

CAPTIONS

Official Newsletter Publication of the Colorado Association of Professional Interpreters
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CAPI Membership Appreciation Event

Male/Female Energies Workshop for CAPI Members

by Cathy Bahr

On Saturday April 8, CAPI held a membership appreciation workshop entitled "Gender Polarity: Masculine and Feminine Energies", led by corporate leadership coach Patty Beach. The event was a combination of lecture and hands-on exercises. The participants received an overview and some visceral understanding of male/female communication rituals, and the roots and results of drawing on the "masculine" and "feminine" facets of our own personalities.

Patty illustrated life through the four quadrants of gender polarity. Characteristics associated positively with masculine energy include leadership, task-oriented, and competition. The negative end of the masculine energy spectrum includes tyranny, control, and cold-natured. In contrast, positive feminine energy gives rise to nurturing, helping others, and creating community, while the negative side of that same energy can include complete passivity and fearfulness.

At the end of the workshop, we had the opportunity to reflect on how the material Patty taught us applied to our lives as interpreters. There was thoughtful consensus among the members who work primarily as court

interpreters that we perform our duties within the limited, impersonal quadrant of negative feminine energy, whereas, on a personal level, we have much stronger affinity with the strong side of masculine energy.

From the comments I heard during the aftermath of the program as we were clearing out, I think my fellow participants enjoyed gaining the insights Patty so artfully elicited from us. It was one of those experiences that highlights something that can be so obvious but, since we don't usually focus on it, goes unseen. Raising our awareness in this subtle area of communication and relationship can be a useful tool for improving our professional and personal lives.

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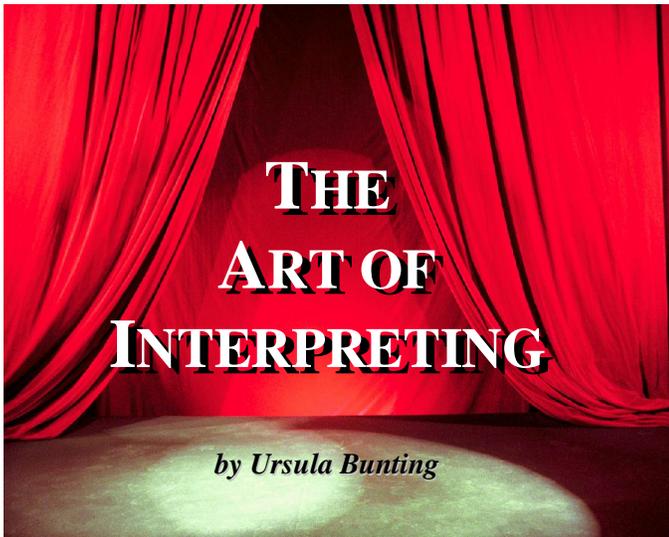
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Interpreter Training in Gunnison July
25-29

CAPI Picnic August 13
Sterne Park, Littleton

CAPI Meeting and Continuing
Education in Greeley, Sept. 9
See Page 6 for details.

Send articles or comments to
captions@coloradointerpreters.org



Several years ago I saw an interview with Kathy Lee Gifford, who used to be a co-host of the “Pat and Kathy” morning show. I don’t know why I watched the interview since I didn’t particularly like the show nor the hosts; nevertheless, Kathy said something that day that stuck in my mind for a long time. She recalled her father’s advice from when she was a little girl: “Find something that you truly like and try to make money doing it”. I kept thinking about this, especially since at that time I had a well-paid, secure and stable job in the accounting field with only one problem – I hated it!

A few years later, someone took a photo of me sitting in the office in front of the computer, surrounded by papers, pens and calculators. The very first moment I looked at that picture, I thought to myself: “I don’t belong here”. I compared this photograph to others I had from years before when I was a singer and dancer working for The

Polish National Company of Song and Dance, “Mazowsze”. Dancing was my passion then, but since I could no longer make a living doing that, I was not sure I could find another type of work that would make me feel as good. It was not long after that that I discovered interpreting by coincidence. I was in the dentist office waiting for my appointment and I quickly looked through a classified section of the local paper. I stopped at an ad placed by the State of Connecticut Interpreter’s Office looking for a Polish interpreter. I thought, hum, that might be a cool job but I didn’t think I could qualify for it. One of the requirements was passing an exam that included simultaneous interpreting. I had previously done some consecutive interpreting but had never tried the simultaneous variety. I thought to myself “How can one possibly listen, translate in your head and speak – all at the same time?” Nevertheless, I couldn’t stop thinking about this and I decided to give it a try. To my astonishment, I passed the test, completed the training and was sworn in and appointed as a court interpreter.

