

Certified Conference Interpreter Test



English into Auslan (Sample Materials)

Simultaneous Interpreting: Monologue Task (Seen Speech)

Interpreting Brief

The following interpreting brief provides the context for the monologue.

Dr Sally Halifax is presenting her research on the “the translated Deaf self” at a national conference on sign language interpreting, held at the University of Queensland. It deals with the impact on deaf signers of multiple, regular, lifelong experiences of being encountered by others through sign language interpreters.

You have been asked to interpret the presentation using the simultaneous mode for Andrea Brennan, a third generation Auslan user. She is bilingual and currently in the final semester of a four-year Bachelor of Psychology degree.

In reality, you would be standing beside the speaker on the stage; however, as this is a test situation and a pre-recorded speech, you will deliver the speech standing in the test room and will be positioned in front of the screen displaying the presenter’s monologue.

Disclaimer: Please note that scenarios (e.g names of people, events, institutions and locations) have been fictionalised for test purposes

Seen Speech Text

The following text has been provided to you to assist with interpreting the seen speech task. You will have 15 minutes to prepare for the task in the Preparation Room, where you will be given a hard copy of the text of the speech, which you can take with you into the test room. Note that this may differ slightly from the video-recorded version, and you will need to be able to adapt to this.

[Please turn over]

Thank you very much for inviting me today. My co-authors were unable to be here with me to share the findings of our research, so I will be presenting on behalf of my colleagues.

Our interest in this topic came out of informal discussions with our deaf colleagues about their experiences of working in environments where they were in the minority and their work interactions were predominantly mediated via a sign language interpreter.

The provision of sign language interpreters is undoubtedly positive. However, it may be perceived as problematic for two reasons: (1) the loss of agency for deaf signers in projecting their identity because someone else, i.e., the interpreter, speaks for them when they sign, and (2) deaf signers are perceived by hearing non-signers through an ‘other’ - interpreters are more than just the arbiters of linguistic content; they are imbued with powers of representation and portrayal of the deaf person, through, for example, their tone of voice, lexical choices, register and the identity of the interpreter themselves, all of which involve the translation of who we are.

This presentation is about our exploration of one aspect of what we have called “the translated Deaf self” – the impact for deaf signers of multiple, regular, lifelong experiences of being encountered by others through sign language interpreters.

We set out to explore the following two factors: (1) hearing colleagues’ experience of working relations with deaf colleagues and (2) hearing people’s perceptions of the impact of sign language interpreters in terms of how they get to know deaf colleagues and build relationships.

Purposefully selected participants: personal invitations were sent to 12 hearing people known to have regular contact with deaf colleagues in a work environment. Participants’ experience of working contact with deaf colleagues ranged from one to five years. Their contact with deaf people ranged from occasional indirect contact up to frequent weekly contact. For some, contact was task-centred (e.g., organising appointments, responding to questions), while for others it consisted of complex, joint working, being on the same professional team as a deaf colleague.

The results were broken down into five main themes which emerged from the data. The relational aspects of communication across languages emerged as significant in our data, with some helpful pointers to simple strategies that, while not solving communication problems, demonstrate a positive relational attitude which was of itself helpful in working relations. Examples include deliberately adding social information to work emails, the use of emoticons, the strength of maintaining eye contact with the person signing even if the message was coming from the voice of the interpreter, and a conscious awareness to attempt small talk in informal spaces. [...]

[The sample ends here]