ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
ON LEGAL AND JUDICIARY INTERPRETING

*in alphabetical order

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The purpose of this annotated bibliography is to provide the reader with a collection of reviews of relevant publications on salient and emerging themes in the field of Legal and Judiciary Interpreting. The reader, whether a practitioner, a student, an early-career researcher or anyone with an interest in this discipline, should be able to familiarize him or herself with the main discussions in the field and to get a picture of its evolution over the last forty years. It is our hope that readers will find this collection useful to identify works related to their areas of interest or to read about others that may be new to them.

The collection is limited to one hundred annotated works and is thus selective in nature. An effort has been made to include annotations of different themes, geographical areas and domains. The collection includes annotations of monographs, edited volumes, book chapters, journal articles, conference proceedings and handbooks. The annotations are descriptive in nature and capture the main research aims, methods, analytical lenses and findings in the case of journal articles, papers, and book chapters, and the main contents and themes addressed in the case of anthologies, monographs and edited volumes.

The criteria outlined above translated into a list of annotations of publications about interpreting as situated in courtroom, police, prisons, asylum, immigration, or military settings or other settings; works dealing with the interpreter’s role, ethical issues, non-professional interpreting, interpreting in encounters with minors, interpreter education, aspects related to professionalization; works addressing sign language, as well as publications about educational resources that are informed by research. Thus, the collection includes both themes and settings that have received extensive attention, such as the courtroom and the interpreter’s role, as well as newer and emerging areas, such as the still largely unexplored fields of interpreting for minors and interpreting in prison settings.

I preface the bibliography with the following two provisos. Given the selective nature of the annotated bibliography and the prevalence of English as the language of publication, only works published in English have been included. The reader will be able to find titles in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish in the accompanying database, which consists of 654 entries retrieved from different database and repositories.

The second remark relates to the labels used as identifiers to enable the reader to filter annotations and publications (database). For the purposes of clarity and brevity, we followed Hertog’s use of the label ‘legal interpreting’ (2015: 21) as an umbrella term that has become widely used in the last decade to refer to ‘interpreting in all settings and at all stages of the criminal law procedures’, including court interpreting, police interpreting, prison interpreting, interpreting in immigration and asylum-related events, military settings and various other events that take place within the legal domain. In the Excel version, the reader can filter the annotations by two different identifiers classified under different columns. The first identifier refers to the “setting” and the second to one of the following labels that we considered representative of various interests: discourse & pragmatics, education, ethics, minors, non-professional interpreting, professionalization, certification, quality, remote interpreting, role and sign languages. The identifier
“overview” has been used to label works that present a general perspective of one or more settings or aspects of the profession.

The two .pdf versions provided include the same collection of annotated works, each of them following a different order: alphabetical (author) and chronological (oldest-newest). Each annotation is followed by a number of keywords that offer a brief context for the annotation. Whereas the first two keywords correspond to the ‘identifiers’ mentioned above and used in the Excel version, the remaining ones are either those provided by the author in the original publication or, where no keywords were provided in the original, keywords related to the publication and selected from the Subject Index of the Routledge Encyclopedia of Interpreting Studies (Pöchhacker 2015). At the end of each version the reader can find a glossary of terms for those who may not be so familiar with research terminology. The terms included in the glossary are highlighted in bold in the body of the annotations.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to a number of people who have made this project possible and who have contributed to it at different points over the past seven months. First of all, to the SSTI Board of Directors for entrusting me with developing this project, for their financial support, guidance and insightful feedback, and for their words of support throughout the process. I would like to thank Aída Martínez Gómez, in particular, for liaising with me for all kinds of issues, from administrative to ethical and practical ones. I would also like to thank my supervisors, Professors Ursula Böser and Jemina Napier, for their support. In particular, Ursula for her valuable help with decision-making and her expert and constructive feedback, and to Jemina for her support and for encouraging me to make a proposal when the call was opened. Last, but not least, I would like to thank my good friend and former colleague Rafael Repiso, who kindly responded to my call when I asked him for help with bibliometric research methods; and my colleagues Heather Mole and Rob Skinner. I thank Heather for her valuable help with editing and for her endless patience, and Rob for contributing with a number of annotations in his area of expertise, sign language interpreting in legal settings.

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This monograph is devoted entirely to the question of role and presents a quantitative study of interpreters’ self-perception of visibility. The author devotes the first two chapters to the theoretical framework and an overview of the field. Her study aimed at comparing interpreters’ self-perception of their degree of visibility across three settings: conference, court and medical interpreting. The third chapter describes the process of developing an innovative measurement tool, the IPRI “Interpreter’s Interpersonal Role Inventory”. The IPRI is a questionnaire including 38 Likert-scale type items that results in a visibility score of 1 to 6 (highest perception of visibility). The last two chapters present the results and the discussion. The IPRI was administered to interpreters from Canada, Mexico and the US, together with a socio-demographic questionnaire. The analysis of the 293 completed questionnaires revealed differences depending primarily on the setting. Interpreters saw themselves as visible to some degree across settings, but the perception of visibility was higher among medical interpreters. Across the settings, however, perception of visibility was higher for those on a higher income and in a higher age group.

Keywords: court settings, role, survey research, ethnographic methods


Angermeyer’s paper analyzes code-switching in interpreter-mediated bilingual discourse (English/Spanish) in New York Small Claims Courts. Code-switching in bilingual interaction is a largely unexplored area and the author explores patterns of code-switching in relation to lexical cohesion. Procedural rules in Small Claims Courts tend to be more ‘relaxed’ due to the lesser seriousness of the offences dealt with. More relaxed rules seem to apply to a permissive attitude towards litigants’ code-switching practices, which are typically found undesirable in more formal hearings. Two main types of code-switching are explored which seem to have a similar effect upon the interaction. Lexical repetition and code-switching interjections appear to have a cohesive function at a macro-sentence level. The author problematizes both practices; the norm against code-switching as a rule in interpreter-mediated interaction and the difficulties that code-switching may cause to the interpreter.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, cohesion, conversation analysis


Drawing on 40 hearings conducted in a New York Small Claims Court and including 16 interpreters (English and Russian, Spanish, Polish or Haitian Creole), the paper explores shifts from first-person (“verbatim”) to third-person interpreting style in multiparty hearings, which present a complex and potentially ambiguous participation framework. Footing changes from the normative first-person style to third-person style were observed in interpreters’ renditions when the source-addresssee and the recipient of the interpreter’s rendition were not the same person. This apparently non-normative choice reveals the interpreter’s accommodation to the person they are interpreting for rather than to a verbatim
model. The author problematizes the notion of adherence to a code of ethics. In some of the exchanges, ambiguities arose when interpreters maintained the verbatim style for a non-addressee recipient. An experienced Polish interpreter was observed unconsciously adhering to the verbatim style while using different politeness degrees to disambiguate ‘you’ if source-addressee and target-addressee were not the same person. This approach prevented misunderstandings and seemed to enable the interpreter to deviate cognitive efforts from the demanding task of interpreting politeness markers to coping with other demands of the interpreting process.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, forms of address, politeness, T/V-distinction, sociolinguistics, variation, dialogue interpreting


Based on the author’s PhD research, this monograph presents a valuable empirically-based analysis of bilingual court interaction in New York City small claims courts involving litigants who are partially proficient in English. The analysis draws on ethnographic fieldwork and bilingual audio-recorded hearings with English and Haitian Creole, Russian, Polish or Spanish. The study focuses on litigants’ use of their limited competencies in English and patterns of interpreter use. The patterns identified by means of a thorough conversation analysis reveal different interactional and discursive patterns related to code-switching and within non-mediated and mediated talk. Code-switching and interpreter use depend upon the assumptions, expectations and preferences of individual participants, including the interpreters and legal professionals, and institutional constraints. The author argues against monologizing practices in the courtroom, and in particular against the assumption that interpreter-mediated interaction is advantageous for litigants.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, conversation analysis


The largely unexplored field of prison interpreting is looked at in this paper from the point of view of professional ethics. The study provides presents an overview of the features of prison interpreting based on observations, questionnaires and interviews with 50 interpreters, 6 prison managers, 9 inmates and 10 prison workers in Spain, the UK and the US. Informants agreed on labelling prison interpreting as a subdomain of legal interpreting, although many events within prisons are of an educational, social work or healthcare nature. The findings reveal that professional interpreters are provided primarily for legal events, mainly lawyer-client meetings, and sometimes for healthcare sessions. Fellow inmates act as interpreters in other types of events, and prison workers rated their services as “satisfactory”, whereas prison managers showed concerns in this regard. The author emphasizes the need to define professional ethics and role boundaries, in particular based on security and personal safety issues, time and space constraints, and ethical dilemmas triggered by the environment and the personal circumstances of inmates.

Keywords: prison settings, ethics, role, quality, non-professional interpreters

This manual is the main output of the project TraiLLD, or training of legal interpreters for LLD (languages of lesser diffusion). The manual includes an introductory chapter explaining the research design and results, and best practices in TraiLLD. The project aims at developing specific training methodologies for interpreters of LLDs that can be adapted to different language combinations and contexts. Particular attention is paid to the need for cost-effective trainings, and to the use of new technologies and collaborative solutions. The research study involved four main stages, from gathering information and observation of best practices in the partner countries, to a qualitative analysis of existing methodologies, which were then tested using empirical methods in these same countries. Finally, the feedback from trainees was used to inform recommendations and the final manual. Chapter 2 presents the study rationale and key definitions, and chapters 3 to 8 contain best practices, including training courses, pilot training, terminology and legal translation, resources and materials, resources for briefing trainers, and an analysis of responses from professionals about their experiences working with ad hoc interpreters.

Keywords: legal settings, training, non-professional interpreters


Attorney-client interviews, police interviews, and many other encounters outside the courtroom involve interpreting and yet the aforementioned encounters differ from courtroom interpreting in how the treatment receive, the interpreters involved and users’ expectations. This paper reviews legal interpreting, community interpreting and court interpreting, comparing interpreter provision, training, certification, and practical issues emerging in the US and the Canadian systems. Whereas court interpreting enjoys a much higher degree of development in the US, legal interpreting outside the courtroom and community interpreting are less developed and feature a higher degree of ambiguity, lack of recognition and organization. In Canada, community interpreting is more developed and better recognized than court interpreting. The tendency within the sector is to promote universal standards, codes of conduct and professionalization mechanisms for community interpreters. The two different approaches to legal interpreting taking place outside the courtroom have different features and are the result of different social and historical makeups. The paper calls for more attention to the training and standards of practice for interpreters working in legal settings outside the courtroom.

Keywords: legal settings, overview, community interpreting, court interpreting, medical interpreting, United States, Canada, ethics, advocacy


This paper reviews the terms used to refer to interpreting within the legal sector and proposes minimum components for legal interpreting training programs. According to Benmaman, the term “legal interpreting” is normally used as an umbrella term including interpreting in different situations, but the terms “legal”, “court” and “judiciary” interpreting are used interchangeably. The author analyzes the
differences between court interpreting within a courtroom setting and other related communicative encounters that nonetheless still fall under the broad category of legal interpreting. The main differences highlighted by this paper include employment conditions, contextual aspects, spatial and time constraints, and availability of training. The author proposes a series of similarities in the interpreting function across legal settings: specialist knowledge and skills required, accuracy, impartiality, confidentiality, limitations of practice and the need for professional development. These commonalities are used as a basis to propose the features and minimum components of training programs for legal interpreters, including selection criteria, language skills, terminology, and interpreting skills, among others.

Keywords: legal settings, overview, training, professionalization


This paper examines the impact of interpreting on witness testimony in interpreter-mediated criminal trials. Existing studies on testimony styles, their features and the impact upon lawyer-witness interaction and jury decisions serve as a basis for the analysis, particularly as to fragmented versus narrative styles, and powerful versus powerless styles. The study is based on 2470 Spanish answers and their English interpretations, produced by 27 witnesses and 6 court interpreters in USA courts. An analysis of the differences between the Spanish answers and their interpretations suggests that interpreters tend to lengthen witnesses’ answers, thus making them seem more narrative. They do so by adding hedges, hesitations, reformulations, polite forms of address and other particles that are characteristic of a powerless style. This study was one of the first analyzes of pragmatic features in courtroom settings where interpreting was involved.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, register


*The Bilingual Courtroom* presents one of the most detailed and revealing studies of court interpreting and the influence of the interpreter’s participation on courtroom proceedings and their outcomes. The study consists of three parts: an ethnographic study of courtroom interaction based on 114 hours of observation and tape-recording of judicial proceedings is complemented by observant participation in various judicial interpreter training programs, conferences and events. The analysis focuses on pragmatic and interactional aspects of interpreted courtroom interaction and reveals through detailed observations how apparently unmarked practices among interpreters and the interaction with other participants shape bilingual court proceedings. The second part focuses on whether an interpreter’s intervention can affect jurors’ perceptions of a set of psychological traits of witnesses through their stylistic choices. The study is based on an experimental verbal-guise technique and involves 551 participants and focuses on the impact of using or omitting politeness markers in the interpreter’s *renditions*. The findings confirm that jurors’ perceptions are affected by changes in the use of politeness markers and demonstrates that apparently subtle changes through interpreting can significantly affect the social/psychological perceptions that jurors form of witnesses, which in turn can affect the outcome of proceedings. The last
part includes a review of appellate cases relating to interpreting. The author examines appeals based on errors and practices such as the participation of unqualified interpreters, addressing the impact of interpreters from a different angle.