I have loved every minute of it and I still do. I am not talking about what happens behind the curtains, just about the moments of interpreting. I always feel a little excitement before I start interpreting. I feel as if I am back on the stage again. I love the fact that I have to forget about everything else, and my brain, my ears and my lips have to be quick and accurate. No matter what kind of audience I have, I am the only one who really knows how well I perform. And I always feel that I could do better...

In my opinion, interpreting is a form of art. We all know that it takes much more than just speaking more than one language. For me, besides the talent, skills and experience, it takes a good amount of artistic ability.

I hope you agree with me and have as much fun interpreting as I do. Forget the politics (you will find this everywhere) and enjoy being on “stage”. Every time you interpret think of it as your own performance - when you compare it to the real show, the stage is smaller, the program is the same (unless you mess something up) and the audience doesn’t clap at the end. There is one plus though... you don’t need to wear a lot of makeup!



New CAPI board members were elected at the annual meeting in March. Pictured are the following members of the Board of Directors: [back row] Lee Ana Trujillo - Director, Ana Acosta - Treasurer, Cathy Bahr - Director, Ana Mostaccero - Director; [front row] Ruth Warner - Co-chair, and Isabelle Houlbreque - Secretary. Missing from the photo is new Co-chair Julia Davis.

Interpreter Agencies

Ana Acosta, member of the CAPTIONS editorial board, interviewed translation and interpretation agency owners and directors to learn about their views, expectations and needs, and to help interpreters acquire a better understanding of the current situation and future trends of the interpreting profession in Colorado. All of the agencies interviewed are organizational members of CAPI. Thank you for your support!

INTERPRETER NETWORK OF COLORADO

Interpreter Network of Colorado (INoC) started providing services in 2001 as a project of the Spring Institute, founded in 1979 in Denver.

CAPTIONS talked to Dijana Rizvanovic, Interpreter Trainer/Quality Control Coordinator of this nonprofit organization that specializes in medical settings. INoC renders services in 80 languages, 90% of which are in the medical field and the rest in social services, legal proceedings, and employment. The project has three staff members and outsources all of the interpreting jobs and most of the translation requests.

The languages in most demand are Spanish, Russian, Korean, Vietnamese, and some African languages such as Ethiopian, Amharic and Tigrinya. "We expect medical interpreting to experience a substantial growth in the following years."

According to Dijana, 98% of the interpreters with whom the organization works in the medical sector have obtained the certification granted by the 40-hour Medical Interpreter Training "Bridging the Gap".



Dijana's passion for interpreting becomes obvious when we ask her if she would support efforts to have a Medical Certification Program in Colorado. "Absolutely; I would love to join the task force and contribute in whatever way I can".

In screening prospective interpreters, INoC looks for a targeted résumé that points out the highest year of education completed, number of languages the person speaks fluently, and any medical background or training.

It is important for the organization to get feedback from its clients. Among other things, it requires from its interpreters professionalism, promptness, communication skills, and knowledge of needed vocabulary.

In Rizvanovic's opinion, Colorado has made important strides in assuring quality and ethical standards in the interpreting field through CAPI, the State Court Interpreter Program Administration, and many valuable training courses which are available in the market. But there is still a lot to do.

As a Bosnian/English interpreter with six years of experience, Dijana considers that, in order for interpreters to be viewed as professionals, they should undergo continuing education to constantly hone their skills and take pride in what they do. Her advice is to stay connected, share information, attend courses, conferences, seminars, and know what's happening in the interpreting world.

CAPI's website is viewed by the INoC representative as a resource when looking for interpreters in Colorado. She encourages the website managers to always keep updated information about what's going on in the interpreting world.

