THE STRATEGIES AND LINGUISTIC FEATURE OF INTERPRETING: WHAT EVERY INTERPRETER SHOULD KNOW

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CURRENT STRATEGIES IN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING

- Discourse-based Approaches
- Pragmatics in Interpreting
- Developing Consecutive Interpreting prior to Simultaneous Interpreting Skills
- Translation and Transliteration/
DISCOURSE-BASED APPROACHES

- Discourse Mediation
- Discourse Analysis/Discourse Mapping
Discourse-based Approaches: Interpreting as Discourse Mediation

“... interpreting is a discourse process in which interpreters are active participants who need to know about and understand interactional behavior as well as explicit ways in which languages and cultures use language ... understanding the nature of social situations, being conscious of discourse processes, and knowing and recognizing ways of using language... (Roy, 2000)”
**Discourse-based Approaches: Discourse Analysis Using Discourse Mapping**

- “Discourse analysis is the study of how communication in any form is structured so that it is socially appropriate as well as meaningfully and linguistically accurate (Hatch, 1992 cited in Winston & Manikowski, 2005 p. 15).”

- The translation/interpretation requires:
  1) Appropriate Content (themes, topics, events)
  2) Appropriate Context (register, settings, speakers goals, etc.)
  3) Appropriate Linguistic form (discourse structures, transitions, vocabulary, etc.)
DISCOURSE-BASED APPROACHES: DISCOURSE ANALYSIS USING DISCOURSE MAPPING

(Winston & Manikowski, 2000, p.32)
Pragmatics in Interpreting (Sachtleben & Denny, 2011; Davis, 2005)

“...understanding the pragmatic force of an utterance is just as important as understanding the lexical meaning, and the interpreter needs to develop of their skill set (Sachtleben & Denny, 2011, p.5.)”

- Pragmatic competencies:
  1) Illocutionary competence (i.e. language functions, purpose)
  2) Sociolinguistic competence (i.e. sensitivity to dialectical variety, registers, cultural references, figures of speech)
Consecutive interpreting yields higher degree of accuracy in legal settings but simultaneous interpreting is the preferred strategy in the profession even in settings (e.g. medical, counseling, etc.) where consecutive interpreting is the more appropriate method to use (Russell, 2002).
TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION

Transliteration – “the process of changing a message produced in English into English based signing, or vice versa (RID, 2004).”

Translation – “the process of changing a message produced in one language into another language (regardless of the mode) (Napier, 2005).”
Transliteration and Translation

“Building a conceptual template by signing for meaning as a foundation for ASL, rather than signing a word/gloss match, will broaden and enrich their (interpreters’) use of the language (Cartwright & Bahleda, 2002).”
SOME LINGUISTIC FEATURES (ASL)

- Prosody
- Spatial Mapping
- Visual descriptors/Depiction
Some Linguistic Features (ASL): Prosody

Prosody – combination of features that produce rhythm/accent/feel of the language ... allows signers to reflect internal focus ... to chunk messages into processable chunks that help them interpret the signer’s intended meaning (Winston, 1995 cited in Maiorano & Wither-Merithew, 2002).”
Some Linguistic Features (ASL): Prosody

Prosodic Features:

1) Visual patterns and rhythm created by nodding, shaking, tilting of the head
2) Raising and lowering of the brows
3) Direction and type of eye gaze
4) Eye blinks to mark utterance boundaries
SOME LINGUISTIC FEATURES (ASL): PROSODY

Prosodic Features:

6) Use of mouth to contribute to a pattern relating to utterance boundaries
7) Shoulders up and down
8) Use of body and torso
9) Sign location, number of hands, sign articulation conveying tension and emphasis of words/concepts
Some Linguistic Features (ASL): Spatial Mapping/Depiction

Spatial Mapping – the association of an element or entity in signing space with the element or entity in the mental image of the signer (Winston, 1995)."
SOME LINGUISTIC FEATURES (ASL): SPATIAL MAPPING

Techniques

1) Articulate the sign for the referent in a particular space
2) Physically stepping into a specific space and sign
3) Pointing to space and articulating a sign in unmarked (neutral) space or in a marked space
4) Rotating the torso and/or head toward a space, directing eye gaze at the space
5) Use of indicating verbs that move toward/away from the subject and/or objects
6) Switching hands to sign near the established space
7) Use of a combination of these strategies.
Visual descriptors – sign clusters which, when taken as a whole, describe an object, event or concept (Stauffer, 2002)
REFERENCES


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