*The first edition was published in 1990. The 2002 edition includes a new chapter with a review of the latest advances in the field of legal interpreting.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, ethnography, experimental methods, non-professional interpreting


The chapter focuses on coercion in police interviews, with a particular emphasis on coercive linguistic features and interactional practices. The author presents a critical overview of the literature on coercion and appellate cases, and pays particular attention to the Miranda Warnings and the exercise of coercion in a bilingual police interview. The scenario in this chapter is a murder case involving a Mexican detainee and two US police officers, one of whom performed the role of interpreter between a Spanish-speaking Mexican detainee and an English-speaking US police officer. Whereas both police officers coerce the detainee by not respecting his assertion of the right to remain silent, the dual role of the police officer/interpreter emerges as a powerful control mechanism. Drawing on Goffman’s concept of footing, the author identifies discourse features that reveal how the police officer/interpreter abuses power, such as the use of the first person plural to interpret his fellow police officer’s utterances, thereby including himself as a member of the police institution.

Keywords: police settings, non-professional interpreting, role, footing, pragmatics


The author examines appellate cases resulting from the participation of non-professional interpreters in police interrogations. The interpreters include police officers or other employees of the police department, relatives or friends of detainees or suspects, volunteers and interpreters with unknown qualifications. A review of 112 appellate cases (1965-1999) from three US states reveals that persons acting as interpreters in the investigative phase of the criminal process come from highly heterogeneous backgrounds. The non-professional interpreters’ failure to interpret Miranda rights is the most common basis for appeals. Delivery of the Miranda rights (or caution in other English-speaking countries) is already problematic in monolingual interviews where qualified interpreters are being used. Conflicts of interest, impartiality, role conflicts, abuse of power, and lack of interpreting competence affect the quality of interpreting and the fairness of interrogations and interviews. Using non-professional interpreters appears to be the rule rather than an exception. This points to a more lenient attitude towards the person interpreting at the initial stages of a criminal process compared to the stricter selection and certification rules that apply to interpreters in court.

Keywords: police settings, non-professional, quality

This monograph is a comprehensive study addressing different manifestations of coercion exercised through the exploitation of linguistic differences. The study focuses on four authentic police interrogations with Spanish-speaking detainees in the USA in which police officers acted as interpreters. Following a comprehensive review of police interpreting, policies and an examination of appellate cases related to the use of non-professional interpreters, the book presents a detailed analysis of each case addressing a particular manifestation of linguistic coercion in bilingual interviews. The data set comprises interview transcripts, written statements and trial transcripts. The linguistic analysis reveals how police officers coerce detainees through discursive practices, such as changes in footing, treatment of particles like “Yeah” as confessions, disregarding and exploiting their lack of linguistic competence in Spanish. The case studies uncover abusive practices and behavior on the part of officers and numerous breaches of ethical codes.

Keywords: police settings, non-professional interpreting, discourse & pragmatics, footing, quality


The authors present an overview of judicial interpreting in Spain, with particular attention to current legislation, service provision, and a series of aspects related to the profession such as training, accreditation, national registers, interpreting courses, and training of legal professionals. The publication of EU Directive 2010/64/EU on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings requires EU member states, including Spain, to transpose the Directive into their domestic law. The review takes into account the administrative makeup of Spain and current needs, followed by a series of measures that could make transposition of the Directive possible. The measures are based on a thorough analysis of potential partnerships (education, the creation of national registers, accreditation), existing systems, actual need and solutions inspired by systems and organizations that are in place for other more established professions. This article is the introduction of a journal issue devoted to interpreting in criminal proceedings.

Keywords: legal settings, professionalization, interpreting in criminal proceedings, legislation

**Böser, U. (2013). "So tell me what happened!" Interpreting the free recall segment of the investigative interview. Translation and Interpreting Studies, 8(1), 112-136.**

This article examines the impact of interpreting upon the free recall technique in police interviews. This technique is aimed at enhancing information retrieval as well as the quality of information through the solicitation of an uninterrupted narrative account from suspects or witnesses. This technique is used in forensic interviews in the Scottish jurisdiction, where the study is based, among others. The experimental study includes six video-recorded interpreted witness interviews following the interview format used in Scotland. Drawing on Interactional Sociolinguistics methods, the analysis reveals disruptions in the use of the technique related to the particular turn-taking system of triadic interaction. By adding or altering information, interpreters’ renditions of the transitional turns marking the initiation of the free recall segment can affect the discursive behavior of participants and hinder the elicitation of an uninterrupted
narrative. Furthermore, interruptions, ambiguity and meta-comments about message segmentation and turn-taking in the interpreted interview clash with the uninterrupted requirement of the free recall and affect its maintenance. This study problematizes the conflicts between practical aspects of interpreted interaction and the aims and features of free recall as a technique conceived for a monolingual context.

Keywords: police settings, discourse & pragmatics, legal interpreting, dialogue interpreting, investigative interview, free recall, turn-taking


This is the first study comparing interpreting quality in face-to-face and video-mediated police interviews. Remote interpreting (RI), whether using telephone or video, is being increasingly used across settings, including legal settings. Eight interpreters were asked to interpret in the consecutive mode in two controlled simulated police interviews: a face-to-face interview and a video-mediated one. The author investigates the interpreted interviews drawing on a number of analytical tools and conceptual models from the fields of investigative interviewing, conference interpreting and dialogue interpreting. Interpreter performances were analyzed quantitatively first, drawing on the ratings given by three raters based on an adapted version of Kalina’s (2002) quality criteria for conference interpreting. A qualitative analysis exploring salient areas followed. Interpreting problems relating to content, linguistic, paralinguistic and coordination aspects were identified across the data, and they were all significantly magnified in the interviews using the RI method, including distortions, additions, problems related to overlapping talk and lexical activation and earlier emergence of fatigue among interpreters.

Keywords: police settings, remote interpreting, legal proceedings, police interviews, quality


The AVIDICUS Project set out to analyze the quality of video-conference interpreting in legal proceedings. This chapter reviews the study as a whole and an experimental piece of research carried out by one of the project partners, the University of Surrey. The project focused on video/remote interpreting in legal proceedings as a practice that is being increasingly used but ill-explored. The methods used were experimental and the analysis was comparative (quantitative and qualitative): 41 pre-trial encounters (police/prosecution) were simulated and video-recorded by the three project members, with 12 using remote interpreting, 14 using two different types of videoconference interpreting, and 15 encounters with face-to-face interpreting. The Surrey site focused on comparing 8 remote with 8 face-to-face interpreting encounters and examined, in particular, interpreting quality in relation to non-verbal and visual communication, and the interactional dynamics within the police interview as a purpose-oriented encounter. The chapter includes a detailed discussion of the findings, the most salient of which is that problems that tend to emerge during interpreting in legal settings are magnified in the video-interpreted encounters. The use of technologies, turn-taking problems and a higher cognitive demand correlate with an increase in the number of distortions, omissions and paralinguistic problems in the interpreters’ renditions.

Keywords: legal settings, remote interpreting, experimental research, turn-taking, quality

Brennan discusses British Sign Language (BSL)/English interpreting in the particular context of the courtroom and describes problems resulting from lack of awareness, differences between the languages and modes, and mismatches regarding the interpreter's role in court, all of which challenge Deaf people's access to the justice system. Following a description of the features of sign language and sociolinguistic aspects of Deaf people, the paper presents the problems identified as a result of the 'Access to Justice for Deaf People in the Bilingual, Bimodal Courtroom' Project. Data was collected through observations and some video-recordings of BSL/English trials, interviews with Deaf people that had prior experience in the courtroom, and in-depth interviews with BSL/English interpreters. Among the problems identified, interpreters were often observed checking comprehension and seeking clarifications or asking questions without letting legal professionals know. A high degree of interactional activity went on that was not accessible and/or not paid attention to or challenged by non-signers. Differences between the languages and modalities, as well as role conflicts, often resulted in changes in propositional meaning, simplifications and register alterations. The author emphasizes the need for further research on the issues uncovered and the need to improve the quality of interpreting in order to guarantee full access to justice for Deaf people.

Keywords: court settings, sign language interpreting, role, quality


Equality Before the Law reports on the findings of the Access to Justice project led by the University of Durham Deaf Studies Research Unit. The project carried out a nationwide review of access to justice for the community in the UK using sign language. The findings include a nationwide survey reporting the use of Communication Support Workers and sign language interpreters in legal settings; ethnographic reports of courtroom interaction mediated by a sign language interpreter, and one-to-one interviews with deaf users of sign language, interpreters and legal representatives. The project uncovered a lack of understanding regarding the need to use properly trained interpreters, the role of the interpreter, and the linguistic-cultural differences between the hearing and the deaf communities. Brennan & Brown also found that interpreters typically struggled with legal terminology, linguistic issues when switching between sign and spoken modalities, and proactively sought ways to improve how they work in legal settings. The monograph concludes with a list of recommendations and changes needed to improve how deaf users of sign language access the legal system.

Keywords: court settings, sign language, ethnographic research, role, discourse & pragmatics


Accessing a qualified and skilled interpreter is essential to ensuring equal access to the legal system. Current legislation in the United States (U.S.) places a mandatory requirement on the state to supply and manage the interpreting services at no cost to the deaf suspect or victim. Brunson interviews 12 deaf
respondents about their experience accessing the legal system. The study finds three overarching themes i) obtaining accommodation; ii) dealing with a problematic accommodation; and iii) partial accommodation. Whilst legislation seeks to protect the rights of deaf people, Brunson reports on the actual experience, which suggests the ability to fully participate in legal interactions is questionable. Difficulties were found to be largely related to the decision-makers who commission and supply legal interpreting services. Those who have a duty to provide access do not have the ability to match the right interpreter to the right deaf person or assess the quality of the interpreting services. Therefore, Brunson argues for changes in policies that take into account the detailed considerations needed before a legal system can become fully inclusive.

Keywords: legal settings, sign language interpreting, users’ views, quality


This paper presents the findings of a study on the impact of speech style on users’ perceptions of the interpreter’s neutrality in court settings. An experimental study involving three different interpreting styles from English into Chinese was carried out. A mock domestic violence trial was conducted. Two experimental groups of 17 participants each were exposed to reported speech. In one of the groups, the interpreter used reported speech with pronouns, whereas in the other the interpreter used reported speech with title names. The interpreter adhered to the normative direct speech style with the control group, consisting of 16 participants. The outcomes of the post-role-play survey revealed differences in users’ perceptions of intelligibility, fluency, alignment with one party or the other and neutrality among the three groups. These findings suggest that neutrality is not necessarily shaped by the use of either reported or direct speech, but by specific forms of address in reported speech.

Keywords: court settings, users’ views, neutrality, experimental study, style


In order to analyze the use of the direct and indirect style by judges in three interpreter-mediated criminal cases in Denmark, Christensen employed participant observation, a survey-based study, and a descriptive analysis of the transcriptions of three authentic audio recordings. The study aimed at exploring whether patterns of use of the normative direct style and the non-normative indirect style could be mapped onto the different stages of Danish court proceedings (i.e., cross-examination, questioning, etc.) comparing the patterns observed by the researchers to the judges’ self-perception of their use of different speech style. Following a comprehensive literature review, the analysis points to individual differences that appear to be ascribable to personal styles. Whereas all judges deviate from the normative use of direct speech to different extents, ranging from 11.8% of occurrences to 75.3%, their self-perception is that they mainly adhere to the normative direct speech style. The patterns identified in relation to the functional stages reveal a tendency to adhere to the normative direct speech style during the questioning by the prosecutor and by counsel.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, discourse study, form of address, guidelines, indirect speech, norms

Written by a justice of the peace who is also an interpreter trainer, and a freelance interpreter who does scholarly research, this volume is a comprehensive compendium of legal procedure and interpreting provision across legal settings including court settings, probation services, lawyer-client interaction, police settings, and prisons. Matters relating to both spoken and sign language interpreting are tackled. The practices and procedures included refer mainly to England and Wales, although a chapter presents a compilation of good practices and the right to interpreting services in other countries. Each chapter includes a description of interpreting needs and practices in the particular setting, guidelines on how to work with interpreters, clear descriptions of potential problems and situations participants may face, legal procedure, language-related issues, and observations regarding minority users’ profiles. The authors give careful consideration to aspects related to certification, quality, interpreting skills, collaboration with professionals, the interpreter’s role, and particular dilemmas encountered in each of the settings presented.

