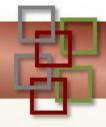


National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers

Before we get started



Webinar host: Amy Williamson

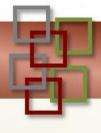
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- If you have a question or comment, type it in the box. Questions will be shared with the presenters at the end of the webinar.



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Evaluations & CEUs



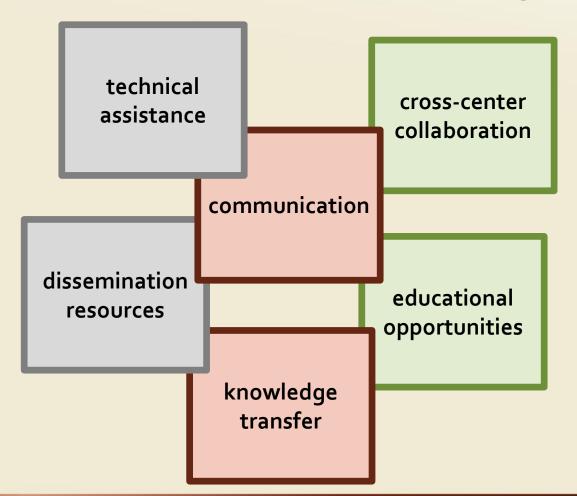
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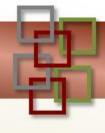
Consortium Mission



to connect and collaborate with diverse stakeholders in order to create excellence in interpreting







Identifying Hearing ASL – English Interpreters' Current Practice in Determining the Need of Deaf Interpreters for Court Proceedings

Christopher Tester, MsC, CDI, SC:L

Special Thanks



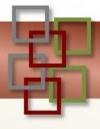
- European Masters in Sign Language Interpreting (EUMASLI)
- Heriot Watt University
- Jemina Napier
- Jens Hessmann

Statement of a Problem



- Research on Deaf Interpreters and its role-function in the court is very limited (Boudreault, 2005; Forestal, 2014, de Meulder & Heyerick, 2014; Stone & Russell, 2011).
- In the United States, Deaf-Hearing co-interpreters are considered best practices in many situations within the courts (Mathers, 2009; Mathers & Witter-Merithew, 2014; Stewart, K., Witter-Merrithew, A., Cobb, M., 2009).
- Current Practice: Hearing interpreters are on the frontline in the courts.

Research Question



The aim of the study is to investigate how and when hearing interpreters decide there is a need for a Deaf interpreter for court proceedings.

This study addressed the following research questions:

- 1) What is the hearing interpreter's decision-making process for requesting a Deaf interpreter in court?
- 2) Is there a trend indicating a specific point during the proceedings when hearing interpreters make the request for a Deaf interpreter?

Literature Review: Spoken Language Interpretin

- Growing body of research on interpreting in the courtroom, more than any other legal arena. However, the literature is still relatively small compared to other professions (Hale, 2006).
- Studies include but not limited to the language used in the courtrooms, impact of interpreted witness testimonies, role and expectations of the interpreter, modes of interpretation, and accuracy & fidelity of interpretation (Berk-Seligson, 1990 in Hale, 2006; Elsrud, 2014; Hale 2002, 2006, 2007; Jacobsen, 2008, 2012; Kolb & Pöchhacker, 2008; Lee, 2013; O'Barr 1982 in Shuy, 2007; Shuy, 2007)

Literature Review: Sign Language Interpreting

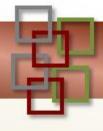
- Two important themes, based on existing research, are the varying perception of the role of the interpreter, and the accuracy of the interpreting process (Russell, 2012).
- Research on sign language interpreting within the courts has explored different areas including the impact of interpreting mode on accuracy, perception of interpreter's role, by both deaf and non-deaf individuals) quality of interpreter and competence, interpreter's linguistic decision during interpretation, and video remote interpreting in courts. (Brennan, 1999; Brennan & Brown, 1997; Brunson, 2008; Miller, 2001; Miller & Vernon, 2005; Napier & Leneham, 2011; Roberson et al., 2012; Russell, 2001, 2003; Turner, 1995).
- Language of Deaf individuals in legal system (Brennan & Brown, 1997; LaVigne & McCray, 2003; LaVigne & Vernon, 1993; Mathers, 2009; Miller & Vernon, 2001).