The INoC project has the goal of adding sign language interpreting next year to the services provided by The Spring Institute. In order to fulfill its mission, the Institute offers training programs to corporations, government agencies, and to communities which create greater intercultural understanding.

Interpreter Agencies (cont.)

CESCO LINGUISTIC SERVICES

Cesco Linguistic Services began offering interpreting and translation services in August 2004, and in May 2005 bought the Spanish Interpreting and Translating Center, Inc (SITC). Thanks to the fact that most interpreters from SITC continue working with Cesco, they can rely on a solid team.

Giovanna Carriero-Contreras, Executive Director of Cesco Linguistic Services, shared with CAPTIONS some of her views about possible ways to improve the interpreting profession, as well as some of the procedures that are followed by her agency when working with interpreters. Giovanna is an interpreter and translator with five years of experience working from both Italian and French into English.

In her opinion, professional interpreters already know how to do their job, but they definitely can benefit from continuing education programs and active participation in their own education and profession. Moreover, she believes that there are many gifted bilingual people who can become successful in this profession, but they need to be well-informed about what interpretation entails and receive proper training. She has a message for those who venture into the profession for the first time: "Please think of yourself as being in another country. If something happened to you and you needed legal or medical language assistance to understand what's happening, you would not entrust yourself to someone who is not knowledgeable in the profession and not an expert in the field. People who live here and don't speak English deserve the same."

Cesco has made several changes in its contracting procedures. After the initial contact over the phone or by e-mail, the agency requires a résumé and job references. If the references are solid, they schedule an interview during which they administer an oral and written evaluation to help them determine the candidate's knowledge of terminology and common procedures in the medical and legal fields. If the test

shows unsatisfactory results, the interpreter is not offered employment. If they meet minimum standards, the interpreter is contracted on a trial basis and is "shadowed" by an experienced interpreter who gives feedback and helps determine if the interpreter needs more assistance. If the results clearly meet Cesco's standards, the interpreter is contracted.



Cesco's breakdown for interpreting requests is 50% medical, 30% legal, 10% mediation, and 10% miscellaneous (e.g. 401K benefits, community, vocational assessment). In addition to Spanish, the agency is proud to provide services in Italian, French, Polish, Russian, Korean, Japanese, Hmong, and Ethiopian, among others.

Giovanna fully supports the establishment of a medical certification program and would like to assist in that effort. She considers that certification would allow more effective screening of interpreters and agencies. "It's sad to say, but we still hear of agencies that send non-professional interpreters to medical and legal appointments. The misconception of "as long as you are bilingual you can interpret" is still very rooted."

Giovanna and Stephanie Lambruschini, who according to the Executive Director is Cesco's heart, take care of all telephone interpreting and they outsource the rest of the jobs. When they receive calls from new clients who have never worked with interpreters, they offer tips and suggestions that help improve the quality of the services.

Interpreter Agencies (cont.)

TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING CENTER

The Translation and Interpreting Center (TI Center) is a program of the Denver Center for Crime Victims which was created in November 2004. This nonprofit organization acquired and renamed JIC's language department that had existed for almost 30 years.

Today, the TI Center offers services in more than 35 languages. Seventy-five percent of their requests are for Spanish, 7% for Russian, 7% for Vietnamese, and the rest are divided amongst other languages such as Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin and Korean. Half of their services are provided to victims of crime through social services, the criminal justice system, insurance companies, and other nonprofit organizations.

Cathy Phelps, M.A., M.S.W, Executive Director of The Denver Center for Crime Victims, together with Janice Rhyne, Director of the TI Center, and Soraida Montano, Program Assistant, kindly provided their views and opinions during the interview with CAPTIONS.

Janice pointed out that the Center looks for native speakers in the target language and in case they are not, the interpreter should hold a college degree in their second language. "Interpreters who are certified by the Court Interpreter Program Administration, or are pursuing this certification, are attractive candidates because they attend the orientation class and other courses that have a positive impact on their overall performance".

In Janice's opinion, interpreters should always try to provide good customer service by greeting the people with whom they work,

making sure everybody understands them, verifying there is no more need for their services before they leave, and using good social and professional business skills.