Keywords: legal settings, overview, practice, policy, professionalization


This paper problematizes tactical decisions and abuse of power regarding interpreter provision. The case study is based on a markedly political 30-day long court case in a coroner’s court in the Northern Territory of Australia. The researcher was one of the interpreters called to interpret between Djambarrpuyngu, the Aboriginal language spoken by the witnesses, and English. Some of the witnesses had limited proficiency in English and the interpreters’ participation was decided and negotiated online throughout the proceedings. The case study draws both on the interpreter-researcher observations and on passages from the court transcripts. Adopting primarily a critical discourse-analytical stance, the interpreter-researcher brings to the forefront several examples of power abuse related to cross-cultural and cross-linguistic issues. Barristers see the interpreter as an obstacle in cross-examination, as an empowering resource for the Aboriginal participants, and make efforts to avoid and hinder their participation and performance. Limited command of English and different conceptualizations of language and reality emerge as sources of miscommunication. The study presents valuable evidence of lay assumptions about language proficiency and the alleged redundancy of interpreting that is detrimental to Aboriginal witnesses.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, power

This report presents the findings of a survey conducted among interpreters with experience interpreting for gender violence (GV) victims in Spain. The survey-based study was part of the SOS-VICS project to train interpreters that work with GV victims. The Delphi method was used in the study in order to identify homogenous answers from expert interpreters about the most needed training contents, obstacles and difficulties, and best practices for training. Overall 27 interpreters from different parts of Spain responded to all stages of the study. Issues which obtained the highest agreement scores as the most important contents in training programs include: fluency in the working language, interpreting in gender violence contexts, dealing with victims, handling stress and emotions, and understanding protocols used in police and medical settings. Among the main difficulties identified, interpreters agreed on the need for: more practice, specialized training, training in telephone interpretation, legal information, awareness, grants, and collaboration. Regarding the most adequate strategies, there was consensus on the requirement for practical experiences during the training period and access to vocabulary corpora.

Keywords: legal settings, training, gender violence, survey-based study


Drawing on observations of court proceedings, a literature review, and interviews with magistrates and court interpreters, this study touches upon the need for interpreters in court settings and their needs in these settings. Following the observations, the author highlights the intimidating atmosphere and the high degree of linguistic and pragmatic complexity of courtroom interaction. Participants’ expectations in the courtroom were found to be contradictory, whereas magistrates reported an expectation of interpreters’ invisibility, the magistrates themselves made the interpreters visible through direct address. The intimidating atmosphere impacted interpreters, who expressed their preference for staying as invisible as possible even when they required clarifications or accommodation from other participants. Regarding the need for interpreters, the study found two different views depending on the magistrates’ linguistic repertoire. Bilingual magistrates understood the use of interpreters even if the individual using the services spoke some English, but monolingual magistrates were suspicious if someone who was able to speak and understand some English used an interpreter. In her concluding remarks, the author problematizes the challenges of courtroom interactions and conflicting expectations therein. She proposes the following as essential components of interpreter training programs: knowledge of speech styles, courtroom procedures, and the potential effect of the interpreter on court proceedings.

Keywords: court settings, users’ views, survey-based study, role, training

This article examines the effects of prison video link (PVL) technology upon the behavior of court participants in interpreter-mediated hearings in England, in particular upon proxemics, strategies used by interpreters and adjustments required by the use of remote technology. The dataset comprises the researcher’s observations of eleven face-to-face interpreted hearings and seven hearings using PVL, in which the researcher participated as an observer from the defendant’s location (prison). These were followed-up with 27 participant interviews. The analysis shows the limitations in accessing information and communication resulting from the use of technology. All participants expressed their preference for face-to-face interpreted interaction. They found PVL resulted in information loss, in particular the reduction of non-verbal cues, problems in interactional dynamics, and it made interpreting more complex. The study presents a detailed discussion of observable hindrances resulting from the use of PVL that place defendants at a disadvantage.

Keywords: prison settings, remote interpreting, court interpreting, turn-taking, proxemics, quality


The authors of this article provide an overview of the nature of interpreter-mediated interviews and explore, in particular, the interpreter-mediated witness interview. The analysis focuses on the impact of interpreting upon the process and outcomes of the interview. In particular, they explore how different interpreting modes and decisions intersect with the cognitive interview model. The spoken-to-written format of the statement-taking phase in witness interviews poses particular challenges in triadic exchanges. The authors assess the potential for using different techniques that have a lesser impact upon triadic interaction (chuchotage, long consecutive), all of which require both advanced interpreting skills on the part of the interpreters and police officers knowing how to work with interpreters using those skills. The second aspect explored is the order and directionality of statement-taking, both in the language of record and in the foreign language. The authors conclude that a written statement produced in the language of record first is the best option for all participants.

Keywords: police settings, discourse & pragmatics, consecutive interpreting, directionality


Drawing on Interactional Sociolinguistics and Goffman’s participation framework as expanded by Wadensjö (1998), this qualitative study examines footing shifts within the first stages of the police interview and their effects upon rapport building. Excerpts from seven real-life interpreter-mediated police interviews conducted in England are included in the data, which correspond to the first stages of the cognitive interview model (in total 156 turns). This part of the interview is particularly relevant to
establish the conditions required to build rapport with the interviewee. One of the most salient findings is the interpreters’ inconsistent footing shifts. Whereas some shifts that go against the normative rules function as mechanisms to avoid misunderstandings, in other instances interpreters acting as principals can disrupt the rapport-building efforts. The study shows how expectations of verbatim interpreting conflict with the needs arising out of the reality of the interpreted interview and participants’ moves, which are characterized by a high degree of inconsistency in footing shifts and have a direct effect on the interactional goals.

Keywords: police settings, discourse & pragmatics, interrogative interviewing, rapport building, Goffman, interpreter training

Gallai, F. (2016). Point of view in free indirect thought and in community interpreting. *Lingua* 175, 97-121.

This paper examines the role of discourse markers in the interpreters’ renditions through the lens of relevance theory (RT). The study focuses on the treatment of discourse markers by interpreters in representations of free indirect thought during police interviews. The events analyzed used the cognitive interview model to enhance information retrieval. The author provides a detailed discussion of the theoretical underpinnings, including the use of RT in studies of fiction, translation and interpreting, and its application to analysis of discourse markers. This study draws on excerpts from the transcriptions of seven video-recorded real-life police interviews. Among the treatments of discourse markers identified, omission emerged as the most typical one, however the author pays particular attention to interpreters’ additions of discourse markers. Whereas some additions had an intruding effect, others contributed to creating “a sense of mutuality” between the police officer and the interviewee by guiding them in activating specific contextual assumptions. The study sheds light not only on the role of discourse markers in interpreted discourse, but also on the potential of RT to explain interpreters’ choices.

Keywords: police settings, discourse & pragmatics, discourse marker, attributive use, free indirect thought, point of view, relevance, voice


The Aristotelian concept of ethos as the image speakers try to convey so as to enhance their credibility, is explored in the context of an interpreter-mediated criminal procedure in a Belgian court. The authors examine the verbal devices employed by the prosecutor in his closing monologue to enhance his ethos, and the interpreter’s renditions in the chuchotage interpreting mode. The analysis focuses on the devices used to give expression to the three elements that construct a speaker’s ethos: competence, integrity and goodwill towards the audience. Prosecutors use technical legal language, reference to the law, statements of impartiality, appeals to the audience, accommodation through code-switching, explanations of legal concepts, among other devices, to construct their ethos. While many of those devices are rendered by the interpreter, this study found that many others are altered or omitted. Omitted content, altered or omitted pronouns, added para-linguistic comments, meta-comments about difficulties, and alterations, among others, are observed in the interpreter’s renditions. These may potentially affect the defendants’ perception of their prosecutors’ monologue and, therefore, their ethos. The authors propose the
application of classical rhetoric in studies of interpreter-mediated legal discourse and in interpreter training.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, monological legal discourse, ethos, court interpreting, persuasion, classical rhetoric, ethos


The authors of this paper compare interactions with an interpreter-mediator (IM) in healthcare and legal settings. The study adopts a linguistic-interactional approach to interpreting, but also views it as a form of cultural mediation. In Italy, where the study takes place, the professions of cultural mediator and interpreter coexist. Cultural mediators are preferred in healthcare settings and interpreters in legal settings. The data set comprises 65 audio-recorded encounters, 50 of them in healthcare settings and 15 of them at a local police center. The main difference observed relates to the interactional order. IMs in legal settings adhere to the task of rendering utterances in the other languages and other participants align with that task. In contrast, the interactional order in healthcare settings promotes IMs taking turns not only to provide renditions, but also frequently to act as principals, producing back-channeling tokens and initiating actions to act on behalf of the patient, an approach that often results in the patient’s exclusion. The patterns emerging reveal how all participants in an interaction contribute to particular interactional orders and patterns, which are not only setting-dependent but also align with the prevailing goal of the encounter: facilitating a patient-centered consultation in healthcare settings, or focusing on “accuracy” in legal settings.

Keywords: police settings, discourse & pragmatics, dialogue interpreting, social interaction, intercultural mediation, healthcare, legal settings


This volume is the outcome of the EU-wide Qualitas Project, which aimed at providing instruments to develop testing tools and certification schemes for legal interpreting, which are largely insufficient or even non-existent in most EU countries. The three first chapters discuss legal interpreting testing and assessment, testing and assessment principles, legal interpreting skills and aspects related to the design and format of tests. Chapters 4 and 5 explore the testing and assessment of knowledge on legal systems and codes of ethics as part of the legal interpreters’ set of skills. Chapter 6 focuses on the delivery and design of training and testing for languages of lesser diffusion, and Chapter 7 explores the use of technologies in legal interpreting and legal interpreting training. Chapter 8 contains guidelines and recommendations for the organization and administration of certification schemes and the last chapter presents the current state of affairs across EU countries regarding legal interpreting and legal interpreting testing. A glossary and three appendices complete the volume, including sample exercises and tests, codes of ethics and links to legislation, associations and other relevant sources.

Keywords: legal settings, certification, training, ethics

This monograph is one of the most comprehensive works about language and the law, with an analysis of language use in the courtroom, prison, and police interactions. The specific features, function and use of language in the legal system are described, such as the focus on precision, the use of language to achieve legal aims, the particular complexities of language used in different justice settings, and the related complexities for lay participants. Interpreting is explored in two particular chapters: in Chapter 5, which is devoted to language-related disadvantages, and in Chapter 6, where the focus on interpreting is more detailed. Chapter 6 addresses the use or non-use of interpreting, the interpreting process, the particular features of interpreter-mediated interaction in legal settings, aspects relating to users’ rights, the interpreter’s role, professionalization and training, the impact of interpreting on users, and encounters in the legal sector.

Keywords: legal settings, overview, training, provision


The study explores the use of declarative questions by lawyers based on non-restrictive relative clauses (NRRC). These clauses create ‘covert recontextualization cues’ and the researcher is interested in how the interpreters treat them and the consequences of this treatment. A corpus-based comparative analysis of the types, functions and design of NRRC-based declarative questions in English and Spanish complements the analysis of interpreted interaction. The study draws on two corpora: (1) a compilation of 16 video-recorded interpreter-mediated mock trials (Spanish and English) within a university setting in Spain, and (2) NRRCs extracted from COR92, a corpus of spoken Spanish. Despite existing differences in the use of NRRC-based declarative questions in English and Spanish, the evaluative function of NRRC-based declaratives was corroborated in both languages. Interpreters showed a tendency to render NRRC-based declarative questions as polar interrogatives, which had a major effect on the sequential development of examinations. The author emphasizes the need for a dynamic rather than static conceptualization of context, and further participation in studies on interaction.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, corpora, institutional interaction, recontextualization cues


This expanded and revised second edition of Fundamentals of Court Interpretation encompasses 10 units and 48 chapters. Court interpreting is explored as a field now in its “adolescence.” The authors suggest that the field has moved from making efforts to guarantee access to justice to refining and redefining the meaning of quality interpreting. Additionally, it has expanded the areas where interpreting services are considered a fundamental right, and moved towards fine-tuning education, certification, how interpreters are used and their impact upon procedures, revisiting ethical dilemmas and reformulating ways of enhancing boosting cooperation among the different stakeholders. The
revised edition integrates the latest policies and regulations that affect court interpreting, primarily within the US context, but also in other geographic areas. The updated version incorporates discussions of authentic court cases, policies and findings from 20 years of growing research in the field.

