Category

Process Management/Short and Long Term Memory Enhancement

Activity Domain/Targeted skill area

Natural Prosody when interpreting in dense discourse environments

Developed by

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Step-by-Step Description of Activity

The flow of the spoken interpretation is adversely affected by a pattern of elongating words due to insufficient process time used at the beginning of the utterance and requiring the time be taken intra-lexically.
Goal of the Activity: To increase process time at the beginning of the utterance and thereby decrease the need to process mid-sentence, with a special emphasis on interpreting in highly technical settings and at a pace that is more rapid than usual

1. Using a film sample of a Deaf speaker who signs at a fast pace (as perceived by the interpreter), film a simultaneous interpretation sample to establish a baseline.

   Continue with step two at least a week later to allow enough time between viewings of the source material.
2. Watch the same film sample that was interpreted in step one and in manageable chunks, pause and process the information and record an English consecutive interpretation. Compare to the baseline tape. Journal thoughts about the difference in the quality of the interpretation, length of the chunks that are interpreted, etc.
3. Approximately a week later, review journal to assist in remembering how long the typical process time was from the week prior. AGAIN, videotape consecutively interpreting the same film sample. However, this time make attempts at taking in larger chunks of information than last week's practice. At the conclusion of this practice session, write a comparative analysis of length of processing time, size of chunks, quality of the English interpretation, etc.
4. Continue with this activity using the same film sample through until the size of the chunks becomes "unmanageable". At that point, film a second simultaneous interpretation of the original source text with an emphasis on using process time to wait to interpret the amount of information that could be handled and resulted in a quality interpretation.

Materials

Video samples of Deaf presenters or Deaf/hearing interactions with a particular emphasis on materials with a rapid pace and/or containing technical information
Technology to support video recording. Depending on which technology used, storage for work samples - DVD, thumbdrive etc
Journal

Suggested Timelines

1. Work on one tape (approximately 5-10 minutes of source material) through the steps at least one month working weekly for approximately 1 hour per session including time for videotaping, analyzing, and journaling.
2. Work 3 months on 3 tapes and meet with mentor at the conclusion of work on these 3 tapes.
3. Mentor/Mentee will review the journal notes (analysis of the activity work). Mentee may contact Mentor between sessions to seek assistance.

Next Steps

Proceed on to another film sample with an attempt to escalate in terms of degree of complexity (which includes content and pace) and length. Return to Steps 1-4.

Progress Measurements

From the journaling, mentee will be able to determine whether longer chunks are being interpreted and therefore more process time is being used AND if the quality of the interpretation is similar or improved. The goal is to increase the quality of the simultaneous interpretation while using process time equivalent to that done in the consecutive work that was "accurate" and "equivalent" without suffering the effects of too lengthy a processing time.