Soraida talked about the quarterly survey the TI Center conducts to determine customer satisfaction. "We have had good response and feedback. It helps us to know how our independent contractors are viewed in the field and what kind of feedback we need to give them in order to provide better services." Janice and Soraida agreed on the need to further educate some of the clients on how to work with interpreters.

Cathy views a State Medical Certification Program as very valuable, especially if it looked into providing certification and training for different areas of specialization in the medical field. "It is important that interpreters know how to deal with the diverse interpreting settings that they will come across, for example, the nuances of interpreting in a sexual assault medical examination, versus a case of domestic violence or forensic interviews."

She also elaborated on the TI Center's future goal of providing interpreters in their network with courses to deal with traumatic stress. "In our view, interpreters deal with many difficult human issues while they perform their jobs, and it is helpful to recognize the stress this can generate, cope with it, and manage it correctly," she said.

"There is going to be an explosion in the demand of interpreting services, specifically in the medical field. It is about marketing and helping clients understand the cost effectiveness of using professional interpreters and avoiding the costs that the lack of understanding causes," Cathy stressed.



Interpreter Agencies (cont.)

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS LLC

Carolyn McDonald, Managing Director of Global Connections LLC, (GC LLC), started her business in 1996. Carolyn has a B.A. in French and has lived abroad for extended periods. She was previously a paralegal and also a meeting planner for the medical and legal professions. Her background and expertise in these areas have been of great assistance in running a translation agency.

Approximately 40% of GC LLC's requests for services come from the medical field, 30% from legal, and 30% from general business.

Carolyn expects to see growth in medical interpreting in most languages in the years to come. For this reason, when asked about this matter, she responded that it would be important and useful to have a state medical certification program in Colorado. She believes we can also expect an increase in the demand for interpreting services in the insurance and legal areas. "The expansion of Denver's Convention Center should have a positive impact for conference interpreting," she pointed out.

She believes that the demand for Spanish interpretation services will continue to grow (in all fields). She has seen a steady demand for Asian languages such as Korean, Vietnamese, Mandarin Chinese, etc. (in the medical and legal fields). She has, however, seen a decline in Russian and Portuguese in the past few years (in business).

When contracting with interpreters, GC LLC seeks professionalism. "I look at educational background, certifications, ongoing training, experience, and professionalism. I also appreciate interpreters that return calls as quickly as possible, invoice promptly, and who have a respectful, ethical and positive attitude".

When seeking an interpreter, Carolyn often obtains referrals from qualified, experienced interpreters who may not be available for a particular

assignment. "Interpreters are good at assessing and recommending colleagues that are qualified and professional". She also consults the online directories of CAPI, ATA and other professional associations.

"It's important to keep in mind that being bilingual is not sufficient to be an interpreter. It takes education, training, the development of specific skills, and professionalism. We need to educate clients in how to work with interpreters and explain that interpreters abide by a code of ethics."

GC LLC is a firm located in Denver that works with a network of hundreds of translators and interpreters throughout the U.S. and worldwide. It also provides desktop publishing and audio/video production services in all major languages.

UPCOMING CAPI EVENTS!

INTERPRETING WORKSHOP IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS!

(Register today, deadline is June 20)
Intensive Course in Interpretation

July 25 - 29, 2006 – Western State College,
Gunnison, Colorado

For more information, write
skillscourses@coloradointerpreters.org

CAPI PICNIC

Join us for the most anticipated CAPI event of the year! On Sunday, August 13th, at 2:00 p.m., our annual picnic will take place at Sterne Park in Littleton. Join us for great food, entertaining games and priceless company!

CAPI MEETING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOP, GREELEY

Saturday, September 9th at 10 a.m.

More information will be posted at
www.coloradointerpreters.org
as the dates approach.

INTERPRETER BIOGRAPHY

Meet Humberto Orive, New Denver District Court Managing Interpreter

By David Fletcher

The Denver District Courts have a new Managing Interpreter: Humberto Orive. Humberto began work in January, replacing Emy López, who is now the State Court Interpreter Program Administrator. Humberto comes to Denver from Fort Collins where he was Managing Interpreter for three years. He brings to the position a variety of professional and bicultural experiences that should benefit court interpreting in Denver.