Keywords: court settings, overview, practice, policy, research, theory


Following a discussion on the relevance of what is admissible in court, examining the impact of the form upon evaluations of witnesses, Sandra Hale analyses alterations in interpreters’ discourse in seven witness testimonies. The four interpreters were native speakers of Spanish and English, the language of the court, was their second language. The comparative analysis of discourse features in lawyers and witnesses’ utterances and the interpreters’ renditions reveals a tendency among interpreters to mimic the discursive style of their target audience. This is observed in the interpreters’ use of a higher register when interpreting into English for the lawyers and a lower register when interpreting into Spanish for the witnesses. Changes include omitting hedges, hesitation, using a more formal style when interpreting for the lawyer, and oversimplifying and lowering the style when interpreting for the witness. On the basis of existing studies of second language use and register, Sandra Hale suggests that those interpreters’ alterations linked to the target audience may be due to the interpreters’ lack of awareness as to the need to maintain both content and form, or to the fact that second language speakers tend to have a better command of a formal register in their second language and of an informal register in their native language.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, translation equivalence, register, style, court interpreting, lawyer discourse, witness discourse


Drawing on a corpus of 13 tape-recorded interpreted hearings held in local courts in New South Wales, Australia, Sandra Hale analyzes the frequency and treatment of questions in cross-examination and examination-in-chief. By establishing the frequency of interrogative, declarative, and imperative question types, the author explores their treatment by interpreters when interpreting from English into Spanish, as well as the potential reasons for their choices, and the effects of such choices. Differences emerge depending on the type of examination, the most salient one being a higher frequency and variety of coercive question types by lawyers in cross-examination than in examination-in-chief. Due to the formal differences between the two languages, interpreters found declaratives and tag questions to be challenging when interpreting into Spanish, which affected their final renditions into Spanish. Whereas declaratives (more coercive) were the preferred question type in the English source questions, interrogatives (less coercive) were used more frequently when interpreting into Spanish.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, discourse analysis

Sandra Hale’s book presents an in-depth analysis of interpreted courtroom discourse. Drawing on 17 audio-recorded local court cases held in New South Wales (Australia), the author analyzes features in the discourse of counsel (English) and witnesses (Spanish), together with the interpreted renditions. The book includes an overview of the court interpreting field in Australia and an introduction to relevant aspects of language and the law. Three main aspects are part of the study. Firstly, a discourse-analytical examination of counsel’s discourse and the interpreted version. The second aspect drawing on discourse analysis are witnesses’ powerful and powerless discourse features and the interpreters’ renditions. This study is complemented with an experimental study on the impact of different interpreting styles on the manner in which witnesses are perceived. The third part of the study is based on a survey and focuses on interpreters’ perceptions and their treatment of features identified in the discourse-analytical study. The study brings to the forefront the relevance of pragmatics for both practice and research; how micro changes affect the illocutionary force of utterances and challenge the fairness of proceedings; the highly complex decision-making involved in interpreting; and emerging challenges of the courtroom setting.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, discourse analysis, survey-based study, experimental research


This paper reviews empirical research in the field of court interpreting and identifies the main themes, methods, strengths and weaknesses. Despite the development of the field since the paper was written (2006), it does present a comprehensive review, and many of the considerations still apply to date. One of the strengths of court interpreting research as compared to studies in other legal settings is a higher number of studies of monolingual practices and linguistic issues in the courtroom. These analyzes have served as a basis for studies of court interpreting. One of the main strengths of these studies is that they draw on authentic data; however, the corpora are normally small and many language combinations are still under-researched. The author identifies several gaps in the field: expectations and attitudes of minority language speakers’; impact of court interpreting training upon practice; the need for combining both qualitative and quantitative methods, and the need to avoid generalizations based on small databases or underrepresented patterns.

Keywords: legal settings, overview, research


As the title suggests, this paper presents an account of court interpreting based on the author’s observations during a notorious trial held in Germany in relation to the murder of French Jews in Nazi concentration camps. The author describes the various aspects surrounding the interpreter and interpreting: her status as an officer of the court, the interpreter’s preparation before the trial, seating arrangements, interpreting mode (consecutive), and a number of observations that are linked to the case.
The interpreter is described as a professional whose performance adhered to interpreting norms, in particular following Herbert’s (1952) interpreting manual. Specifically, the interpreter respected the turns, coped with turn length and information load, attended to requests or needs for clarification, accepted aid from participants when needed, paid attention to participants’ respect for each other’s turn, and her delivery was loud and clear. The observations address many of the main themes later explored in the field of legal and judiciary interpreting, such as impartiality, the distribution of responsibility, and the potential effects of practical decisions upon communication.

Keywords: court settings, role, norms, neutrality, turn-taking


This paper takes stock of the advances and efforts made in the field of legal translation and interpreting with a particular focus on the EU context and EU-projects on legal interpreting and translation. The authors reflect on the experiences and the outcomes of three European Union projects aimed at establishing EU-wide standards for training, assessment and practice: EU-projects Grotius 1, Grotius 2 and Agis. They evaluate existing training and assessment practices and needs, advocate interdisciplinary collaboration and the establishment of mechanisms for international cooperation and support. The three projects acknowledge member states’ right to make adjustments to respond to their specific needs in the different areas. The authors critically review legislative changes relating to translation and interpreting rights in criminal proceedings and stress the role of interdisciplinary and international co-operation on the road towards professionalization.

Keywords: legal settings, professionalization, quality, training


This volume presents an overview of the provision and quality of legal interpreting and translation in EU member states, expectations and experiences. The data collection method was a questionnaire designed around the indicators contained in the Green Paper on Procedural safeguards for suspects and defendants in criminal proceedings throughout the EU. The questionnaire was sent to both government sources and professional bodies with sound knowledge and expertise in the field and 194 responses were collected. The findings are discussed at length in the book, with an individual analysis of each member state’s profile with regard to the EU average per indicator. Specific indicators are analyzed with regard to quality assurance, procedural safeguards, and regulation of the translation and interpreting professions. The two main findings highlighted by the authors indicate that whereas existing structures and skills across EU countries do not guarantee the quality of the services provided, developments in a positive direction are observed across the board.

Keywords: legal settings, quality, translation, provision

Hertog reviews the legal interpreting field in the EU between 1999 and 2014, particularly in relation to legislative developments, the scope of the field, and research. As to legislation, Hertog reviews legislative developments and highlights the current existence of binding legal instruments on the rights to translation and interpreting in legal proceedings that safeguard basic human rights of suspects, defendants, and victims of crime. Secondly, the author emphasizes the expansion of the field of court interpreting to a broader field including other settings, e.g. prisons, police, asylum. The scope of the field has also increased to include specific participant profiles in legal proceedings, such as children and refugees, and the author suggests that the use of “legal” instead of “court interpreting” is a reflection of such broadening. Closely related to an increasingly broader scope, Hertog reviews research activity and highlights the increase in research outputs, groups and institutions; a number of new research foci and methodologies; cooperation between the different stakeholders in the field; the emergence of national and EU-wide professional associations; and, the consolidation of research networks, conventions and conferences. He also stresses the relevance of the 18 EU-projects conducted by different member states on various aspects of legal interpreting during the period reviewed.

Keywords: legal settings, overview interpreting research, interpreting profession, European Union


Based on an experimental design, this study explores the PEACE interview model and Cognitive Interview (CI) techniques when mediated by an interpreter. These techniques are aimed at gathering quality information and enhancing the cooperative interviewees’ ability to recall information. A scripted interview was played and interpreted in eight different languages. Interpreters’ handling of turn length, eye gaze and specialized language were chosen as the analytical foci. Regarding turn length, the interpreters tended to interrupt witnesses’ narrative before they completed their answer. Those who didn’t do so omitted comparatively more information than those who did. The majority of interpreters directed eye gaze towards the interviewee upon completion of their rendition. Strategic pauses by police officers were not recognized as such by interpreters, but treated typically as opportunities to take the floor. Regarding the specific wording used in the CI, some interpreters maintained some of the features, whereas others modified it and inadvertently used structures that are intentionally avoided in the CI. On the basis of the findings, the authors emphasize the need for further collaborative research and training for police and interpreters.

Keywords: police settings, discourse & pragmatics, cognitive interviewing, bilingual police interview, interpreter training

This book addresses fundamental questions that apply to the role, responsibilities and dilemmas of interpreters, such as the interpreter’s visibility, neutrality, trust, and impartiality. The book includes chapters addressing language, ethics and moral aspects, and challenges the notions of impartiality and ethics as treated in the literature. Furthermore, it expands the notion of interpreting ethics to encompass the actual practice of an individual in specific sociopolitical contexts. Two chapters present an analysis of interpreting in asylum settings (UK) and in conflict settings (Iraq). The author draws on ethnographic methods, in particular interviews with stakeholders from the military and asylum fields, employing Derrida’s analysis of linguistic hospitality. The empirical approach reinforces the theoretical portions of the book, in particular with regard to the interpreter’s visibility and impartiality. The concepts of visibility and impartiality are posited as impossible and inapplicable to interpreting unless considered not only as a skill, but primarily as a professional, sociopolitical, psychological and emotional activity.

Keywords: legal settings, ethics, role, ethnographic methods


This paper explores additions in court interpreters’ renditions and their relationship to the interpreter’s focus on successful communication. The study draws on the authors’ PhD dataset about court interpreting in Denmark, and includes a mock trial and a simulated trial. Four interrelated questions are explored concerning additions: (1) whether they are produced, (2) whether they can be categorized, (3) whether categories can reveal interpreters’ motives, and (4) whether interpreters’ conscious or unconscious preoccupation with pragmatics may underlie and motivate their production. Three categories of additions are identified: those with no impact upon semantic/pragmatic meaning, those with minimal impact, and finally those with a significant impact. Drawing on the Gricean theory of conversational implicature, the author focuses on motivations in two of the categories identified (minimal or significant impact) and concludes that interpreters explicate and elaborate (minimal impact), or emphasize and downgrade (significant impact) as a result of their focus on assisting speakers to infer meaning. The findings corroborate the interactional and complex nature of interpreting as an activity and the inapplicability of conduit models.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, consecutive interpreting, additions


This paper examines how interpreters can disempower children and affect the outcomes of asylum hearings with children. The paper focuses on four different practices extracted from four authentic audio-recorded asylum interviews with children in Sweden. While the interviews belong to a larger corpus including certified as well as non-professional interpreters, the four interviews analyzed in this paper were mediated by non-professional interpreters. The discourse analysis of side sequences other than those aimed at repairing troubles reveals a markedly high degree of intervention by interpreters. This
pattern seems to be linked to their lack of skills, lack of awareness among caseworkers, as well as the child status of the asylum seeker. Through active involvement in interviewing, face-saving strategies, alignment with caseworkers and elaboration of answers and facts, the interpreters guide, discredit, and distort the children’s voice or directly exclude them from interaction. This empirical study sheds light on interpreting practices in highly sensitive encounters and illustrates the need for further research and monitoring of interpreters’ skills.

Keywords: asylum settings, minors, interpreter-mediated talk, participation rights, side-sequences


The paper explores how interpreters treat colloquialisms, hedges, speech styles and politeness markers in police interviews, and how different treatments affect the interaction. Drawing on a discourse-analytical approach, the paper explores Russian-English excerpts from a corpus of four authentic interviews related to the same murder case. Four different interpreters took part in the interviews with the suspect and witnesses. A number of patterns emerge in the analysis: interpreters tend to neutralize the register of witnesses and the suspect by omitting repetitions and hedges, modifying colloquialisms and opting for a more polite style in their renditions. A failure to appreciate the pragmatic value of certain particles and markers, such as ‘well’, triggers changes in the pragmatic force. These subtle moves can affect the interview process and its outcome. The same particle can strengthen or weaken the pragmatic force of utterances, thus misunderstanding and misinterpreting a particle can change the pragmatic effect. The analysis also reveals the relevance of contextual features in facilitating an interpreter’s inference process.

Keywords: police settings, discourse & pragmatics, politeness, context


Lang’s case study was one of the first studies of gaze and other non-verbal behavior in the field of judiciary interpreting. Drawing on a 5-minute excerpt from a court case conducted by a police sergeant, different functions and patterns of non-verbal behavior are analyzed. The excerpt belongs to a larger corpus of video-recorded court cases in Papua New Guinea. The frame-by-frame analysis shows marked differences among participants. The complainant shifts between an expository and a listening posture, using posture and gaze to show and seek attention. The police sergeant’s gaze shifts from his pad to the complainant, and at times he sustains gaze for longer than it is normally sustained for turn allocation purposes. The interpreter’ gaze behavior is markedly of non-involvement, in particular characterized by gaze aversion while interpreting. The author concludes that whereas non-verbal displays of non-involvement can be seen as adherence to the normative “neutral” role of interpreters, several examples suggest that gaze contact enhances turn-taking and participation dynamics by enabling the interpreter to monitor the development of talk. The author stresses the need for further research and the inclusion of non-verbal behavior in interpreter education.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, role, non-verbal communication, turn-taking

Drawing on a review of existing literature on judicial interpreting, case law, legislation, and interviews with different stakeholders, this volume explores legal interpreting in Australia from the point of view of language, culture and the law being inextricably linked. The authors illustrate and discuss the ways in which the Australian legal system is addressing issues pertaining to cross-cultural communication. A historical overview of legal interpreting in Australia is presented, and the legal professional’s view of the interpreter as a problem is highlighted as a major obstacle to the professionalization of legal interpreters. The volume consists of eight chapters touching upon aspects relating to the workings of the Australian legal system, non-English speakers’ rights to interpreting services, relevant procedures in court and police settings, the professionalization, education and role of legal interpreters, ethical dilemmas and codes of practice, and interpreter provision. The authors emphasize the need to overcome lay assumptions and simplistic views about language, communication and interpreting in order for cross-cultural communication to find its place within the legal system.

