

The background of the slide features a faint, stylized image of a scale of justice, symbolizing law and equity. The scale is positioned on the right side, with its vertical pillar and horizontal beam extending across the upper right portion of the frame. The pans of the scale are visible, though they are not clearly defined against the dark blue background.

Interpreting for the International Criminal Court: Linguistic Issues and Challenges

Nancy Schweda Nicholson, Ph.D.
University of Delaware, USA

I. Introduction

- Created by Rome Statute (1998); The Hague
 - Official Languages: UN (ARA, CHI, ENG, FR, RUS and SPA) - (ICTY UN agency).
 - OLS can become working langs (ENG FR)
 - Lubanga, Katanga/Chui
 - LSU of OTP + STIC (ICTY = CLSS only). LP for interp. ICC/in field)
- Problem: qual interps Africa



I: Introduction (con't)



- Video and audio of all proceedings
- Transcripts: ENG and FR
- SI and CI in court (only SI at ICTY)
- FR, ENG, Lingala, plus one other (11/25 Katanga)
- Judge, Pros, one Def: atty all speak FR

I. Introduction (con't)

- Training:
 - Gen. courtroom personnel: “language awareness”
 - Interpreters: ICTY and ICTR videos (most are conference interps –orientation)



II. Recruitment and Training

- A. OTP and STIC work together
 - Internet searches; contacts at universities
 - Academics, language/law students
- B. Guidelines for Use of FIs by Investigs.
 - Half-day = interps – role plays/errors
- C. Linguistic and Ethical Challenges
 - Role plays, glossaries (body, weapons, legal, ranks)
 - Interview style (ethics, notes)

III. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo

- A. Introduction/Observations in Court
 - Timeline
- B. Language Matters (5/28/08) (Status)
 - Witness testimony – languages required (82)
 - “...Burden on the interpreters...” (82)
 - “...conversation with whoever it is in charge of language services within the court...” (83)
 - Videos with subs in two WLS? Interpret?

III. Lubanga Dyilo (con't)

■ C. Language Matters (transcripts)

- Does LD speak/understand Swahili? 11/13/06
 - Defense: no confidence in OTP translations
 - Videos: "LD speaking Swahili..." MUST understand
 - Kingwana as variant of Swahili? (Registry report)
 - Judge Jorda: "ask LD what he thinks of this lang. variation" "perhaps he doesn't want to respond"
 - LD: "not two or three...but hundreds of variants of S in the Congo (23)
 - Viewed videos – "serious errors in the translation" (23)

IV. Attorney Training Courses: 2004-2006

- Team of int'l criminal lawyers (linguist)
- ICTY/ADC in The Hague
- ICDA/ICC in The Hague, Montreal
- Attorneys (often civil law)– defense work
– cross-exam techniques
- My role: “how to work with interpreters”
 - Feedback during role-playing exercises
 - Linguistic and cultural challenges

V. Conclusion

- A. Very brief overview
 - ICC
 - Recruitment and training
 - Courtroom interpreting (Lubanga Dyilo case)
 - Training courses for lawyers
- B. Ongoing developments
 - Linguistic issues (no legal term in some langs – ling + legal experts coining new words)
 - Planning and policy development for language services
 - Continuing research following Lubanga, Katanga and Chui trials