Born in Durango, México, Humberto grew up in México City and began learning English in very unusual way as a youngster. Humberto's father was an airline pilot assigned to La Presidencia, the executive branch of the Mexican government. From a very tender age Humberto accompanied his father on trips ferrying cabinet ministers to and from the United States and learned English along the way. He often pestered his dad to read the English-language pocket novels that his dad bought to while away lay-over time; and, of course, practiced speaking English during the many sojourns in the U.S.

Humberto was schooled in Mexico City, graduated from the UNAM, and then earned a law degree from the Escuela Libre de Derecho in 1991. He practiced commercial and bankruptcy law with a law firm in Mexico City and Acapulco. He regularly used English and translated documents for U.S. clients. Along the way he was certified as a "Perito Traductor", expert translator, after successfully passing a state exam in Querétaro where he moved in 1996.

Humberto met his wife, Katherine, in Mexico City where she was studying for a Masters in law. They married in Querétaro in 1996. The Orive family has three children: Ali, 17, Amanda 8 and Kenneth, 4. In 2002, Humberto and his family came north to Fort Collins where Katherine has roots. Shortly after settling in Fort Collins, Humberto was hired as the Managing Interpreter. His assessment of the work there is that the position "fit me like a glove." He is hoping to have a similar positive experience in Denver. CAPI wishes him well.

CAPI SKILLS BUILDING COURSES:

Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2006 Consecutive Interpretation

Oct. 14 - 15, 2006 Sight Interpretation

Oct. 28 - 29, 2006 Simultaneous Interpretation

Location: University of Colorado, Auraria Campus,
Denver

Cost: \$150 each course

Registration: Registration forms will be available on the CAPI website soon. Deadline for registration is TWO WEEKS BEFORE class is scheduled.

Attendance is limited to 30 people. Classes may be cancelled unless a minimum of 13 students enroll.

For additional information, write to skillscourses@coloradointerpreters.org

NATI - NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSLATORS & INTERPRETERS

7th Annual Regional Conference: August 10 -12, 2006
Southeast Community College, Lincoln, Nebraska
Registration by visiting NATI's new website
www.natihq.org



BRIDGING THE GAP 40-HOUR MEDICAL INTERPRETER TRAINING

The next 2005/2006 training sessions will be:

July 10-14 Gunnison, CO: Western State College

August 25, 26, September 1, 2, and 9

For more information, write Dijana Rizvanovic : drizvanovic@springinstitute.org

INTERPRETER QUANDARIES

by Julia Davis

With the following article submitted by Julia Davis, we are launching an interactive column in Captions in which an ethical dilemma is expressed, and readers send in their comments and suggestions. We'll include some of your comments in the next issue. Please send feedback to captions@coloradointerpreters.org.

"¿Cómo está la niña?"

Even if you don't know Spanish, you might recognize those words: "how," "is," "the," and "girl." Yet this simple sentence can pose a dilemma for interpreters, specifically with regards to the last two words: "*la niña*," or "the girl."

In Spanish, even the most affectionate of parents refer to their child as "the girl" or "the boy." Similarly, a doting grandparent or beloved auntie might call their respective granddaughter or niece "the girl."

But listen to yourself say, "How is the girl?" Don't you immediately feel the distance between yourself and the girl? In English, it sounds like the speaker either doesn't actually know the girl – or worse – doesn't like her much. If interpreters render this phrase literally, we insert a nuance into the situation that very likely was not intended.

Interpreters can encounter one additional complexity with interpreting this phrase: often we don't have enough contextual information to really know what the speaker's connection to the girl is, or to which girl the speaker is referring. Is she their daughter, granddaughter, the child of a friend, a neighbor girl, or in fact a child that they don't know personally?

Here's an example: Let's say you're interpreting an exchange related to suspected child abuse. The English speaker may be a teacher, a social worker, the police, a medical professional, or an attorney during a trial. The Spanish speaker is also an adult.

An initial question might be as simple as "Do you know why we're here?" or something to that effect. The Spanish speaker may answer, "Yes, because of what the *la niña* said." At this point, the interpreter may not have learned if the Spanish speaker is related to the girl, or doesn't even know the girl, or is only involved with this through a connection to the alleged perpetrator. Since it is ambiguous, the interpreter may be tempted to render this into English literally: "the girl."