Keywords: legal settings, overview, role, professionalization, ethics


LaVigne and Veron’s paper is a comprehensive article explaining the heterogeneous language and cognitive development experienced by many deaf people in the United States (U.S.) and provides a detailed description of the way in which legal interpreting services can be delivered to deaf people living in the U.S. LaVigne and Veron’s concern is how a legal system prepares for deaf people like Jesse and Maryellen, who are considered to have minimal language skills (MLS). The paper explores questions such as how deaf people with MLS are able to process abstract and complex concepts filled with linguistic subtleties. Furthermore, they explore to what extent the court should assist the deaf individual to achieve a baseline understanding and ask who can assess if such understanding is possible. This article demonstrates how the law is made of language and the ability to engage can require more than the assistance of an interpreter. LaVigne and Veron list a number of measures and recommendations developed by those who understand the needs of deaf people with MLS to facilitate access in the courtroom.

Keywords: legal settings, sign language, quality


This study compares the views of legal professionals with those of professional court interpreters on the role and responsibilities of the latter, based on the Australian context, using a 20-question survey method. Two different versions were used, one for each group of respondents. In total, 226 legal professionals and 36 professional interpreters responded to the survey. The questions were based on the literature about the interpreter’s role and the findings provide an insightful analysis of the responses, and also inform future research. The findings reveal salient differences between legal professionals and interpreters. One
major divergence in perspectives is related to the interpreter’s role: whereas the view of the “translation machine” role prevails among legal professionals (67%), the view of the “facilitator of communication” role prevails among interpreters (89%). Regarding the responsibility of interpreters on the matter of interpreting styles, gestures and cultural aspects, legal professionals favor the importance of style to a higher degree than interpreters. Interpreters mention the need to summarize and acknowledge adapting their renditions to the level of competence of witnesses and defendants. The author stresses the need to compare users’ and interpreters’ views with the findings drawn from discourse-analytical studies of authentic interpreted court interaction.

Keywords: court settings, users’ views, ambivalence, court interpreter, cultural intervention, legal professionals, role


This case study explores the resources used by participants to address interpreting-related issues; including hedges, boosters, as well as attitude and engagement markers. Two court cases are analyzed: one civil and one criminal, each involving two interpreters. The interpreters in the civil case were experienced conference interpreters and those in the criminal case were untrained interpreters. The fact that some participants could understand both languages triggered meta-comments about interpreting decisions and performance. Differences between judges’ and interpreters’ stances in regard to interpreting problems were observed depending on 1) the type of trial and 2) the interpreter’s skilled or unskilled status. Whereas the judge in the civil case showed a proactive attitude towards solving interpreting-related issues in order to achieve the desired institutional outcomes, the judge in the criminal case prioritized the uninterrupted continuity of the trial. Skilled and unskilled interpreters reacted differently to meta-comments, with skilled interpreters typically addressing and clarifying performance-related issues, while unskilled interpreters reacted defensively or by giving up when confronted with meta-comments about their performance.

Keywords: court settings, users’ views, stance, expert witness, evaluation, metadiscourse

This paper discusses linguistic-discourse features of the bilingual courtroom in Hong Kong and also focuses on the resultant social and power ideologies. A corpus-based approach was adopted for the collection and analysis of legislation as well as the proceedings of five bilingual rape trials. The corpus includes the transcriptions of 101 taped recordings of the **cross-examinations**. The author discusses the underlying ideologies regarding bilingualism and the asymmetric status and relationship between English and Chinese. The prevalence of English as the language of written legal texts, poor quality translations into Chinese, and the use of anglicisms, all indicate the domination of English in this setting. In relation to interpreting, features emerging in previous studies are observed, such as **register** alterations, inaccuracies due to the differences between the languages, and language choices reinforcing existing power imbalances. Typical features in Hong Kong courts include code-switching and code-mixing among defendants and bilingualism among others in the room. These phenomena pose problems for the interpreters and the author problematizes the lack of guidelines in this regard and the imposition of English as the official language of the court.

*Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, legal interpreting, translation, corpora approach, legal discourse, Hong Kong legal system*


Licoppe and Verdier explore interpreter-mediated interaction in pre-trial hearings with videoconferencing in the French context. The data analyzed belong to a larger data set of video-recorded real-life hearings and ethnographic observations of both hearings with all participants in the courtroom (“co-present”), and hearings with the defendant in prison and the other participants in the courtroom (“distributed”). This conversation-analytical study focuses on interaction during the presentation of prosecutors’ arguments. Prosecutors are normatively required to present their argument uninterruptedly, but the video-conferencing arrangements used in the hearings analyzed challenge this requirement. In the co-present hearings, the whispered (chuchotage) interpreting mode is used and the prosecutor’s argument can proceed uninterruptedly, but in the distributed hearings the consecutive form was the only feasible mode. This affects interaction and participation in different ways, renders the presentation of the argument messy, and participation boundaries are blurred. The authors flag up the potential implications for the fairness of the process, as well as the impact of limited access to non-verbal features upon defendants’ rights to access and participation in the hearings.

Keywords: court settings, remote interpreting, consecutive interpreting, chuchotage, turn-taking, ethnographic, conversation analysis

This paper examines the role of interpreters as perceived by legal professionals in the 4-month trial of those accused of perpetrating the 2004 Madrid bomb attacks. Exceptional interpreting arrangements were made with regard to human, technical and economic resources, and interpreters were not only crucial for the trial, but also at the center of media attention from the first day. The authors draw on video recordings, their transcriptions, previous research, reports and documents related to the trial. Simultaneous interpreting equipment was installed and a team of professional interpreters for the Arabic and Berber dialects was recruited for the trial. The use of simultaneous interpreting affected interpreters’ performances and their public image during the first day, both due to deficiencies of the system installed and the users’ lack of familiarity with simultaneous interpreting, as manifested in their comments. Two of the interpreters were appointed to act as expert witnesses during the trial. The authors emphasize that this decision placed the two interpreters in a highly difficult and unfair position, not only due to the dual role they were playing, but primarily to the unfair treatment by legal professionals.

Keywords: court settings, role, users’ views, quality, simultaneous interpreting


This paper discusses the function and origin of ethical norms as applied to interpreting in general and focuses on interpreting by non-professional interpreters in a largely ill-explored setting: prisons. The author analyzes the manifestation and breaches of norms in 19 authentic interviews in Spanish prisons in which inmates acted as interpreters for other inmates. Data triangulation enables a comprehensive qualitative analysis, including audio-recorded interactions, user assessments following each encounter, and quality assessments made by interpreting experts. The findings problematize the tension between users’ expectations and the increased potential for role conflicts resulting from inmates acting as interpreters. Accuracy emerges as a norm that is sometimes complied with and sometimes massively breached. Transgressions of several norms in the same turn are frequent (impartiality, role performance and accuracy, among others) but their consequences are dependent upon local contextual features and negotiated in interaction. The findings highlight the desirability for a deeper and more flexible understanding of norms and the need to consider the complex sets of factors shaping community interpreting encounters.

Keywords: prison settings, non-professional interpreters, norms, codes of ethics, role, neutrality


This paper explores the concept of quality as applied to interpreting in prison settings. Following a review of existing conceptualizations of quality in interpreting studies in general and public service interpreting in particular, an evaluation tool for analyzing interpreting quality is presented and the findings of its application are discussed. The author pays particular attention to the need for more consideration of
sociological views of quality, i.e. of going beyond text-based approaches to interpreting quality and considering interpersonal, intrapersonal features, users’ expectations and perceptions, as well as experts’ views on quality. The tool encompasses views of quality from three stakeholders in 19 authentic prison interviews interpreted by non-professional interpreters (fellow inmates) in Spain. The three groups consulted were prison officers as service providers, the inmates who spoke a language other than Spanish, and interpreting experts. The tool design includes the same parameters for every group while accounting for varying literacy levels and expert knowledge about interpreting. The findings show different perceptions of quality and a broader conceptualization of what contributes to effective interaction. Interpersonal and contextual features have an impact upon interpreted interaction and upon the perception of effective communication among non-expert users of interpreting that is often overlooked by experts. The study sheds light on the need for a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to the study of quality in public service interpreting settings.

Keywords: prison settings, quality, interpersonal features, users’ views


This case study analyzes the influence of overarching democratic values upon conflict resolution decisions made in a 90-minute interpreter-mediated trial in a Danish district court. The case analyzed is part of a broader multi-method study. The authors draw on Prunč’s (2000) concept of translation culture as the overarching principle invoked in any translation process. In particular, the study explores the democratic values of cooperativeness, loyalty and transparency in the Danish court in relation to the interpreter’s performance. The fact that many participants find both languages accessible triggers a high degree of cooperation in providing linguistic assistance and in reacting to mistakes. Breaches of loyalty by the interpreter through mistranslations are flagged up by non-addressed participants, and the interpreter acknowledges her difficulties. These exchanges are recorded in the case documents, but the judge addresses the apparent interpreting problems in a cooperative manner. The study illustrates how factors at different levels affect decision-making, particularly in relation to conflict resolution during the interpreter-mediated trial.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, cooperativeness, ethics, loyalty, non-normative behavior, translation culture, transparency


This monograph explores various aspects related to language and language ideologies in the Belgian asylum procedure, including translation and interpreting in asylum interviews. The interview outcomes constitute the crucial piece of evidence and serve as a basis to assess whether the applicant is granted refugee status or not. The study of interpreting-related aspects is based on a corpus of 39 asylum applications’ administrative files in different Belgian agencies, and the data collection included participant observation and recording of at least one of the interviews in each procedure. The data were analyzed drawing on a combination of three discourse-analytical approaches: forensic discourse analysis, ethnopoetic analysis, and reflexive discourse analysis. The findings show how linguistic variation and linguistic needs are neglected, language repertoires of interpreters and asylum seekers
receive little attention, and ultimately how the narratives are transformed at different stages of the process through a combination of practices stemming from linguistically biased institutions. The outcomes of such practices often put asylum seekers, and also interpreters, in a disadvantageous position.

Keywords: asylum settings, discourse & pragmatics, right of asylum, intercultural communication, political refugees, sociolinguistics


Drawing on excerpts from five interpreted TV interviews between immigration officers and asylum seekers, the study focuses on gaze behavior among interviewers and interpreters (visible in the video-recordings) during listening and speaking. Different functions of gaze emerge in the data, some of which appear distinct of interpreted interaction. Interviewers tend to direct their gaze to asylum-seekers more than the average in spontaneous conversation. Interpreters show different behaviors depending on their recipient: whereas they tend to maintain eye-contact while interpreting for asylum seekers, their gaze is deflected while interpreting for interviewers. During listening, interviewers tend to look at the interpreter while she is interpreting for them, and to the asylum-seeker while he/she is speaking in the foreign language. Gaze is also shown to play a crucial role in turn-management and to project next-speakerness. The last emerging function of gaze is related to participants’ positioning with regard to one another. Based on deviant patterns, the author highlights how gaze and other non-verbal behaviors are negotiated and constructed interactionally, as well as their influence on participants positioning with regard to one another and the unfolding of interaction.

Keywords: asylum interviews, role, gaze, non-verbal behavior, turn-taking


The differences between English and Spanish regarding active-passive constructions and their use typically pose problems for interpreters. This paper provides a detailed analysis of the consequences of interpreter-induced changes in their renditions of active-passive constructions and the use of the clitic pronoun le (to him/her/them). Based on an authentic jury trial, the analysis describes quantitatively and qualitatively the changes introduced by the interpreter and how these contributed to attributing blame to the gang members. The excerpts analyzed include examples of the interpreter adding the pronoun le when interpreting into Spanish for the witness, automatically presenting the witness as the person experiencing the action and an agent—implicitly the defendant—as the ‘doer’ of that action. Blame attribution is also observed in the interpreter’s renditions into English. Regarding the treatment of the passive voice, the interpreter typically changes passive constructions into active ones when interpreting into Spanish. By specifying the agent in her renditions, the interpreter is turning the attorney’s questions into leading or suggestive questions, potentially interfering with the attorney’s strategy and the jurors’ perception of the defendant.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, Spanish-English bilingual courtroom, Spanish clitic pronouns, active-passive voice, courtroom discourse, linguistic intent

The author explores the role of cultural mediators and the identities displayed by participants in the Italian asylum context. The study analyzes interviews with a French-speaking asylum seeker from Cameroon, an Italian-speaking municipal social worker, and a Moroccan cultural mediator. The study is based on both interactional and sociological theories, and draws in particular on the concepts of footing and positioning to explore role and identity shifts during the interviews. More specifically, the study examines how identities and roles are reflected in fluctuating exchange types, namely dyadic and triadic interaction. The analysis of interactional moves is mapped onto the themes of the interview. The interviews feature a high degree of heterogeneity regarding interactional dynamics and discourse shifts that reveal participants’ deployment of their shifting identities and roles. The themes being dealt with and the orientation to either institutional or personal identities influence participants’ discursive practices. The interactional and linguistic features show how the roles of the cultural mediator, service provider, linguistic expert, cultural broker, and community member manifest themselves at different moments within the same encounter.

