The Role of Interpretive Errors in Aviation Disasters: The Case of Pilots and ATCs at Esfahan Shahid Beheshti International Airport

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Regarding the act of translation in aviation contexts, an error leading to a different interpretation of the meaning might have serious consequences. In a wide range of fatal or near fatal aviation accidents, the language misunderstandings, omissions or communication confusion have played a contributing and even a central role (Cushing, 1994). Although English is the international language of the air, it is not the primary language of all those who are using it. Indeed, levels of English proficiency among aviation professionals vary tremendously around the world. Various researchers have categorized the types of errors in the reports provided by pilot-ATC (Air Traffic Controller) misunderstandings. This research is an attempt at identifying certain problem areas in which potential translation errors can be predicted. It is directed towards investigating the underlying problems associated with radio communication for pilots and ATCs whose first language is not English and identifies areas in error analysis and translation studies where training of pilots and ATCs might be improved. The pilot studies were conducted to identify what communication challenges controllers/pilots have experienced and what they consider to be the impact on aviation safety. Finally, this study would involve efforts to develop a heightened interpretive awareness in pilots and controllers and the dependence of their own and other people’s safety on their willingness to use language more mindfully.