Category
Discourse Analysis *cross reference ENG to ASL Interpreting*
Activity Domain/Targeted skill area
Discourse Mapping/ Source language intrusion during interpretation
Developed by
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Step-by-Step Description of Activity
English form and structure are consistently retained in ASL interpretation. When not interpreting, but re-telling the same story, ASL structures and strategies are more effectively utilized. *The goal of this activity is to make a distinction for the mentee between ASL and English-like signing, and to provide a clear, organic experience of the difference between using ASL and using more English influenced sign.* The mentee will listen to a series of stories recorded on CD in spoken English. She will complete two levels of a discourse map. Step One - Mentee will listen to a story once through, and then make a brainstorm map of everything she can remember about the story. She may use some words to label things, but is encouraged to try, as much as possible, to represent ideas and parts of the story with symbols and pictures. Step Two - she will take the brainstorm map and transfer it to another page, using the same symbols/pictures/words; but putting the events in the appropriate order for retelling in ASL. Step Three - Upon completion of her maps, she will film herself retelling the story in ASL, using only her second map to guide her. Step Four - The mentee will review the sample of her work and make a list of 1) successful use of ASL strategies, and 2) of places in the text where she observes English structure was imposed. The mentee will review the sample and make note of any places she observed were particularly successful at using ASL linguistic strategies in the text. She may also note where English sign order and structures were utilized; but only after successful ASL skills are documented. A running list of areas warranting greater investigation will also be maintained (ie: constructed dialogue, constructed action, appropriate use of eye-gaze, etc). At each meeting with her mentor, the mentee will review these lists and alternative or more optimal strategies will be discussed and practiced. A running list of specific language development areas that the mentee wishes to investigate further will be devised with the mentor.
Materials

- Audio tapes # 1 and 2 of an audio book entitled "I Thought My Father Was God"; a series of original stories, collected and recorded by NPR. Mentee will choose stories that interest her and are less than 5 minutes in length.
- Technology to support video recording. Depending on which technology used, storage for work samples - DVD, thumbdrive etc
- 3 large pieces of drawing paper
- Several markers or crayons in different colors
- Log

Suggested Timelines

The mentee will do this activity 3 times, for 30 - 45 minutes at each session. The activity will be completed within a month. Mentor and mentee will meet 3 times during that time frame to discuss and review the work accomplished.

Next Steps

The mentee will have the opportunity to re-evaluate the value of the activity and re-commit to the next step in the process at each meeting.

Progress Measurements

The mentor and mentee will meet three times over the course of this skill enhancement activity. At each one-hour meeting, at least 20 minutes will be spent reviewing the activity and the mentees feelings about it. She will be asked about how successful she feels the process was, what she noticed about the differences in ASL and English structures throughout the exercise, etc. Lists will be reviewed, discussing both ASL strengths and English intrusions. Mentor and mentee will discuss and practice alternative choices and enhancement of each of those strategies noted during the meetings. The frequency of intrusions and of optimal strategies will be counted and noted over the course of the exercise. Declining numbers in the English intrusions section, and increasing numbers in the effective strategy sections will provide specific feedback about the usefulness of the exercise and the mentees progress at recognizing different linguistic strategies.