Keywords: asylum settings, discourse & pragmatics, cultural mediation, role, asylum seeking, narrative, discourse, positioning, identity


This volume provides a wide range of resources for court interpreting students and educators alike. Critical aspects of relevance to interpreting practice are examined and clear guidelines are presented. The book includes an overview of court interpreting as a field, its history, specific aspects of the law, an extensive review of the route towards professionalization, and the role of interpreters in the field. The court is presented as a field with particular linguistic conventions and legal constraints. This volume discusses the court’s practices, requirements and procedures in a clear and reflective way. Students and educators are presented with guidelines and exercises relating to different interpreting modes, interpreting techniques and related strategies, ethical considerations, informed strategies for practice and extra learning resources. Excerpts of relevant legislation, examples and practical activities make the points accessible for any reader and the comprehensive nature of this volume makes it a fundamental read for court interpreting students and educators.

Keywords: court settings, overview, training, professionalization, ethics


Interpreting in South African courts is the rule rather than the exception, with 90% of court cases requiring interpreting between Afrikaans or English (the language of the court) and one or more of either official or heritage languages. The authors discuss the lack of professionalization and organization of court interpreters, and describe the rationale and contents of the undergraduate degree in court interpreting. The degree targets practicing court interpreters and has a blended learning model combining distance education with residential summer and winter schools and sessions. This enables practicing interpreters from across the country to enroll in the course. The contents focus on developing
both theoretical and practical interpreting skills and knowledge in areas such as interpreting, communication and law, as well as opening new avenues for court interpreters through familiarization with and practice of interpreting in other settings, such as healthcare, conference, or business settings. The paper provides detailed descriptions of teaching, learning and assessment criteria and approaches; core contents; and program structure. The authors emphasize the significance of court interpreters having an equal level of qualifications as other legal professionals.

Keywords: court settings, training, professionalization


Ruth Morris analyzes the distinction between “interpretation” and “interpreting” as applied by jurists and other court professionals to the work of interpreters. The author describes and discusses examples of actual practice from the multilingual Demjanjuk war crimes trial. By adhering to a view of interpreters as machines, jurists and other court professionals hinder the quality of interpreter-mediated interaction. Interpreters face the dilemma of making decisions related to their practice that may hinder or benefit communication, while having to act under the burden of what others expect from them and what they are allowed to do. The author calls for a broader view of rules and makes the case for granting interpreters “latitude” to make expert decisions that enable them to perform with a higher degree of quality, thus enhancing the outcomes of the encounter.

Keywords: court settings, role, ethics, quality


This monograph is devoted in its entirety to interpreting in police settings and is geared primarily at interpreters. Interpreting guidelines, competences, approaches to practice and the specific features of investigative interviews are reviewed. The authors view interpreting in general, and interpreting in police settings in particular, as an activity that happens within another activity. From this standpoint, language use, interviewing techniques, the role and competencies required for interpreting, and different approaches to practice are proposed. The first two chapters analyze interpreting as a profession and process, with investigative interviewing as the activity within which interpreting is performed. These chapters contextualize the remaining three chapters, which focus on strategies and approaches to the actual interpreting practice. Aspects relating to language use, linguistic transfer and communication relevant to interpreting are discussed from the standpoint of the interrelation between the two core activities (interviewing and interpreting). Numerous excerpts and examples illustrate the points under discussion and are accompanied by valuable accounts of the impact of interpreting upon the interview, including aspects relating to coordination, turn-taking and micro-level linguistic choices.

Keywords: police settings, overview, professionalization

Drawing on conversation analysis methods, the study examines the problems associated with the process of rendering suspects’ rights in police interviews with Japanese-speaking suspects interviewed in English in Australia. The data comprise three audio-recorded interviews and one audio- and video-recorded interview related to two drug trafficking cases. The participants were four witnesses, four police officers and six interpreters with different degrees of experience and accreditation levels. The author identifies three main aspects of interpreter-mediated interviews that have the potential to hinder the grasping and maintaining of the illocutionary force of police cautions. Turn-segmentation affects the delivery of the caution, with chunked versions resulting in more complete and accurate interpreted renditions, particularly among less experienced interpreters. Segment boundaries affect the interpreting process, with more or less accurate renditions depending on where turn segmentations were made by police officers. Finally, the comprehension check in police cautions seems to be underestimated—and frequently omitted—by interpreters, thus affecting the delivery of the suspect’s rights. The author gives a series of recommendations for both police officers and interpreters regarding the delivery and interpretation of suspects’ rights.

Keywords: police settings, discourse & pragmatics, turn-boundaries, accuracy, chunking


This paper reports on partial use of interpreting in court cases in Japan as an institutional practice. The study presents an overview of interpreter provision and media reports on interpreting in court cases and problematizes partial use of interpreters. The author identifies patterns of non-use and emerging phenomena based on her observations and notes taken in ten interpreter-mediated court sessions. The analysis draws on Halliday’s register perspective to explore the use or non-use of interpreting. The findings show that interpreters are not used in interactive parts of the trial, but they are resorted to for those portions that are based primarily on written documents presented orally. The author reviews language production and comprehension problems during non-interpreted questioning, as well as moves that are conducive to coercion. While interpreters are provided for court cases, their partial use leads to unfair proceedings and abuse of power. The selective use of interpreters results from institutional users’ lay assumptions and views about interpreting and about the communicative needs of second language speakers. The author stresses the potential consequences of the problems and practices discussed, in particular in relation to their impact upon how reliable defendants may be perceived.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, register, users’ views


The role of silence in police interviews has been explored as one of the suspects’ rights. It has also been looked at in relation to the role of silence as an information-eliciting strategy. The author analyzes three aspects around silent pauses: interpreters’ reactions to silent pauses; how the interpreter and the suspect negotiate participation around silent pauses; and the impact of the interpreters’ reactions to silence upon
the police interview. Drawing on Conversation Analysis, the author identifies and analyzes pauses lasting between 1 and 1.5 seconds and above 1.5 seconds in the audio-recorded interviews taking place in Australia. The data set comprises three interpreter-mediated police interviews (15 hours) with Japanese suspects interviewed in English. Three main findings are reported: interpreters reacting to silent pauses as a repair mechanism, or non-reacting to silent pauses as a sign of alignment with police officers; the use of silence by police officers as an information-eliciting technique; and the potential for suspects being favored by interpreters not reacting to silence. Interpreting seems to have an impact upon the function and potential of silence, and different treatments can affect the trajectory of the interaction.

Keywords: police settings, discourse & pragmatics, pauses, repair, turn-taking


This monograph presents a critical analysis of interactional dynamics and power dynamics in interpreter-mediated interactions during police interviews. The author explores this from different angles: interviewer’s questions and strategies, interviewee’s answers, the role of silence, and miscommunication and repair mechanisms. The data set comprises four interviews (two video and audio-recorded, two audio-recorded) conducted by the Australian Federal Police with Japanese nationals suspected of importing illegal drugs to Australia. Drawing on a combination of sociolinguistic and conversation analysis methods, the author presents a comprehensive discourse-based analysis of interactional dynamics in the interpreted police interview. Each chapter presents an in-depth discussion and rich descriptions of passages illustrating how the interview dynamics change in the cross-cultural, mediated interviews. The study also explores the tensions between the activities of interviewing, being interviewed, and interpreting that come about as the result of subtle moves and choices.

Keywords: police settings, discourse & pragmatics, role, power, repair, conversation analysis


Australia has a dispersed population, where community sizes vary drastically and many live in remote parts of the country. Access to a sign language interpreter to facilitate courtroom interaction can create lengthy delays to the legal process and an obvious concern for the Australian legal system. Napier’s study looks at the way in which audio-video technologies can be used to facilitate courtroom interaction. The study tests five different courtroom role play configurations, four of them across two separate locations and one of them across two locations. Each configuration explores the particular considerations needed when either the interpreter and/or the deaf person is connected via audio-video link to the court proceedings. The data consists of ethnographic notes and interviews with each of the stakeholders. The report contains a comprehensive list of considerations and recommendations concerning ergonomic conditions, technical issues, skills development and training.

Keywords: court settings, sign language interpreting, remote interpreting, ethnographic methods

Napier & McEwin discuss the possibility of having deaf people serving as jurors, assisted by a sign language interpreter. The article looks at changes in the United States (U.S.) where deaf people have been able to serve as jurors for more than thirty years. This acceptance in the U.S. is contrasted with McEwin’s personal experience in Australia, where some progress seems to be emerging. Deaf people are still excluded from serving as jurors. The concerns stem from including an interpreter as a 13th person in the jury deliberation room. Napier & McEwin report on four projects investigating a number of parameters (accuracy of interpretation, comprehension of interpretation, and perceptions of a deaf juror assisted by a sign language interpreter) to inform the debate concerning the inclusion of a deaf juror. The debate has yet to reach a conclusive result, Napier & McEwin describe the ongoing work needed and the potential to reform jury selection criteria in Australia, the UK, and Ireland.

Keywords: court settings, sign language, users’ views, accuracy


This chapter presents the findings of a pilot study conducted in New South Wales (Australia) at the request of the NSW Attorney General. The aims of the study were to explore whether deaf citizens could serve as jurors and perform their civic duty. The paper focuses on one of the aims of the study, namely to compare the level of comprehension among potential jurors. An experimental study was conducted with two groups: 6 potential deaf jurors and 6 potential hearing jurors. Following a briefing about the case, each group was shown either an Auslan recording (interpreted version) or the English recording of the source text, which was designed using authentic courtroom data. They were then asked to answer 12 comprehension questions. The comparative analysis showed no statistical difference in terms of the comprehension level; it also revealed that both groups misunderstood some information. This small-scale pilot study shows that acting as jurors with the aid of an interpreter does not place deaf citizens in a disadvantageous position.

Keywords: court settings, sign language, experimental study

Ng’s paper focuses on the use of the first or third person by court interpreters in three court cases held in Hong Kong. The cases include five interpreters and belong to a larger corpus of audio-recorded court hearings. The analysis is both quantitative and qualitative, focusing on the footing of legal participants’ utterances as used by the interpreters, including self-reference. There is also an exploration of the applicability of theories proposed in the literature on dialogue interpreting. Interpreters systematically adhere to the first-person in their renditions into English, but typically use the third person or omit self-references altogether when interpreting from English. The author analyzes several excerpts and explores different arguments to explain interpreters’ choices, and finds that some apply only partially, and others do not apply to the bilingual Hong Kong court. The author proposes a new hypothesis, namely the interpreters’ perceptions of power asymmetry and their uneasiness with playing two roles (the role of the powerful, legal participants and non-powerful, lay participants). Two effects are noted: interpreter alignment with the non-powerful party only, and alterations of the illocutionary force.

Keywords: court settings, discourse & pragmatics, footing, omissions, power asymmetries


This study focuses on the training of police officers to work with interpreters as a key element for the professionalization of interpreters and the fairness of interpreter-mediated police interviews. The researchers delivered initial training to 770 police officers (POs) of all ranks in Scotland on how to work with interpreters. Prior to the training, the POs concerns were documented along with their evaluation of the training following Phase 1. The main concerns among POs were related to trust, focusing mainly on the following: trusting the interpreter or building trust during the interview, interpreter skills and role, language competence particularly in relation to slang and terminology, and interpreter involvement. Following Phase 1 training, 20 of the attendants responded to the second part of the study and identified the most useful components of the training program: understanding of the interpreter’s role and the process, the importance of briefing the interpreter, and managing the interpreter’s perspective and difficulties. Furthermore, knowledge transfer and changes in the way they conduct the interview were two of the main modifications to their professional practice following the training. The responses showed that even initial training can significantly impact on the interviewers’ awareness and practices relating to interpreting.

