



LANGUAGE POLICIES

Interpreter Certification Testing

GENERAL POLICIES

POLICY A: VARIATIONS OF THE SPOKEN LANGUAGE

Speakers of the same language sometimes use the language differently because of their regional or social backgrounds. This can apply to the use and pronunciation of words and grammar. Candidates sitting an interpreter certification test must be able to understand common regional and social variations within the language and make themselves understood to speakers of these variations.

In the live role-play dialogue tasks, candidates should use strategies to make sure they understand the speakers and their interpretations are understood by the speakers.

POLICY B: USE OF ENGLISH WORDS IN THE LOTE

In some Languages Other Than English (LOTES), English words, and in some cases words from other languages, are regularly and commonly used and widely understood.

Where this is the case, candidates will not be penalised for using an English word, even if a LOTE word could have been used to describe or express the same information.

LANGUAGE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Arabic	<p>Refer to General Policies A and B.</p> <p>There are multiple dialects of Arabic spoken in Australia, covering the wide expanse of the Arabic-speaking world.</p> <p>Educated Spoken Arabic (ESA) (also known as Spoken Standard Arabic) is a non-regional variation that can serve as a lingua franca for speakers of various spoken dialects in the Arab world.</p> <p>Certified Provisional Interpreter tests are conducted with role players who speak the ESA variation, with minimal accentual nuances related to the backgrounds of role players. The role players, however, will use vocabulary, structures and idioms common to all or biggest majority of Arabic speakers.</p> <p>Certified Interpreter tests are conducted with role players who speak both Educated Spoken Arabic and recorded materials in Standard Arabic, also known as Modern Standard Arabic (MSA).</p> <p>The candidate should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Effectively and efficiently interpret for the Arabic speaking role-player – whether this involves the use of Educated Spoken Arabic or Standard Arabic.2. Interpret into Standard Arabic or Educated Spoken Arabic appropriate to the audience for monologue interpreting tasks. <p>Region-specific terms and expressions can be used to the extent where this does not hinder efficient and effective communication.</p>
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Cantonese	<p>Refer to General Policies A and B.</p> <p>Modern Chinese comprises seven major groups of dialects, which, in their spoken form, differ among themselves to such an extent that they may be considered as being virtually separate languages. They are largely mutually incomprehensible.</p> <p>Yue dialects, one of which is known in English as Cantonese, are native to about five per cent of the population of China and are widely spoken in the province of Guǎngdōng, in the city of Guǎngzhōu (Canton), in Hong Kong and in Macau. Many overseas Chinese, including many residents of Australia with ethnic Chinese background, are native speakers of Cantonese.</p>
French	<p>Refer to General Policies A and B.</p>
German	<p>Refer to General Policy B.</p> <p>Tests are conducted in non-dialectal Standard German and candidates are expected to express themselves in non-dialectal, non-regional German. Country specific terms can be used by candidates but to a very limited extent, e.g. <i>Grüß Gott</i> by Austrian speakers or <i>Grüezi</i> by Swiss speakers instead of <i>Guten Tag</i>.</p> <p>The candidate should be able to effectively and efficiently interpret for the German-speaking role player – whether this involves the use of dialectal and/or non-dialectal German.</p> <p>Region-specific terms and expressions can be used to the extent where this does not hinder efficient and effective communication.</p>
Greek	<p>Refer to General Policy A and B.</p> <p>Within the Greek Community in Australia, as with many NESB communities, ethnolect (i.e. the use of terms which are not clearly English or Greek but a ‘hybrid’ of the two) are not considered appropriate Greek language for the purposes of this testing.</p>
Hazaragi	<p>Refer to Policies A and B.</p> <p>NAATI acknowledges that there are regional variations/dialects of the Hazaragi language. However, due to strong cultural and identity connections there is a high level of mutual understanding between these regional dialects.</p> <p>For the purposes of NAATI testing, a candidate will not be penalised for the dialect spoken as long as what is being said would be understood by an average Hazara person living in Hazaragi speaking regions.</p> <p>Candidates need to be aware that the Hazaragi language spoken by Hazaras in some locations, including the major cities in Afghanistan, has been heavily influenced by other languages of those cities and areas.</p> <p>Any use of ‘non- Hazaragi’ words will be penalised.</p>



Indonesian	Refer to General Policies A and B.
Italian	Refer to General Policies A and B. Candidates are expected to use Standard Italian. The use of some English (or other foreign language) words in the LOTE is acceptable where these words are commonly used by native Italian speakers and are part of the lexicon. To confirm whether this is the case, candidates may make reference to authoritative Italian language dictionaries such as the Treccani, referred to above.
Japanese	The language used should be the standard form (<i>Hyojungo</i>). Style and register should be appropriate to the subject matter and the mode, and dialect and slang expressions should be avoided.
Korean	Refer to policies A and B. Tests are conducted in the Standard South Korean (표준어), which is defined as ‘the modern Seoul dialect widely used by the well-cultivated’. Candidates are expected to express themselves in the Standard South Korean. However, a modest regional accent is acceptable as long as it does not hamper the process of understanding.
Mandarin	Refer to General Policies A and B.
Spanish	Refer to General Policies A and B.
Turkish	Refer to General Policies A and B. Candidates sitting for the Turkish Certified Provisional Interpreter/Certified Interpreter tests are expected to use the standard, spoken form of the Turkish language. They should be able to interpret effectively and efficiently for the Turkish role player whether this involves the use of dialectal and/or non-dialectal form of Turkish. Türk Dil Kurumu [The Turkish Language Institution] is the reference point in this regard. It is the authority to determine whether a word/ a term/ pronunciation/ usage is acceptable in Turkish or not. Ethnolect (words which are not clearly English or Turkish, but hybrid, e.g. lokasyon, set etmek, fokus olmamak, kompo, işsizlik ofisi) is not considered appropriate Turkish language for the purposes of this test. Candidates are expected to switch codes appropriately. Style and register must be appropriate to the subject matter and the mode. Flow of language must be natural and candidates are expected to pronounce the words/ utterances correctly and clearly with appropriate tone of voice. Dialect and slang expressions must be avoided. For Interpreter Certification tests, NAATI expects Turkish candidates to adhere to the above rules and standards.
Vietnamese	Refer to General Policies A and B.