If so, the next question is apt to be, "Which girl?" If the Spanish speaker answers, "My daughter," or identifies any other relationship that would normally imply even a minimal level of affection, the English speaker will be very confused about why this person referred so disparagingly to the child. Is this an uncaring person? Is this person mad that this issue has been brought to light? Does this person not believe what the girl has said? All these potential concerns could complicate the exchange and ultimately the welfare of this family, all because of an interpreting dilemma veiled in two simple words: *la niña*.

What is the solution to this dilemma? Is it acceptable, when the relationship between the speaker and the girl is known, to interpret *la niña* as "my daughter/ niece/ granddaughter/ etc."? What if the relationship, if any, is not known? What can we as interpreters render that will convey the meaning without introducing sentiments that were not intended or stated? Is this issue relevant in other languages? Is Spanish's use of the definite article (the/ *la*) to refer to a relative unusual (as opposed to the possessive pronoun, such as "my," which is also used in Spanish)?

Please send your comments and suggestions to captions@coloradointerpreters.org, and thank you for participating.



ATA'S MID-YEAR CONFERENCES IN LAS VEGAS

APRIL 28 – 30, 2006

by Lee Ana Trujillo-López & Silvia B. Ruiz

The world of interpretation and translation is always evolving; new challenges are constantly defying the interpreters' and translators' skills. For that reason, attending this type of educational seminar sponsored by ATA and some other organizations helps us solve many of the problems we face today. We believe in taking advantage of this type of learning opportunities to improve our work and improve our professional performance, in addition to earning credits for Continuing Education.

The opening session of the Spanish and Portuguese Divisions Conference started Friday morning at breakfast. The keynote speaker for the opening session was Dr. José G Moreno de Alba, a well-known and recognized linguist and author from México. The regular sessions for the Spanish Division were conducted in three different rooms, and it is always a difficult decision which one to choose, since all looked so interesting. For that reason, we decided to divide and conquer; one went to one room and the other to another, taking notes to share. It is safe to say that, for the most part, all conferences were extraordinary; the speakers were very knowledgeable experts in their own disciplines. All attendees were fascinated with most of the conferences, and people would ask the speakers

to continue, even though time was up. There were several conferences at which people gave the speakers standing ovations.

To conclude, the time and energy invested in attending these types of conferences are sure to pay off. The motivations and incentives obtained in these workshops will certainly raise our professional standards, and as usual, Freek Lankhoff of InTrans Books was glad to help us part with our hard-earned money.

Lee A. Trujillo-Lopez, Melinda Hibner-Gonzalez, and Silvia Ruiz who, along with Betty Ziman, made up the Colorado contingent at the conference.



FILMS: CRASH

Are you prejudiced or a victim of stereotyping? Wait to answer 'til you watch the Oscar winner for best picture of 2006.

This film presents what could be called the *unmelted edges* of the melting pot. Races and people's lives collide and touch each other in Los Angeles, showing that in spite of one's origin, social class or education, we can all be victims and perpetrators of stereotyping.

Everyone can be good or evil, victim or victimizer. "Crash" is an interesting production that places everything in the gray area and shows that nothing is strictly black or white.

The Broader Interpreter World

The Broader Interpreter World (cont.)

BOOKS

A few book reviews on different fields of interpreting from www.linguistlist.org



Medical Interpreting and Cross-Cultural Communication

Written By: [Claudia Angelelli V.](#)

Description: When healthcare providers and patients do not speak the same language, medical interpreters are called in to help. In this book - the first ever ethnographic study of a bilingual hospital - Claudia Angelelli explores the role of medical interpreters, drawing on data from over 300 medical encounters and interviewing the interpreters themselves about the people for whom they interpret, their challenges, and how they characterize their role. Traditionally the interpreter has been viewed as a language conduit, with little power over the medical encounter or the relationship between patient and provider. This book presents an alternative view, considering the interpreter's agency and contextualizing the practice within an institution that is part of a larger society. Bringing together literature from social theory, social psychology, and linguistic anthropology, this book will be welcomed by anyone who wants to discover the intricacies of medical interpreting first-hand; particularly researchers, communication specialists, policy makers, and practitioners.

