1. Introduction

1.1 Women have a better memory than men
They perform better in memory tasks (Maitland, 2004).
As memory is a key component of interpreting (Darò, 1994), is this difference observable in simultaneous interpreting?

1.2 Ear-Voice-Span or Time Lag
EVS is the time a concept is stored in memory and its length depends on the memory-capacity limitation. Assuming interpreters make full use of their cognitive capacities (Gile, 1995), female interpreters are expected to present a longer EVS.

2. Methodology

2.1 Time-aligned corpus
Sub-corpus of the European Parliament Interpreting Corpus Ghent. Aligned and annotated in EXMARA LDA Partitur. 81 interpretations (45 women and 36 men) in 3 language combinations: EN>FR, EN>NL and FR>NL.

2.2 EVS measurement
Pairs of tags linking up lexical equivalents in the source and target text, as shown in this Partitur extract:

1 pair of tags = 1 EVS measurement

3. Results

The Mann-Whitney test indicated that the EVS is statistically different between women (median=2,64s) and men (median=2,39s) for all language combinations taken as a whole (p=0.00), as well as for EN>NL and FR>NL.

Histograms of EVS frequency for women and men:

4. Conclusion
Women have a longer EVS than men in general and in 2 of the 3 language combinations.

5. Next steps
1. Analysis of the influence of other factors (e.g. Delivery rate) on EVS.
2. Improvement of the data set (use of speaker and gender identification software, addition of languages) and cooperation with other Universities and researchers.
3. Study of other cognitive sex differences involving memory.

References