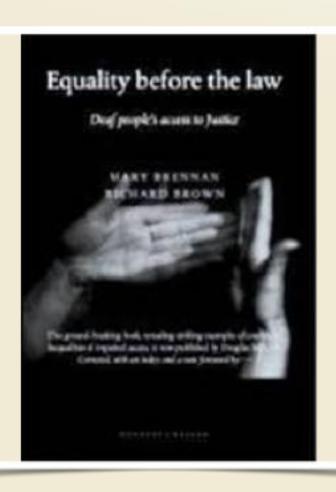
Contextualizing the Study



- Federal Court Interpreting Act of 1978
 - Accommodation is not automatically granted
- Americans with Disabilities Act: Reasonable Accommodation
 - Does not apply to Federal Courts, however, the language of the law is commonly used in different legal arguments
- Registry of the Interpreters for the Deaf (RID, inc)
 - Speciality Certificate: Legal

Frameworks for the Study





- "Equality before the Law: Deaf people's access to Justice"
 - Mary Brennan & Richard Brown, 1997
- 2. "Deaf Interpreters in Court: An Accommodation that is More than Reasonable"
 - Carla Mathers, Esq., 2009

Methodology



- Combined Qualitative-Quantitative approach was utilized
 - Questionnaire
 - Interviews
- Purposive sampling and snowballing effect
 - Baseline requirements: worked in the United States, was not Deaf, and had experience interpreting in the courts
 - Registry of the Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc's Legal Member Section's listsery
 - Facebook
 - E-mail to colleagues

Questionnaire

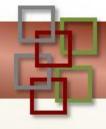


- Questionnaire Instrument
 - 29 questions via Heriot Watt University's online tool: BOS
 - First section: participants' demographic information
 - Second section: participants' experience with the language of the courts
 - Third and longest section: participants' experience working as a team: with a special focus on Deaf Interpreters.
 Identifying criteria, patterns and barriers from working with a Deaf interpreter.

Interviews



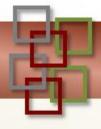
- Follow up questions based on the questionnaire
 - semi-structured interview
- Participants: previously took the questionnaire
 - Skype/Facetime
 - QuickTime Movie Recorder
 - Interview in American Sign Language



Results and Findings

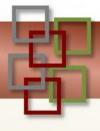


Demographic Information



- 78 participants (79 responded, but 1(one) did not qualify)
- ■10 male & 68 female
- 52 interpreters were in the age rage of 30-40 years old
- 77 were nationally certified
- 57 holds the advanced legal certification (Speciality Certificate: Legal)
- ASL acquisition: as a child (35); as an adult (43)
- 54 interpreters have over 20 years of experience
- 24 interpreters have over 20 years of court room experience, and
- 47 interpreters have between 6 20 years of court room experience

Average Participant



Majority of respondents were females, with over 20 years of experience, holder of Speciality Certificate: Legal and were considered to be very experienced within the courtroom. The interpreters expressed greater confidence with their English than their American Sign Language skills.

Comprehending Deaf Client



- Q16: I have a difficulty in understanding the Deaf client
 - Rarely: 44
 - Sometimes: 34
- Q17: Rank the following from 1-6
 - 1. Underdeveloped ASL skills
 - 2. Cognitive challenges
 - 3. Foreign born other signed language
 - 4. Limited English
 - 5. Limited education
 - 6. Other

<u>Underdeveloped ASL Skills ranked as the most common issue</u>

Rationale for requesting a Deaf Interpreter

- Participants were asked to rank the following from 1-6, indicating one's reason to request to work with a Deaf Interpreter:
 - Complicated situation (the case itself);
 - 2. Deaf individual's ASL (using the criteria described in question 17);
 - 3. Deaf individual's English;
 - 4. My own ASL skills;
 - 5. My legal knowledge;
 - 6. My legal interpreting experience;
 - 7. Prefer to work as a team than solo;
 - 8. Other.