Keywords: police settings, training, role, users’ views

This paper discusses the interpreter’s role as a co-producer of written records in asylum hearings in Austria. Written records are the primary evidence for asylum cases in the Independent Federal Asylum Review Board (IFARBG). The discourse-analytical study is based on audio recordings of 14 asylum hearings involving English. The recordings were made for the purposes of the study, and the field notes from informal interviews and participant observation are part of the data sources. The paper illustrates different behaviors that reveal the interpreter role as a co-producer of the written record. The moves observed in relation to co-production of the written record include interpreters spelling out acronyms, rendering full sentences matching the written style, and dictating punctuation for the typist. Pauses in their delivery, clarifications and repetitions also orient to the typing task. Interpreters are co-producers and therefore jointly liable for the correctness of written records. Considered from a normative perspective, interpreters’ moves in co-producing written records breach professional codes. Seen as a co-participant in situated institutional activity, issues related to interpreters’ responsibility, role, training needs and awareness of the higher cognitive load should be considered.

Keywords: asylum settings, role, discourse & pragmatics, written record


Drawing on Fairclough’s approach to critical discourse analysis, the author analyzes the role of interpreters in asylum hearings in Austria. Particular attention is paid to factors influencing speakers’ behavior in these highly sensitive encounters. Her study is based on a corpus of 20 audio-recorded interpreted asylum hearings conducted in German with English-speaking asylum-seekers from different African countries, including three different officers and three interpreters. The analysis of recurring patterns reveals role conflicts between participants and the highly active role not only played by interpreters but also expected from them. The active role of interpreters is observed in their coordinating moves, in their decisions to interrupt and redirect the topic, in omissions and comments aimed at re-focusing asylum-seekers’ narratives, and in their efforts to elicit information. Footing changes and omissions also emerge as face-saving mechanisms. Demonstrations of power are observed in the officers’ code-switching moves, in the meta-comments of both officers and interpreters about the case, and in the monitoring of interpreter performances by the officers. The features identified highlight the need for more clarity regarding the role of interpreters in asylum hearings and demonstrate the clash between normative expectations and dilemmas emerging in actual practice.

Keywords: asylum settings, discourse & pragmatics, community interpreting, discourse analysis


In this paper, Anthony Pym explores the applicability of different theories in the analysis of the interpreting function and the public perception of court interpreters. The paper focuses on the O.J. Simpson trial, more specifically on the testimony of witness Rosa López during the defense counsel’s attempts to show that she was lying. The trial was televised and interpreting was one of the topics
discussed by the public. The author analyzes the interpreter’s actions, role and potential explanations of her decisions to use a number of variants to describe an action during one portion of the trial. Drawing on sociological parameters, lexico-semantics and pragmatics, the author shows how the interpreter’s actions can be explained through different lenses, primarily opposing ones, and how conflicting norms apply. Pym uses the term “theories” to illustrate how different participants and stakeholders explain interpreting moves, and calls upon scholars to adopt consensus-building approaches aimed at solving problems that emerge in interpreting situations.

Keywords: court settings, role, discourse & pragmatics, norms


Rudvin & Pesare discuss the particular conditions of language/cultural mediation at detention centers in Italy. Drawing on observation, recordings of real-life mediated interactions at the center, and interviews with cultural mediators, the authors identify and problematize a number of features surrounding the role of language mediators. Migrants at detention centers find themselves in extremely complex human conditions, and mediators become crucial figures not only while mediating between migrants and different professionals at the center, but also as providers of emotional and psychological support, identifying migrants’ needs and conveying practical information about their options. Particular features affect mediation for victims of human trafficking, such as specific rights and legal options, and mediators play a crucial role in providing information and assisting victims with difficult decision-making. The demands of their role often translate into high levels of occupational, ethical, and personal stress. The authors highlight the level of suffering and trauma that characterizes the setting and the need to better channel the role of cultural mediators for the benefit of both migrants and institutions.

Keywords: immigration settings, role, intercultural language mediator, interpreter role, detention centers (Centro Identificazione e Espulsione CIE), human trafficking, alignment, Nigerian English


This study is based on the author’s PhD research and contrasts the use of two interpreting modes in legal settings: consecutive and simultaneous. The dataset includes four video-recorded mock trials using four different American Sign Language/English interpreters, and post-trial interviews with all participants. Drawing on a sociolinguistic approach to discourse analysis, striking differences become manifest depending on the interpreting mode used. The study is the first empirical comparative study of interpreting modes involving sign language, and the analysis confirms a higher degree of accuracy when the consecutive mode is used. Participants raised a number of revealing issues in the post-trial interviews, including the need for more inclusiveness, more information about deafness, interpreting and ASL, but also the need for pre-trial preparation, error management guidelines, and interpreting strategies and techniques, among others. The book includes recommendations for practice, interpreter provision and interpreter education, and also opens new research avenues.

Keywords: court settings, sign language, consecutive mode, simultaneous mode, discourse analysis, accuracy

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This international volume contains a collection of spoken and sign language interpreting research in legal contexts, more specifically in the courtroom and in asylum hearings. The volume is described by the editors as a “coming of age” for research in legal interpreting. Two articles (Morris; Kolb & PöchhaCker) look at the challenges interpreters face when attempting to remain impartial and faithful whilst delivering their service and how the legal system repeatedly compromises this position. Jacobsen analyzes how face-threatening and face-protecting acts become distorted in courtroom interactions as interpreters make subjective judgements on how best to reformulate the source message. Napier and Spencer discuss the feasibility of deaf people serving as jurors and whether or not courtroom interaction can be successfully conveyed by sign language interpreters. Russell documents the preparation and team working strategies of four experienced courtroom interpreters. Ibrahim-Bell describes the development of the sign language interpreting profession in Malaysia and the ongoing struggle for interpreters working in legal domains.

Keywords: legal settings, overview, discourse & pragmatics, role, professionalization


This paper examines the features and the delivery of the police caution and how they impact the tasks of translating, interviewing and being interviewed. Difficulties related to the form, delivery and comprehension of the caution are reviewed, and conversation analysis methods are applied to authentic interviews. The corpus consists of 20 audio-recorded police interviews (UK context), including interpreted (French-English) and monolingual ones. Police officers face difficulties in paraphrasing and explaining the caution, and their explanations sometimes cause further comprehension and interpreting difficulties. Interpreters experience particular problems related to the order and chunking of the three notional sections included in the caution, but also to its high level of abstraction and density. Interpreters shift from form-based to meaning-based interpreting styles depending on how the caution is delivered. As for detainees, their linguistic and cultural background, as well as their educational level, affects their understanding of the caution, its function, and their ability to confirm comprehension or request further clarification. Russell advocates for a reworked, simplified version and a standard translation of the caution, which would benefit all parties in the interaction.

Keywords: police settings, discourse & pragmatics, conversation analysis


This volume focuses on the largely unexplored area of interviews with children in criminal proceedings. The publication originated from the EU project Co-Minor-IN/QUEST on the specific dynamics of interpreter-mediated child interviews conducted during the pretrial phase of criminal proceedings. The different sections present the voices of participants whose roles in child interviews determine their perspective and positioning with regard to specific case studies. The views of interpreters, legal professionals, police officers, academics, social workers and psychologists about various aspects are
presented and discussed. Particular attention is paid to highly vulnerable children in interpreter-mediated interviews and the added difficulties emerging in interaction. The survey-study was conducted in the 6 of the project’s partner countries; Belgium, France, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, and the UK. The volume discusses emerging dilemmas and concerns for different stakeholders about training, procedures, briefing and debriefing of interpreters, and the blurred boundaries surrounding the interpreter’s role that are specific to child interviews.

Keywords: police settings, minors, role, ethics, turn-taking, users’ views


Schweda-Nicholson discusses the function and relevance of codes of ethics for court and community interpreters and analyzes 11 codes of ethics from different organizations and countries that include both spoken and sign languages. The author identifies seven key areas covered in every code of ethics, provides an analysis of each of them and correlates existing literature to the issues at hand. The areas identified are the interpreter’s role, competence and required skills, impartiality, completeness and accuracy, conflicts of interests and grounds for disqualification, confidentiality and continuous professional development. The existence of common areas across settings highlights their relevance for interpreting practice. Each area is illustrated with examples of potential problematic situations, excerpts from the codes of ethics that apply to those situations, and relevant solutions. The author highlights the role that the codes of ethics play in the interpreting practice and in the efforts towards professionalization.

Keywords: court settings, ethics, professionalization


This edited volume includes eight chapters and four book reviews by Christiane J. Driesen, Cecilia Wadensjö, and Holly Mikkelson. As the authors point out, these papers and book reviews have a common denominator: they establish the links between practice and theory as they address the most salient themes in the field (role, quality, expectations, definitions, discourse). The analysis benefits from the dual perspectives of most of the authors as scholars and practitioners. The selection of papers and book reviews is rich not only in terms of geographical and methodological approaches, but also in the specific types of courtroom encounters and research foci. Kayoko Takeda explores interpreting in war crimes and Shira Lipkin focuses on interpreters working in a military court in Israel. Susan-Berk Seligson addresses access rights within a specific indigenous community and Ruth Morris examines judicial attitudes. These sociological approaches are complemented by Jieun Lee’s, Bodil Martinsen and Friedel Dubslaff’s, Tina Paulsen Christensen’s and Bente Jacobsen’s papers exploring discourse-related patterns in specific courtroom practices or authors.

Keywords: court settings, overview, role, quality, discourse & pragmatics

Stone & Woll conducted a database study of records from the Old Baily in London, where proceedings report on the use of sign language interpreters to assist communication with deaf persons. A total of 31 cases were found to involve a ‘Deaf and Dumbe’ accused, witness or plaintiff between 1725 and 1832. The records describe how judges handled trials involving deaf people who had varying linguistic abilities in a sign language (home sign or established sign language) and English literacy skills. Although the legal system has a history in accepting the use of an interpreter, these instances would typically resort to the use of a close family member or some other personal connection who could sign or use gesture to interact with the deaf person. The paper also provides us with some insight into the social struggles of deaf people and the unpreparedness of a legal system to handle matters involving a deaf person unable to access the English used in the courtroom.

Keywords: court settings, sign language, non-professional interpreting


Takeda’s paper discusses the interpreting arrangements and interpreter participation during the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal, otherwise known as the IMFTE (International Military Tribunal for the Far East) as a socially situated practice. The author pays particular attention to historical, political, and social factors alongside aspects of power. Furthermore, Takedo analyses how these factors seemed to influence court interpreting arrangements and interpreter behavior during the IMFTE, and illustrates the discussion with examples from the testimony of one of the defendants. Three groups of linguists with different backgrounds and roles took part in the IMFTE, which created different sets of complex hierarchies: twenty-seven non-professional interpreters, including officials of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and upper class individuals with bilingual backgrounds; a group of four monitors made up of second-generation Japanese Americans with experience in language-related tasks during the war; and two Caucasian military officers who acted as arbiters. The author explores their behaviors and the political drivers apparently underlying interpreting arrangements, the influence on the process of the varying degrees of competence among the different groups, and the hierarchical status of individuals and resulting power dynamics, all as possible drivers underlying the behavior of the interpreters, monitors, and arbiters.

Keywords: court settings, role, interpreter’s behavior, language arbiter, monitor, power relations, Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal


This publication presents the outcomes of the Building Mutual Trust (BMT) project intended to establish training for legal interpreters and translators (LITs) across the EU. Its nine chapters are written by established researchers from different institutions and EU countries, and draw on the findings of the Grotius and AGIS projects about the legal interpreting and translation provision in the EU. The chapters present guidelines, templates and proposals that can be adapted to the specific needs of LIT training in different regions or countries. The first two chapters explore competencies and modules; chapters 3 and 4 tackle various aspects of selection and assessment, including assessment instruments; chapter 5
introduces the materials compiled as the framework for the BMT project, which are available in Chapter 6 and in a dedicated website. Chapter 7 explores the use of computer-assisted tools for LITs and presents a particular example; chapters 8 and 9 include guidelines and considerations relating to the training of trainers and training legal professionals.

The BMT project was followed by the BMT 2 project, which focused on the development of audiovisual materials to illustrate scenarios and best practices for legal practitioners to work with interpreters.

Keywords: legal settings, training, new technologies, professionalization


This paper provides a comprehensive critique of the American courtroom when a deaf witness with minimal language skills (MLS) is testifying. Tuck draws on real-life examples of trials with a deaf witness who has been recognized as having MLS. This paper illustrates how the American legal system has been open enough, albeit in a small number of cases, to experiment with alternative methods to facilitate communication in the courtroom—such as the use of Certified Deaf Interpreters (CDIs)—while also exploring the manner in which questions are formulated and presented in the court, advocating for a greater use of translation as an alternative method to manage communication with a deaf-MLS individual. Tuck also demonstrates how a system that is largely reactive, or disinclined to adapt, becomes vulnerable to criticisms and miscarriages of justice. Tuck proposes a more open and reflective system, exploring alternative ways of using specialist skills like those of CDIs so as to be better prepared for trials that deviate from the norm.

