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A survey on the current situation of Cameroonian amateur interpreters

Degreume

Abstract

With the deepening of reform and opening up of the countries in the world, particularly the continuous improvement of international relations, the language service industry is booming, and the requirements for translators and interpreters are also higher and higher. In recent years, more and more researchers attach great importance to translation and interpreting related topics. This paper discusses the current situation of Cameroonian Chinese students engaged in interpreting work, in local Chinese companies. Cameroon is often referred to as “Africa’s crossroads” and “Africa in miniature” because of its many different people groups. It contains all the major climates, vegetation, mountains in Africa. On the basis of interviews with thirty non-professional interpreters working in the Chinese- French/English combination, this paper finds that most Chinese learners in Cameroon after mastering the basic knowledge of Chinese stop early schooling and join local Chinese companies to engage in interpreting work. They usually encounter problems and challenges while working. This study first discussed why they choose to stop studying and work early, then what problems they often face while interpreting and how to face these problems. Finally, this paper provides some effective suggestions for Chinese learners who are actually engaged or want to engage in interpreting work in the future.

Keywords: Chinese major students; Cameroonian amateur interpreters; interpreting; current situation

Introduction

China's rising status in international relations and the strengthening of foreign exchanges make foreign Chinese companies and language service business flourish. Among them, the enhancement of foreign exchange requires more and more translators and interpreters. In other words, translation and interpreting are the weight of the survival of foreign Chinese companies all over the world. Take Cameroon as an example; there are many Chinese companies in Cameroon, whose development is inseparable from translation and interpreting services. Therefore, every Chinese company in the country has at least one English-Chinese interpreter or French-Chinese interpreter. Undoubtedly, one can affirm the interpreters play a crucial role for Chinese companies' development in the world.

The previous researches show that more than one hundred fifty Cameroonian students majoring in Chinese leave school and work at the local Chinese companies like interpreters every year. On September 2020, an important meeting has been organized by Chinese major students who are engaged in translation and interpretation business in Cameroon. The main point of that meeting was how Cameroonian Chinese-French and Chinese- English interpreters would do to arrange the problems of salary while working with local Chinese companies. Apart from the problems of salary, the participants in that meeting have set up an organ that has a role to help all Cameroonian Chinese major undergraduates and graduates to find the job of interpreting over the country. The staff of the structure also plays the role to send all information about the job in the wechat and whatsapp groups in which exist the entire Cameroonian Chinese major students who are interested in translation or interpreting work. In addition, during the meeting it was reported that there are actually at least 600 young Cameroonians who are working like interpreters in the local Chinese companies.

There are many causes that push Cameroonian Chinese major students to abandon study and enter to social life early. Here are some causes enumerated by those who have been

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interviewed: bad economic conditions of family; bad conditions of life; lack of money that stop them to continue schooling and so on. As everyone knows, being interpreter is very easy but being a good interpreter needs not only to do long studies, mastery of language and abundant knowledge, but also mastery of two languages, cultures; work experiences are so important so. It is important to mention that most young Cameroonians who are actually working as interpreters with Chinese companies in the country have not done long studies, apart from the training from two to three years received in Confucius centers. This paper found up they face several problems and challenges while working with Chinese companies. Below is a list of some problems encountered by those Cameroonian Chinese major students engaged in interpreting business: Misunderstanding between the interpreters and Chinese companies' managers; some interpreters are not able to transmit to the employees the messages from the managers; some Chinese managers cannot speak Mandarin Chinese correctly, because they didn't receive school education; the salary is not high and the work is very busy etc. in order to developing the Chinese companies in Cameroon and promoting economic development between both countries china and Cameroon ,first, it will be a great idea to find out the manifestation of these problems faced by the students majoring in Chinese language while working in local Chinese companies as interpreters and the solutions to solve them. Second, this paper made some important suggestions to ameliorate the work's conditions of students who are actually interpreting and those who may be engaged in translation and interpreting work in the future.