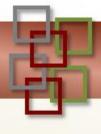
Results



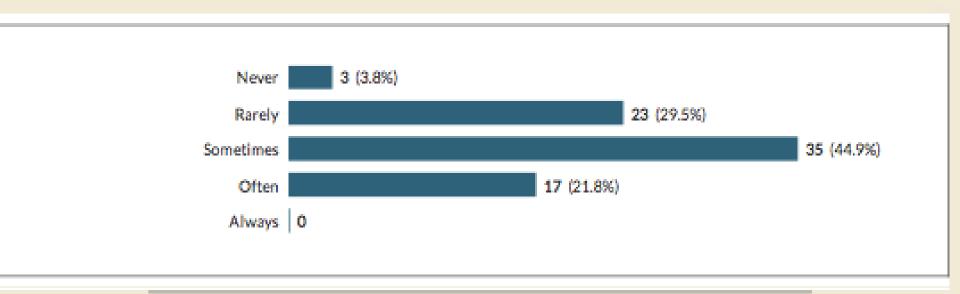
The top two categories, with rankings of 1-4, were the <u>Deaf</u> individuals' ASL (74 responses), closely followed by complicated situation (71 responses).



"Often, it is a combination of the Deaf person's emotional state & their lack of understanding of the legal system. Most people, regardless of their need for an interpreter, are upset, scared, angry, nervous, and confused when they interact with the courts. This has an effect on their language use."

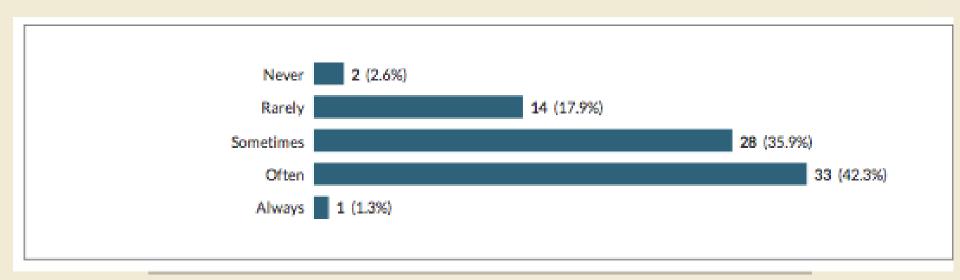


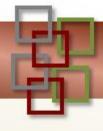
How often do you work with a Deaf Interpreter Team?



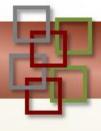


How often do you request to work with a Deaf Interpreter?

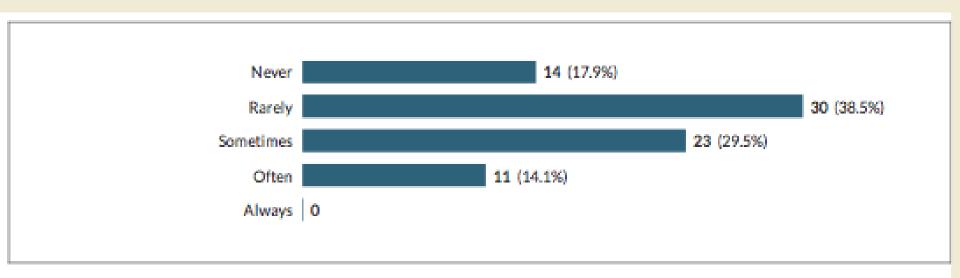




"As an explanation for why I recently chose not to stop in the middle of a proceeding, the Deaf consumer was being arraigned and if I stopped, he would have spent the weekend in jail. After I explained the situation to the attorney, I chose to muddle through due to pragmatics so that he could go home. I would not have made that choice if it were simply a matter of the Deaf person being able to go home and come back on a future date."



How often does someone other than you request a Deaf Interpreter?