Keywords: court settings, sign language, provision


This reflective paper discusses how the current status quo in the UK court system has yet to implement the changes needed to ensure justice is properly served when a sign language interpreter and a deaf person who uses a sign language are present in the courtroom. Turner outlines what he regards as the key issues, drawing on examples that concern both spoken and sign language interpreting, that must be addressed before a bilingual bimodal courtroom can really exist. Turner’s arguments build on the foundation of ethnographic work that looks at what goes on in the courtroom when a sign language interpreter is used. The paper’s main concern is the low level of understanding by legal representative as to the role of an interpreter, the value of having a sign language interpreter in the courtroom, or how sign languages are in fact bona fide languages that do not always function in the same way as English does.

Keywords: court settings, sign language, ethnographic methods

This paper discusses the challenges posed by the new Venezuelan Criminal Procedure Code in force since 1999 for the different stakeholders, and the potential role of interpreters. Whilst the new code protects language rights and includes the entitlement to court interpreters for those who do not speak Spanish, the code does not regulate the provision of interpreting, nor is training made available. Furthermore, interpreters are not included as relevant actors in the guidelines. Interpreting in general, and court interpreting in particular, is not a regulated profession in Venezuela. Typically, translators and lawyers who have passed the Ministry of Justice interpreting exam qualify as sworn interpreters. Only language proficiency and knowledge of the legal system are tested, and training is not available. Interpreters find themselves having to adapt to the new code without being recognized or receiving support. The author proposes a dual role for interpreters in the process of adapting to the new code: their role as social actors who can provide guidance and make their voices heard in relation to training and guidelines and, simultaneously, their role within the judicial system.

Keywords: court settings, role, training, certification, activism


This paper discusses the dual role of interpreters and the negotiation of responsibility in interpreter-mediated interviews. The author focuses on one sequence of an interpreter-mediated interview with a Russian asylum-seeker in a Swedish police interview. The sequence is studied from different perspectives and the participants’ moves and orientation towards each other are analyzed from different angles. The analysis draws on interactional sociolinguistics and pays particular attention to speakers’ and hearers’ dynamic roles in interactions. Furthermore, it explores the ways in which they negotiate their stance towards each other and towards their own contributions. Drawing on Goffman’s participation framework, the analysis shows how participants affect each other’s positioning with regard to the ongoing talk. The interpreter’s dual role as the person who relays and coordinates talk, and also the one who sometimes acts as a responder to primary participants’ contributions is investigated. A post-interview discussion between the interpreter and the researcher focusing on the selected interview section is included. The analytical tools used and the implications of the analysis presented are conducive to a better understanding of interpreted encounters.

Keywords: asylum settings, discourse & pragmatics, footing, role
The core question addressed in this paper is the impact of interpreter-mediated interaction on questioning techniques during police interviews. Drawing on the conceptualization of interpreting as interaction, the author illustrates how interpreter-mediated interaction can change the effect of recycling information as an interviewing technique. The paper focuses on an authentic interpreter-mediated interrogation in Russian and Swedish, concerning a minor theft, in which three types of recycling of information are observed: quoting from documents or absent persons, formulations, and repetitions from the immediately preceding utterance. The analysis reveals that formulations, repetitions and quotations as recycling strategies work differently when mediated by an interpreter. The author emphasizes the need to define quality interpreting parameters taking into account features that go beyond a textual analysis of the source utterance and the interpreter’s rendition, pointing at aspects such as the organizational structure and the forms of address used in monolingual dyadic interactions which do not necessarily fit within the triadic interaction format.

Keywords: police settings, discourse & pragmatics, quality, footing, turn-taking


This monograph explores interpreting as a meaning-making activity that is primarily interactive. Wadensjö’s work is grounded on Bakhtin’s dialogic theory of interaction and language, and on Goffman’s theory of social organization, to describe and explain what interpreting is about in actual practice. Being an interpreter herself, the researcher bases her detailed discourse analysis on audio-recordings of interpreter-mediated encounters in medical, legal and immigration settings, which are complemented by her views as an observer. The solid theoretical underpinnings serve as a basis to present an innovative view of interpreting and expand existing conceptualizations of face-to-face interpreting. The detailed descriptions show the dual role of interpreters as translators and coordinators of talk, the triadic nature of interpreting as a meaning-making activity, the subtle and complex ways in which each participant moves, the way they affect each other’s moves, the co-operative distribution of responsibility and the coordinated mechanisms participants deploy to address miscommunication.

Keywords: discourse & pragmatics, role, turn-taking


This paper presents the findings of a survey-based analysis on the use of interpreters by police officers in Queensland, Australia. Overall 413 police officers who had experienced interpreter-mediated police interviews responded to the survey. Some responses were disaggregated by type of interview (suspect, victim, witness, informant), mode (telephone or face-to-face interpreting), or by officer rank. The findings reveal a higher use of interpreting for serious crimes and the prevalence of telephone interpreting. Officers reported basing the decision to call an interpreter on their observations (interviewee’s level of English), on the need to comply with procedure, or on the initiative of the interviewee or a third party.
Overall, officers had a moderately positive view of interpreters, and the majority preferred face-to-face interpreting. Respondents identified more difficulties conducting interpreted interviews with suspects than with victims, and they felt that interpreting changed the way they conducted interviews. Lower ranking officers did seem to feel hesitant/reluctant when deciding to call an interpreter, which they perceive as an expensive service. The findings show that multiple factors affect police officers’ perceptions and decisions regarding the use of interpreting services.

Keywords: police settings, users’ views, interpreter, interviewing, investigation, language, police, translator


This paper explores the potential for bifurcated testing methods to administer court interpreter certification tests in the USA. A bifurcated testing method could alleviate costs and simplify test administration logistics. The tests administered by the Consortium for Language Access evaluate simultaneous, consecutive, and sight translation skills. Drawing on the experiences of a number of states in the use of bifurcated methods and on a statistical analysis of around 6,000 raw test scores in the Spanish/English combination, the simultaneous tests reveals a statistically proven predictability of success in the consecutive and sight translation tests. The implications of this study go beyond testing and certification and are relevant for interpreter education as well. Furthermore, the study highlights the usefulness of drawing on existing raw data to explore specific research questions. The author emphasizes the possibility of replicating the study with other language combinations and including other language pairs, together with the need to reassess the actual cost-saving implications of adopting a bifurcated method.

Keywords: court settings, certification, certification exams, assessment, performance, abbreviated testing models


A multilingual interpreting service that included eleven languages was created in 1996 in the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), in which the accounts of apartheid victims were heard. Setting up a multilingual interpreting service was a milestone for the country and this paper discusses interpreter contributions to these highly sensitive trials and the emotional implications of taking part in “the healing process”. The author presents his observations as part of the team involved in the program. The study reviews aspects such as interpreter backgrounds, selection, training and stress management. The paper explores the political and experiential issues regarding interpreters, insufficient training and high levels of stress derived from the content of trials, and practical issues, such as time and spatial constraints. The study explores an aspect that has received little attention, namely the particular conditions of interpreters involved in the TRC and the impact of their job upon their wellbeing, while also highlighting the crucial contribution of interpreters to the TRC.

Keywords: court settings, role, ethics, emotional wellbeing
Case study: a case study examines in-depth a single event, group, situation or person with a particular focus.

Code-switching, code-mixing: code-switching refers to alternation from one language to another, within the same sentence and/or encounter. Code-mixing occurs when a speaker mixes two or more languages or elements of several languages in speech.

Contextualization cues: Gumperz’s (1982) concept of ‘contextualization cue’ refers to linguistic, paralinguistic and nonverbal signals that are used by the speakers in a particular situation to guide interlocutors to infer how they mean what they say in that context.

Conversation analysis: conversation analysis (CA) is a discourse analytical method pioneered by Sacks, Schegloff and Jefferson in the 1970s. CA explores the organization of talk on a turn-by-turn basis in naturally occurring interaction.

Conversational implicature: Grice (1969) proposed that, in conversation, what is meant is not part of the conventional meaning of the sentence uttered, but depends on features of the conversational context. According to Grice, there are four conversational maxims that govern conversational moves among interlocutors: a contribution needs to be true (quality), as informative as required (quantity), relevant (relation) and perspicuous (manner).

Critical discourse analysis: Van Dijk (2001: 352) defines critical discourse analysis (CDA) as a type of discourse analytical research that primarily studies the way social power abuse, dominance and inequality are enacted, reproduced and resisted by text and talk in the social and political context.

Cross-examination: The questioning of a witness or party during a trial, hearing, or deposition by the party opposing the one who asked the person to testify, in order to evaluate the truth of that person’s testimony, to develop the testimony further, or to accomplish any other objective. The interrogation of a witness or party by the party opposed to the one who called the witness or party, upon a subject raised during direct examination—the initial questioning of a witness or party—on the merits of that testimony. The scope of cross-examination is generally restricted to matters covered during direct examination.1

Discourse analysis: discourse analysis is used in this bibliography as a generic term encompassing different approaches to the analysis of discourse. Following Antaki (2008), the core features of the different discourse analytical approaches are the analyst’s focus on naturally-occurring talk, which is analyzed taking into account the context where it occurs, the attention to non-literal force of words and the attention to the social actions achieved through talk and their consequences.


Examination-in-chief: The primary questioning of a witness during a trial that is conducted by the side for which that person is acting as a witness. During the course of a direct examination, the attorney who is conducting the interrogation generally asks specific questions that provide the foundation of the case. After a witness is directly examined, the opposing side conducts a cross-examination, the purpose of which is to impeach or test the validity of the testimony.2

Face and facework: Goffman referred to face (1955) as the public image that individuals claim for themselves. Inspired by Goffman’s notion, Brown and Levinson (1978) proposed the concept of face as two basic wants of every individual: ‘positive face’ referring to wanting to be approved by others, and ‘negative face’, i.e. having their thoughts and actions unimpeded by others. The concept of ‘facework’ refers to the strategies used

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by participants in interaction to manage their face and that of others.

**Footing:** the concept of footing refers to ‘the alignment we take up to ourselves and the others present as expressed in the way we manage the production or reception of an utterance’ (Goffman 1981: 128). This alignment is shown in the linguistic choices made by interlocutors, for instance, in the use of certain pronouns and forms of address. In studies of interpreting, this alignment can be observed both in footing shifts between the first-person style and the third-person style during interpreters’ renditions, and in the form of address used by primary participants.

**Forensic discourse analysis:** Maryns (2006: 9) defines forensic discourse analysis as an investigation of the authenticity of the statements on the basis of consistency and coherence, repetitions, parallelisms, and terms of address.

**Interactional configurations:** the way turns are organized and managed within communicative events result in particular formats depending on the order followed, the languages used, and the number of interlocutors involved, such as a question-answer in the same language.

**Interpreting as relaying & interpreting as displaying:** Wadensjö (1998) adopted the notions of ‘relaying’ and ‘displaying’ to characterize two different ways of presenting versions of the primary participants’ talk in face-to-face interaction. According to Wadensjö (1998: 247), the interpreter can opt for trying to imitate the primary participant’s ‘semantic, syntactic, phonetic and paralinguistic communicative features’ and thus interpret by ‘replaying’, or interpret without attempting to imitate the features of the primary participant’s original utterance and thus ‘displaying’.

**Linguistic repertoire:** linguistic repertoire is used in this bibliography to refer to the languages and language varieties of a particular person or group of people.

**Miranda rights, caution:** Miranda rights (US context) and the caution (UK and Australian contexts) are formal warnings given by the police to a suspect about their right to silence and their right to have an attorney present (US).

**Participation framework:** Goffman’s notion of participation framework is closely related to that of footing (see above). The participation framework represents the status of all participants at a given moment in an interaction.

**Reflexive discourse analysis:** drawing on Bucholz (2000), Maryns (2006: 10) defines reflexive discourse analysis as a notion of discourse in a broad sense that encompasses practices of data selection, representation and explicitation, each aspect of which implies a recontextualization of selected parts of reality in relation to particular – socially constrained and deeply ideologized – contexts of interpretation.

**Register:** Halliday (1989) defines register as specific lexical and grammatical choices made by speakers depending on the situational context, the participants of a conversation, and the function of language in the discourse.

**Rendition:** Wadensjö (1998: 106) introduced the notion of rendition to refer to ‘the stretch of text corresponding to an utterance voiced by an interpreter. It relates in some way to an immediately preceding original.’ Wadensjö distinguishes between different types of renditions depending on how they relate in content and form to the original utterance voiced by a primary participant, including close renditions, expanded renditions, reduced renditions, substituted renditions, summarized renditions, two-part renditions, multi-part renditions, non-renditions, and zero renditions.

**Turn-taking system (CA):** In conversation analysis, the turn-taking system refers to the order and allocation of turns in conversation, and to the form or ‘design’ of such turns. Participants in conversation take turns, are allocated turns and/or allocate turns to other participants, and these mechanisms are typically shaped by the preceding turns.
REFERENCES