Literature reviews

Early in 1995, Chinese language was taught in some African countries, for example Cameroon. According to the previous researches, Chinese language has been taught in Cameroon at least twenty five years. Xu lihua, Zhejiang normal university, professor of international college of education and culture is one of the first Chinese teachers sent to teach Chinese language to Cameroonians. She affirmed that early in 1995, she was sent to Cameroon and taught Chinese language. One year later, in 1996, Confucius center was opened in the second university of Cameroon named "SOA UNIVERSITY". It is important to mention that the presence of Chinese language in Cameroon has undoubtedly encouraged the creation of many Chinese companies, as hydroelectric companies, trades centers and others infrastructures. The main goal of institute Confucius in Cameroon is similar with others institutes Confucius over the world. The institutes Confucius have as the principal role to train more local Chinese teachers and promote Chinese language teaching. However, this study found out that Cameroonian Chinese major students are not interested in teaching Chinese. Even the students who have been trained for this job don't like doing it. Then, after mastering Chinese language, which kind of job are they interested in? In the introduction part of this paper, the answer to this question is very clear. Most of them work as translators and interpreters with local Chinese companies. In reality, institute Confucius leaders and Cameroonian ministry of education are very disappointed about this situation. On the contrary, the students are very motivated to do this job, because they earn more money while interpreting than teaching Chinese language. At present, the number of the Chinese major

students who are working for local Chinese companies has exceeded 600, while the number of local Chinese teachers is at least 300.

Why do students majoring in Chinese stop studying and work early with local Chinese companies

There are many causes that push young people to abandon school education and get in social life early in Cameroon. Some students dropped out school early because their parents are very poor and unable to pay the school fees. Some students left school because they did not well in school, then they wanted set up their own business for survival. George Tan, in his book titled "success secrets, real-life stories to inspire and motivate" through the stories of the successful persons those in his book called famous failures has pointed out many reasons that often push young people to stop schooling and look for the job early. Here are some of them: poverty, misery, lack of confidence, laziness etc. This paper through the investigated interview found that the Cameroonian non-professional or amateur interpreters stop schooling at the young age and go work with local Chinese companies because of poverty, misery, lack of confidence, bad conditions of life and so on.

Problems and challenges encountered by non-professional or amateur interpreters in work

Amateur interpreters encounter many challenges and problems while working with local Chinese companies. Just as everyone can sing, do it badly or well, so everyone who can speak or knows more than two different languages can translate or interpret, but be a good interpreter needs the training. That's why everyone who can translate or interpret is not automatically a good translator or interpreter; don't talk about professional one. In this case, the translation and interpreting become the most difficult job in human life. Before being a translator or interpreter, everyone has to receive some kind of training in this field. The problems encountered by the non-professional interpreters are not only professional, but also technical and experimental. To be a perfect and confident interpreter, just be professionally trained is not good enough at all; one also needs some experiences and technique in translation and interpreting area. Alexander kunzli pointed out the non-professional interpreters (amateur interpreters) face the problem of lack of interpreting or translation principles when they are translating or interpreting. On the same hand, they are full of doubt while practicing interpreting and translation. In 1995, Gile declared that the interpreters are constantly confronted with unexpected situations that must be dealt with while they are already working at the limits of theirs available processing capacity. Above these researchers demonstrated the problems and challenges encountered by professional interpreters as well as amateur interpreters in interpreting processes.

Definition of terms and Difference Translator and Interpreter

Translator is a person who is able to convert the written materials or documents from one language to another.

Interpreter is a person who orally restates in one language what has been said in another language or restates in one language an oral message what has been said in another language.

In short, the difference between translator and interpreter is that interpreter focuses on oral messages while translator focuses on written materials.

Professional interpreter and non-professional or amateur interpreter

Professional interpreter is a person who has ability and competence to use two languages fluently, he is not only bilingual, but also even his language and interpreting skills have been tested and he is professionally trained.

Non-professional interpreter is a person whose language and interpreting skills haven't been tested and he has not been trained, his language ability may be limited, in particular in complex situation, there is no guarantee of professionalism and impartiality.

Professional interpreters as well as non-professional interpreters can translate and interpret, but the difference between them is that the professional interpreters interpret with confidence and guarantee of professionalism, even in the complex situation; they can achieve normally their business, because they are trained and have techniques and methods in translation and interpreting, contrary, non-professional interpreters are limited while interpreting.