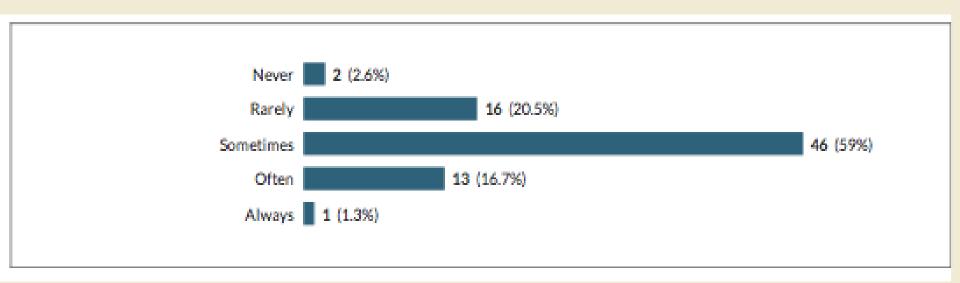




All 3 interview participants stated that they always include consideration of a Deaf interpreter's services for every court job they accept.



Have you been in an interpreting situation where you felt you managed okay, but could have been better with a Deaf Interpreter?



What issues or barriers that prevented from Deaf Interpreters from being provided?

- 1. I felt I had adequate communication and proceeded
- 2. Judge declined your request
- 3. Lawyer(s) objected to your request
- 4. Interpreter coordinator couldn't find a Deaf interpreter
- 5. Deaf client did not want to work with a Deaf interpreter
- 6. Requested for next time, but did not want to stop in the middle of a court proceeding.
- 7. Other

#4 - Couldn't find a Deaf Interpreter: 47 responses

Other Barriers



Other SC:L's in the area will cover the same case without a CDI team - precedent is set."

Conclusion



- More than 50% of the participants had over 20 years of experience working in the courts and possessed the RID's Specialty Certificate: Legal (SC:L).
- 2. Deaf Consumers' underdeveloped ASL is the main identifier for requesting a Deaf interpreter team.
- 3. The majority of those surveyed responded favourably to working with Deaf interpreters.
- 4. Based on this data, one cannot conclude precisely when a hearing interpreter decides to bring in a Deaf interpreter.
- 5. Interpreters prefer to have statutory support and a systematic way to identify situations or characteristics of persons that require Deaf interpreter, reducing the burden on the hearing interpreter to make that decision, and reducing the possibility of variable conditions.



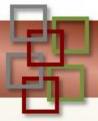
limitations

- Bias
- Purposive Sampling
- Questionnaire

Recommendations for Future Research

- Expand interviews with participants to elicit more of the specific elements of their decision making process with a special focus on when exactly they determine that a Deaf interpreter should be brought in.
- 2. Conduct a longitudinal study, where interpreters are asked to track their experience and document the triggering moment that caused them to determine a Deaf interpreter was needed and how they resolved it.
- 3. Do the same study with Deaf interpreters, with a special focus on their training, background and work experience in court.
- 4. Model Brennan & Brown's (1997) research, which included all possible stakeholder perspectives: the interpreting team (Deaf and hearing), the Deaf client and the court staff.

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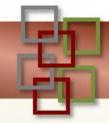
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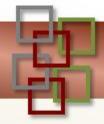
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Questions





Thank You!



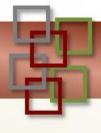
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Interpreters:

Dylan Geil & Debbie Olsen

Captioning: Texas Closed Captioning

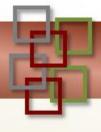
Evaluations & CEUs



- Email with link to evaluation and CEU request will be sent this evening
- We have a list of the logged in attendees and will match it up with those of you filing out the evaluation & CEU request
- May take up to 4 weeks for CEUs to be posted
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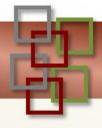








Upcoming Webinar



August 29, 2016

7pm - 8:30pm EST

(Webinar is currently full but will be posted and available online)

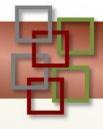
Robyn Dean

Returning to ethics: A meta-ethical analysis of community interpreters' codes of standards of practice



National Consortium of Interpreter Education Centers

Upcoming Webinar



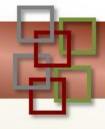
September 12, 2016 7pm - 8:30pm EST

(Registration opens August 12th)

Robyn Dean

Critiquing and deconstructing metaphors: A normative ethical framework for community interpreters





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