Category
ASL to ENG Interpreting
Activity Domain/Targeted skill area
Formal Register/Affect
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Step-by-Step Description of Activity

Difficulty with formal register when voice interpreting for men and women in terms of rendering an interpretation that effectively differentiates the two. Because a significant percentage of the work done by interpreters is done in formal settings, register range is crucial.

This activity focuses specifically on affect matching as one aspect of prosody which marks gender and formal register.

1. Locate video samples of men and women presenting in ASL in various formal settings (business meeting, platform, etc.) If possible, have men and women signing the same content with an emphasis on a diverse set of language models.
2. Record ASL to English interpretation of at least 10 minutes of the source text with an emphasis on "acting" the part including stance, dress, etc

Create a questionnaire.
Do you think this is a male speaker or a female speaker and why?

What kind of environment is this (business meeting, speech, etc.)?

How do you know? What in the interpretation has led you to believe this?

Does this sound frozen, consultative, formal, informal or intimate and why?

   a. Frozen - something such as the Pledge of Allegiance, The Lord's Prayer, etc. - text that is set and does not change
   b. Formal - usually marked by one speaker and limited, if any, interaction. Sentences are typically longer and complete and word choices are more carefully chosen.
   c. Consultative - some interaction but there is usually one speaker with more knowledge and controls the interaction; however, there is more interaction than in formal settings
   d. Informal - happens usually between people who feel more comfortable around each other. No one has more control over the conversation (other than that found with a person's style) and there is great overlap among speakers with less completed sentences.
   e. Intimate - that communication that happens between people who are very close. Sentences are often difficult to understand by an outsider because there is a great deal of shared information not necessitating finishing sentences for understanding. - Write a brief description (can be one word) describing the feel of what you hear. (Confident, entertaining, etc.)

3. With limited information given (that this is an interpretation of a Deaf person using ASLand could be male or female and in a variety of situations); ask at least 10 hearing (non-interpreters) to fill out this form after listening to the interpretation.
4. Compile the results of the questionnaires comparing to the source texts and journal for any emerging patterns and thoughts on how to improve differentiation of male and female speakers in formal interpretation.
5. film yourself re-interpreting the original source texts incorporating the information obtained and analyzed from the survey.
6. Review those new samples and compare to original interpretation. Journal any differences, improvements, etc.

7. Begin to work on at least 2 new source texts per week repeating the cycle beginning with Step 1 to ensure progress.

Materials

Film samples of ASL source language
Technology to support audio and video recording. Depending on which technology used, storage for work samples - DVD, thumbdrive etc
Journal
Questionnaire
Hearing interviewees

Suggested Timelines

. Working through a set of source materials and the questionnaire process will take at least 3 months working 3 times per week for approximately 30 minutes each.

The next meeting with the mentee will in 3 months with e-mail contact as needed. Mentee will bring journal of analysis of first and second interpretations and feedback from survey participants for discussion.

Next Steps

This should be repeated until patterns are recognized. Further repetition could then evaluate improvement of the interpreter's skill. Working through to new set of source materials and repeating the questionnaire process at least once should take at least 3 months.

Progress Measurements

Success will be measured by recognizing identification patterns, based on calculations of answers used in questionnaire and incorporating that into second round of interpretation which receives feedback from survey participants that more closely matches the source information to the interpretation. Further evaluation can be used by calculating tallies of improvement based on percentage and majority of correct answers from the questionnaire.