Research Methods

This study followed an interview guide and investigated the different opinions of Cameroonian non-professional or amateur interpreters who are actually engaged in working with local Chinese companies. The interview focused on the reasons that push them to drop out school early and the problems and difficulties that they usually encounter in interpreting work. This paper has interviewed 30 persons including Chinese- French interpreters and Chinese-English interpreters. All of the interviewees were non-professional or amateur interpreters. The interview questions were sixteen and composed of two parts. Part one gathered the personal information of interviewees and their study background (1-7). The second part focused on the reasons which push young people majoring in Chinese to leave early school and the problems that they encountered in interpreting work (8-16).

At the end of the interview, this study got a satisfactory result and every question has been successfully responded. In the next part, We are going first to discuss the causes that push Cameroonian Chinese students to stop studying at the young age and looking for interpreting jobs, second this paper will point out the problems and challenges encountered by these young students in interpreting work. At end of this study, we will make some helpful suggestions to face these problems and difficulties and do better their job in the coming days.

Reasons, problems and suggestions

Reasons

According to this research, there are about 600 students majoring in Chinese who are actually doing interpreting job in local Chinese companies in Cameroon. There are different reasons that push these students to drop up school and work with Chinese companies early. These reasons can be classified into two categories: individual/personal reasons and non-individual/non-personal reasons.

Personal reasons

The personal reasons can be defined as all the reasons that push the students to stop schooling voluntary. This research shows that due to individual goals, many Cameroonian students majoring in Chinese drop out from school and work with Chinese enterprises early. Here are some of personal reasons that make young people abandon school and get in Chinese local companies early:

➤ **Beauty's needs.** Beauty's need is the most important individual reason that motivates young people work early in Cameroon, particularly those who are majoring in Chinese. Honestly, many students are self-supporting in Cameroon. They not only pay their school fees and buy school furniture by themselves, but also provide themselves with food and beauty's material like clothes, shoes etc. In this 21st century, the beauty is the most important thing that is permanently searched by young people. Particularly, in Cameroon, more than 90% percent of young people include students and workers attach a great importance to beauty. In particular in universities, Cameroonian students pretend to study in the good conditions. As it was pointed out, some of them are responsible of everything, that's why when they mastered the basic Chinese language knowledge, they have the obligation to stop schooling and working with local Chinese companies. That's just because, in every Cameroonian student mind, a university student should be different from other people with his dresses, housing, and transport and so on. This research pointed out that the students who have not a good condition of life in Cameroonian universities never ever study for longtime.

➤ **Marriage.** Marriage is one of the most important reasons that push Cameroonian students to leave school at young age and get in social life early. According to the condition of marriage established by the Cameroonian Republic, boy and girl get married at 20 and 18 respectively. As we all know, Cameroon is a multi-religious country. It is necessary to mention that the most dominated religions in Cameroon are Christianity and Islam. This research found out that the rules about marriage are violated by the Islamic believers all the times. Because many boys and girls get married before the age fixed by the government every year. Lot of Islamic Youngers for the reason to marry good woman, usually stop schooling early and look for the jobs. Some of the interviewees were Muslims, to the question of what motivated them to work with local Chinese companies early, they answered it was marriage. In short, they have to earn lots of money and get married with a good person. As it was noted, the other religion in Cameroon is Christianity. It is absolutely obscured to say the Christians don't get marriage before the age fixed by the government. They did, but there are not many cases. One thing is sure that the Christians living in the towns respect the rules of marriage, unlikely, those who live in the small villages get marriage early.

Apart from these two reasons above, there are also many other personal reasons that push young Cameroonian people to leave school and work early. For example mental problem, laziness, vision and so on.

