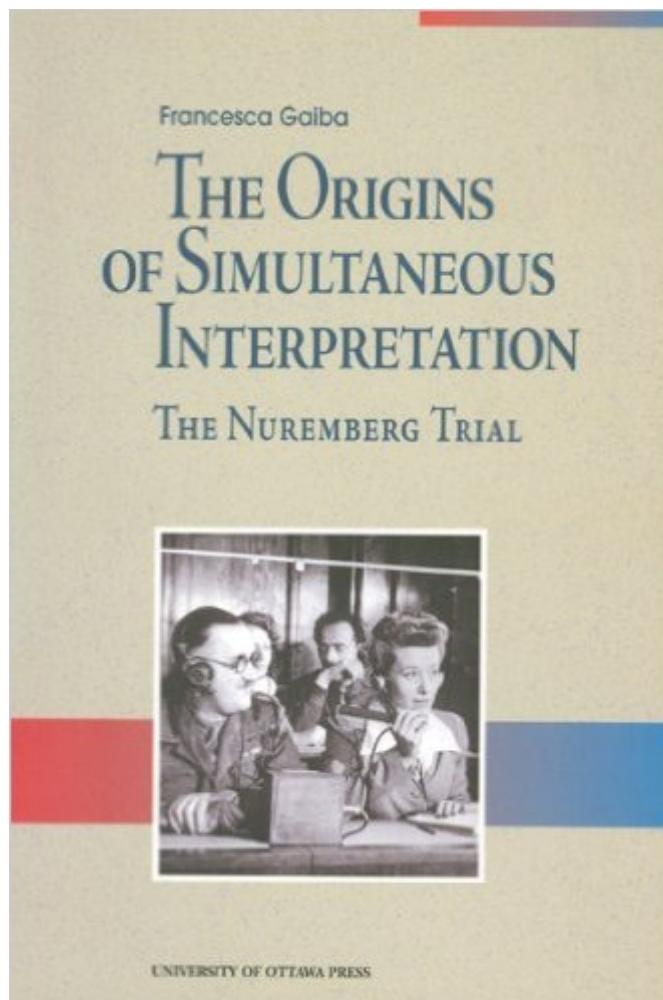


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The Origins Of Simultaneous Interpretation: The Nuremberg Trial



Synopsis

This book offers the first complete analysis of the emergence of simultaneous interpretation at the Nuremberg Trial and the individuals who made the process possible. Francesca Gaiba offers new insight into this monumental event based on extensive archival research and interviews with interpreters, who worked at the trial. This work provides an overview of the specific linguistic needs of the trial, and examines the recruiting of interpreters and the technical support available to them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you ever wondered how simultaneous interpreting came about, you need to read *The Origins of Simultaneous Interpretation*, a book by Francesca Gaiba. Gaiba's book focuses on the role of simultaneous interpreting at the Nuremberg Trials, a series of military tribunals for prosecution of Nazi military and political leaders. The Nuremberg Trials would not have been possible without interpreters. Yet, as Gaiba writes, "When 42 volumes of transcripts from the Nuremberg Trial were published, they contained an estimated six million words, not a single of which was devoted to the role of interpretation." Gaiba's book goes a long way to filling that void and giving some proper attention to interpreters. Here are some interesting facts from the book:-Interpreters were assisted by "monitors" for quality control who listened to the interpretation and flashed a yellow light if quality began to degrade, usually due to the speaker speaking too quickly. This served as an alert for the speaker to slow down. A red light was flashed if the interpreter had a coughing spell or could not interpret for some other reason.-Average interpreting speed was 130 words per minute, with peaks

of 200. Dictation speed, by contrast, is 60 words per minute. This meant the interpreters were able to "translate" 15 double-spaced legal-sized pages per hour.-Many interpreters experienced vicarious trauma, reporting that they had nightmares, for example, about the horrors of the films the U.S. army had recorded upon entering concentration camps.-Neutrality was also an enormous challenge due to difficulty with subject matter.

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