Category

ASL to English Interpreting *cross reference English Language Use*

Activity Domain/Targeted skill area

Register/ developing range of discourse and prosodic markers of formal register

Developed by

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Step-by-Step Description of Activity

Activity is designed to reduce colloquialisms and other markers of a more casual register when in a formal discourse environment

Identification Phase:
Review samples of natural formal register English language and ASL to English interpreting in formal register to determine whether this is an issue in natural language and/ or specific to interpreting.

In journal, mentee will note what is affecting the process (speed, terms, communication participants, discourse.). For those terms and phrases that are colloquial/more casual in register or articulations that are of a more casual register (ex. gonna), mentee will list alternative terms and phrases and will record a retell of the English segments. Identify a person who is accustomed to formal register and have that person listen to the product to assist in identifying moments when register moves to a more casual form. Journal the results. Re-tape and have the same listener determine the amount of improvement. Do this until you feel satisfied with the product. Move on to new source, telling stories, interacting with other people, ranging the register intentionally. Self-analyze and then have the listener review and continue with this process for at least 2 months working once a week on a new text.

Concurrent Monitoring Phase:
Each week, mentee will identify and journal 5-7 examples of markers of casual register , particularly colloquialisms that are frequently used in everyday language use and interpretation. Later determine an equivalent, yet more general mainstream phrase that may be used as an alternative. Each pair will be kept in a journal for future review and reference.

Interpreting Phase:
At the end of the two months, record a ASL to English interpretation (preferably re-interpreting the interpreting portfolio segment) utilizing some of these more general phrases in place of more casual register discourse. Review the filmed sample and journal and compare. Proceed through the remainder of the portfolio segments and on to new samples with this same process (one text per week.)

Materials

Researched material on register and prosody.
Technology to support video recording. Depending on which technology used, storage for work samples - DVD, thumbdrive etc
Journal
ASL stimulus video clips

Suggested Timelines
To be done once a week for four months, 30 minutes to an hour for each session Meeting once per month, mentee should bring journal and any video samples made as well as the analysis information from the listener.
Next Steps
Exercise could then be done initially intralingually in ASL then using English as the source language working into ASL.
Progress Measurements
Journal, comparative assessment of samples, documented input from the listener.