Non- personal reasons

In addition to the individual reasons that always influence Cameroonian young students study, there are numerous non-individual reasons. In short, the concept non- individual or non- personal in this context means external or what is not under student's control and influence student study. Some of the interview respondents pointed out that they didn't leave school because of their own business, but it was the external influence. Below are the most influential non-individual reasons that push Cameroonian young people to stop studying early:

➤ **Poor familial life's condition**

As we all know, more than 50% of families in Cameroon have many difficulties to live. Particularly in a polygamous family, it is really difficult to study fully and get certain levels. Lots of the students from a polygamous family don't have big dreams, they just search to have a matriculation or have a small job to assist financially their families or their elder brothers and sisters from the same mother. This research paper found out that most of students majoring in Chinese stopped schooling for assisting financially their families. It is important to mention that 70% of the students majoring in Chinese are from polygamous families. The simple reason for what they choose learns Chinese is because Chinese language is the youngest major in the Cameroonian schools. For them, Chinese language is the unique way to get out from poverty early and support their families. In short, the poorest familial life's condition is one of the most influential external reasons that push numerous Cameroonian Chinese students to drop out from school at young age.

➤ **Degree limitation**

From the creation to now, Chinese major in Cameroon is limited to bachelor degree, what means all the students who got the bachelor degree have the obligation to go to china for completing their study. According to numerous Cameroonian families situation, it is so hard to send the children oversea for education. Maybe some families have done or can do it, but one thing is important to know that they might be members of government or something else. Some people send their children overseas under scholarship. Apart these two cases, it is really difficult for Cameroonian families, in particular for polygamous families to send the children overseas for schooling. In this condition, many students are obliged to look for the jobs just after getting bachelor degree. Many of them need to continue study and get more than bachelor, why not get the doctoral degree, but they face the problem of lack of money to be educated overseas. Generally speaking, 80% of the students in Cameroon face this problem actually. Concerning Chinese major students, they are completely limited by the degree limitation, because there is no way for them to get the study background that they expected to get. One thing they can do is just to go and work with local Chinese companies for a minimized salary.

To summarize this part, it is important to underline that the reasons that push Cameroonian Chinese language students to stop studying and work early are divided into two groups: individual or personal reasons including beauty's needs and marriage; non-individual or non-personal reasons including poor familial life's conditions and degree limitation. It is necessary to mention that these reasons are

the most influential.

Problems and challenges

The recent years, Chinese involved in various activities and works in the private sectors in the world, particularly in Cameroon as such construction of roads and railways, exploitation of natural resources, fishing, forest exploitation, poultry farming, confectioneries, running small business of the cheap goods imported from china, wood exportation, construction of the bridges, health care etc. The presence of the interpreters is the most suitable in these different domains, of course because the language barrier. This paper shows that, there are at least six hundreds Chinese- French and Chinese- English interpreters working with local Chinese companies in Cameroon.

Cameroonian amateur interpreters face several difficulties and challenges in the course of their work. The problems faced by the Cameroonian amateur interpreters can be divided into two categories: individual problems or weaknesses and problems caused by local Chinese managers and their Chinese subordinates. The most common individual problems are: limited knowledge of Chinese; lack of professional character; a low level of communication in two languages French Chinese, English Chinese or local language and Chinese. The problems listed above are linked to the academic and professional competence of an amateur Cameroonian interpreter. Along with these individual problems, it should also be mentioned that there are so many other problems which sometimes escape the control of the interpreter, in short the problems caused by Chinese managers and their Chinese subordinates, which are poor level of Chinese managers and workers in mandarin Chinese or standard Chinese; the bad conception of Africans by the Chinese, the exaggerated pressure of the Chinese on interpreters.

Individual problems of interpreter

Limited knowledge of Chinese

It is Important to mention that most of Cameroonian young students majoring in Chinese language didn't get master degree. According to their study background, they are not qualified to translate and interpret effectively and coherently. As we all know, Chinese language is the most complex language in the world. To master Chinese language perfectly, it is advisable for foreigners learning Chinese to learn Chinese language and culture for at least 7 years. In addition, it is also advisable for the learners to study in china and familiarize with Chinese people, improve Chinese listening, speaking and develop the communication ability. This research shows that most of Cameroonian amateur interpreters have only received a short term Chinese language training and have never been in china. Their Chinese listening, speaking has to be improved. It is also important to mention that interpreting is the most complicated business or work in human activities. An interpreter must understand the basic structures and principles of foreign language before doing interpreting job. This is not a work of one or two years. To conclude, most of Cameroonian amateur interpreters, particularly those who have not completed their bachelor degree, their knowledge in Chinese language is limited.