Publication Year: 2005

Publisher: [Cambridge University Press](#)

ISBN: 0521830265



Conference Interpreting Explained

Written By: [Roderick Jones](#)

Series Title: Translation Practices Explained vol. 6

Description: A mystery to outsiders, the practice of conference interpreting nevertheless involves techniques that are quite easily grasped if well explained. Roderick Jones adopts a very practical approach to both consecutive and simultaneous interpreting, providing detailed illustrations of note-taking, reformulation, the 'salami' technique, simplification, generalization, anticipation, and so on, including numerous tricks-of-the-trade such as how to handle difficult speakers and how to interpret untranslatable jokes. Numerous examples are offered at every stage, all in English or 'foreignized' English. Although primarily written as a practitioner's explanation rather than a theorist's speculation, the book includes notes on concepts such as units of meaning, translation units and discourse structure, as well as stances on more polemical issues such as the use of omission and the ethics of interpreting mistakes. The book concludes with a comment on the pleasure of conference interpreting, as well as a glossary and suggested further readings. In all, it fills a major gap in English-language publications on interpreting, providing an introduction for beginners, a down-to-earth guide for students, and a handy compendium for teachers. Roderick Jones has worked for some fifteen years as a staff interpreter for the European Union in Brussels, where he also trains conference interpreters.

Publication Year: 2002

Publisher: [St. Jerome Publishing Ltd.](#)

ISBN: 1900650576

Dialogue InterpretingPublication Edited By: [Ian Mason](#)

Description: Dialogue interpreting includes what is variously referred to in English as Community, Public Service, Liaison, Ad Hoc or Bilateral Interpreting - the defining characteristic being interpreter-mediated communication in spontaneous face-to-face interaction. Included under this heading are all kinds of professional encounters: police, immigration and welfare services interviews, doctor-patient interviews, business negotiations, political interviews, lawyer-client and courtroom interpreting and so on. Whereas research into conference interpreting is now well established, the investigation of dialogue interpreting as a professional activity is still in its infancy, despite some highly promising publications in recent years. This special issue of *The Translator*, guest-edited by one of the leading scholars in translation studies, provides a forum for bringing together separate strands within this developing field and should create an impetus for further research. Viewing the interpreter as a gatekeeper, coordinator and negotiator of meanings within a three-way interaction, the descriptive studies included in this volume focus on issues such as role-conflict, in-group loyalties, participation status, relevance and the negotiation of face, thus linking the observation of interpreting practice to pragmatic constraints such as power, distance and face-threat and to semiotic constraints such as genres and discourses as socio-textual practices of particular cultural communities.

Year: 1999

Publisher: [St. Jerome Publishing Ltd.](#)

ISBN: 1900650215

The Broader Interpreter World (cont.)

Wouldn't it be great, as interpreters, if we could live in a world where each word had a single meaning? Instead, we live in a world in which each word has a life of its own, where meaning is not determined within the letters that form that word but by all the other words which surround it, and sometimes even by the time and place in which that word is spoken. Sometimes a single word's meaning is determined by the person from whom it comes, by the tone in which it is said, or by the person to whom it is directed. Of course, our work might be easy if words had single meanings, but then machines could perhaps do a better job interpreting than a live interpreter.

Aren't Words Wonderful?

by Ron Olson

Just a short visit to a traffic court can illustrate how one word in English can be rendered into a number of words in an interpreter's target language. Think about how you might render the underlined words that follow.

"Officer, is it true that when you approached this man sitting on the bench, that he charged at you, then ran away, and that in order to subdue him you had to throw him to the ground?"

"Yes, your Honor, I was undercover and I think he made me, and so that is why he bolted. Later, when I ran his name, I discovered that he was wanted for failing to appear for a charge of driving with a suspended license."

"Objection! May we approach the bench?"

"On what grounds do you make the objection?"

"Withdrawn."

As you play with words in the weeks ahead, notice the contrasting meanings to be found in a single word. Please share those findings with your colleagues. How is it that a single word can convey so much? But words themselves are just the bricks which are built into a wall of meaning. Until we focus on the meaning behind the words, finding the perfect word may be an obstacle to producing a flowing interpretation.