Lack of professional character

The professional character occupies an important place in the life of a professional or non-professional worker. An interpreter is the direct representative of Chinese managers. He is a spokesperson for the whole Chinese local companies. As well as in any African culture, particularly in Cameroonian culture; the behavior or character gives a beautiful image to the worker, in other words, professional characters make the interpreters honored and respected. This article shows that most of Cameroonian amateur interpreters lack professional characters. This can be explained by their way of dressing, of communicating, of thinking, even their behavior towards employees and the way of transmitting a message from managers, in short Chinese officials who are running their business in Cameroon.

Poor level of communication in both languages Chinese and Cameroonian official or local language

The communication is the key for solving any problem faced by humanity. The lack or poor level of communication can lead to misunderstandings among people living in a particular society. From the same perspective, communication plays an important role for Chinese companies' development in Africa, in particular in Cameroon. As a voice of Chinese company, every interpreter should have a good level of communication in both languages used while interpreting. It is advisable for interpreter to understand perfectly the basic principles of communication, develop the communication skills in politic, economic, justice and other fields of life. This is because interpreting is a wide range of criteria, involving almost all areas of life, especially for the Chinese people, interpreter must be able to defend all their interests, and play a good and elegant role in any related fields. This study found out that almost all amateur interpreters have a poor level of communication in both languages Chinese and Cameroonian official or vernacular languages. This can be explained by not understanding of common jargons and subjects in the field of economy, politic, justice and so on. The interpreter must be able to master the communication in these fields only because he/she represents the Chinese people and defends their interests in the local government, conducts economic negotiations, and defends the cause of the Chinese people in the judicial situations or cases.

The above problems are the individual problems encountered by every so-called amateur interpreter in the process of translation and interpreting, which bring challenges to every Cameroonian amateur interpreter. In addition to these individual problems, one can also notice other problems which sometimes escape the control of the interpreter, those are, the problems caused by the Chinese people he/she cooperates with.

Problems caused by Chinese managers and their Chinese subordinates

China is the biggest country in the world and her population has grown up rapidly in the past few years. This is one of the reasons why many Chinese citizens run away from their home country and invest in other countries around the world, especially in African countries. It is important to underline what kind of Chinese citizens invest in Africa, because, there are two categories of Chinese people. The first category is the Chinese citizen who has been educated in school and is able to communicate in

modern Chinese or standard Chinese (PTH); the second category is the Chinese citizen who has never been educated in school and is unable to communicate in standard Chinese. Most of Chinese citizens who are investing in Africa belong to the second category. This paper shows that most of Chinese managers and their Chinese subordinates who are investing in Cameroon don't speak well a standard Chinese or modern Chinese. Cameroonian amateur interpreters who work with them have an exaggerated pressure at work. Here are the problems caused by this category of Chinese managers and their countrymen:

Poor level of Chinese managers and their Chinese subordinates in PTH (standard Chinese)

PTH appears a simple abbreviation to those who have learned and are learning Chinese language. PTH means 普通话 (putonghua) in Chinese, and mandarin or standard Chinese in English. Referring to the Chinese language history, Chinese mandarin or standard Chinese was introduced into teaching after the 1970s, which means that any Chinese who went to school before the 1970s cannot normally express himself/herself in PTH or standard Chinese. In addition, any Chinese citizen who is deprived of school education or refused school education cannot express himself/herself perfectly in Chinese mandarin or PTH. This study found out that most of Chinese managers and their Chinese subordinates who are running their businesses in Cameroon either have been at school before 1970s or have never been at school. They have several problems in communication, because they are not competent to express themselves in standard Chinese. Their weak level of communication in PTH makes the interpreters work more and more difficult. The study shows that many of Cameroonian amateur interpreters often change the jobs because of bad accent of Chinese managers or businessmen. Here is the undesirable problem encountered by amateur interpreters in Cameroon all the time. To facilitate the work of interpreters and promote a good development of Chinese companies in Cameroon, it is desirable to improve the standard Chinese level of some Chinese managers and their Chinese subordinates who are investing around the country.

bad conception of Africans by the Chinese

Historically speaking, Africa is considered as field of battle and African as a conscious animal by developing countries. One can use African people for any job. In developing countries, the work of man is done by the robots or other technologic tools, contrary in Africa, every work hard or not is done by the man. from the same perspective, many Chinese illiterate managers and workers treat Cameroonian workers like the robots for hard work. Sometimes, the men do the work that should be done by the robots. According to these Chinese managers and workers, black people are born for slavery and they must work as slaves for surviving. In short, black African people have no value in their eyes. This study found out that most of Cameroonian amateur interpreters are treated badly, without respect. They do not only translate and interpret, but also work like the unskilled laborer or simple worker. Most of them encountered this kind of situation frequently. This is just because most of Chinese citizens who are investing in Cameroon are illiterate and have bad conception of African

people, in particular, African black people. In this case, the interpreters should fight not only for their own career, but also for the career of unqualified employees who are treating badly. Contrary, the educated Chinese who work in Cameroon, in particular, who represent the Chinese government in the country are so kind to their employees, because they know the value of black people in the society. In short, the neglect of blacks is still a common problem faced by amateur interpreters in many Chinese companies in Cameroon.

Exaggerated pressure of the Chinese on interpreters

It is important to mention that Chinese managers exert an excessive pressure on amateur interpreters in Cameroon. Most of them work at least 20 hours a day; this means that they don't have time to rest. Other interpreters are obliged to practice some activities condemned by their religions and against their will. The worst situation is to go to the nearest prostitution center to bring prostitutes to the Chinese managers for their sexual needs. In particular, female interpreters are sometimes sexually abused and violated by their Chinese leaders. For fear of losing their jobs, they have an obligation to keep secret from the police and endure the situation. This is one of the reasons why Chinese managers and their Chinese subordinates are more interested in female interpreters than the male ones. Many female interpreters were pregnant of their Chinese managers. Some of them are forced to have abortion and few got married with these Chinese leaders. Briefly, in their leisure time, some of female interpreters become the object of sexual desire of Chinese managers and their countrymen. It is important to notice that in case of emergencies, for example case of sickness, negotiation to the police, arrival of customers, the interpreter is the first to wake up and the last to go back to sleep, even in the midnight. In short, Cameroonian amateur interpreters have an exaggerated pressure of the Chinese managers they work for.

To end this part, it is important to remind that there are two categories of problems faced by Cameroonian amateur interpreters while they work with Chinese companies, including individual weaknesses and problems caused by the Chinese managers. The worst problems are the ones caused by Chinese managers. These problems are the reasons why some amateur interpreters refuse completely to work with Chinese companies, in particular female interpreters. Below are some suggestions to ameliorate the interpreters work's conditions in Chinese companies in Cameroon.

Suggestions

After a careful analysis, Cameroonian amateur interpreters face many problems while working in Chinese companies all over the country. In order to ameliorate the work's conditions of Cameroonian amateur interpreters, this paper puts forward some important suggestions. First, this paper puts forward some suggestions on how to solve the individual problems in interpretation. Second, it puts forward some solutions to the problems caused by Chinese leaders and their Chinese subordinates.

In order to solve the so-called personal problems faced by Cameroonian amateur interpreters, the following suggestions are desirable:

- Any interpreter must understand that interpreting is the most complex job in human life, which requires a good

and excellent level of the both languages Chinese and local official language or vernacular language if necessary. Therefore, it is recommended that all Cameroonian amateur interpreters fully master the relevant languages, especially Chinese, before becoming interpreters. It is important to know that the course taught in the school or Chinese Teaching Center (Confucius Center) is not good enough, especially in the field of interpretation. This article suggests that all amateur interpreters or future interpreters who are interested in interpretation jobs should be familiar with Chinese people, especially in communication. If they don't have Chinese in their quarters, they can watch Chinese videos on social networks, and they can even make Chinese friends to improve their language level. Here are the most suitable and useful Apps or social networks to improve Chinese language: Baidu, baidu translation, film and television encyclopedia, good-looking video, central video, French assistant, daily French, Himalaya, Tencent video. They can find a variety of dialogues and exchanges on these different Apps and even Chinese courses are taught and explained on these Apps.

- It is suggested that interpreters reexamine their professional characteristics and be respected by Chinese leaders who have invested in Cameroon. As everyone can't ignore, professional characteristics play an important role in every qualified or unqualified worker's life. Even if the language level is not very good, the simple professional characteristics can make the interpreter become a respected and honored person. An interpreter must dress well, communicate well, treat employees well and work hard. Even sometimes, it is difficult for you to communicate honestly, you have to prove that you are worthy of interpretation. In addition to being professional, interpreter has to keep abreast of many of the latest developments in the economic, commercial and even political and legal fields. The interpreter must mainly focus on the information in the field he interprets. If he interprets in the field of fishery, he must focus on the news in the field of fishery. If he interprets in the woods' exploitation company, he must also master the field.

In addition to the above suggestions, some suggestions have been put forward to solve the problems raised by Chinese managers for whom the amateur interpreters work. These include:

- The Chinese and Cameroonian governments must consider conducting a small test on standard Chinese for all Chinese citizens interested in Cameroon before allowing them to enter the country. This is to avoid misunderstanding between Chinese interpreters and managers.
- The Cameroonian government must formulate a convention to protect the rights of all interpreters working in Chinese companies. Any amateur qualified or unqualified worker has the right to be well treated by the Chinese managers their Chinese subordinates. Illegal activities or forced labors should not be tolerated in Chinese companies. An interpreter is called to interpret, but not to do some physical works. Female interpreters are far from satisfying the sexual needs of some Chinese managers their Chinese

subordinates. In such cases, the victim is required to appear in court and file a complaint about the sexual assault. Local judicial departments must do their best to protect the victim and ask the suspects to pay huge fees for it. No country in the world allows sexual violence against women, especially against girls. There is no law that allows Chinese to use girls' interpreters as object of sexual desire's satisfaction in Cameroon. In bilateral relations, respect must be mutual. The government of Cameroon is therefore required to effectively defend the rights of any Cameroonian working in the territory for foreign companies. Every foreign who refuses to comply or cooperate with the conditions set by the local government should be repatriated immediately.

These proposals are just outlines of solutions to the problems encountered by Cameroonian amateur interpreters working or wishing to work in Chinese companies. Interpreters in Cameroon or other countries similar to Cameroon are required not only to read this article, but also to judge and criticize, and if possible, to find other effective ways to defend their values.

Conclusion

This paper aims at exploring the problems encountered by amateur Chinese interpreters working in Cameroonian Chinese companies.

First of all, we should re-examine the reasons that lead young Chinese students to leave early school and interpret in Chinese society. These reasons include the need for beauty, early marriage, mental problems and laziness. These are all personal reasons. Poor family living conditions, limited Chinese proficiency in Cameroonian schools and poverty, are all non-personal reasons.

Talking about the problem that is the focus of this research, it is worth noting that the problems encountered by interpreters in Chinese companies fall into two categories: personal difficulties and those raised by Chinese managers and their Chinese subordinates working in Cameroon. Personal problems include: limited knowledge of Chinese; lack of professional character; a low level of communication in two languages French Chinese, English Chinese or local language and Chinese. The problems caused by Chinese managers and their Chinese subordinates are: Poor level of Chinese managers and workers in mandarin Chinese or standard Chinese; the bad conception of Africans by the Chinese, the exaggerated pressure of the Chinese on the interpreters. In view of these problems, this paper puts forward some suggestions. Therefore, the individual efforts of interpreter and effective government assistance are two important points to ameliorate the work's conditions of amateur interpreters in Cameroon.

Due to the limited knowledge and writing ability, the expression of written language might be not ideal. The author cannot clearly reflect the overall problems of amateur interpreters in Cameroon, which leads to many deficiencies in this paper. As for the author's own shortcomings, more efforts should be made to learn from relevant professional experts in the future.

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