Category
ASL Language Use
Activity Domain/Targeted skill area
Classifiers/SASS - To provide an opportunity for the interpreter to internalize the use of size and shape specifiers and incorporate them into interpretations.
Developed by
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Step-by-Step Description of Activity

Assumed prior knowledge : Can recognize SASSs in an ASL text by watching an ASL text and making note of when they occur.

Activities sequenced by complexity

* Watch a model ASL text incorporating SASSs and produce those CLs as they occur (in isolation).

* Watch ASL model text and look for SASSs in it.

* Shadow SASSs only as they occur in text.

* Work with "Good Dog Carl" books and practice signing what you see in the pictures, focusing specifically on the CLs. (For those of you not familiar with this series of picture books - it's an excellent resource - great for addressing use of space as well. The books are about a dog that takes care of a baby and the many adventures they have.)

* Walk through a room and describe everything in it (within reason).

* Describe different people in catalogs, pictures, family members, etc.

* Brainstorm different uses of the handshapes in ASL. Ex. do one handshape a day/or week and see how many different uses you can think of or notice in model texts.

* Use a CL bucket – ice cream bucket with a hole cut in the top, so that mentee can't see what's in it. Have mentee feel an object in there, and describe it using CLs.

* Sign a recipe.

* Using a visual (picture) dictionary - at random, pick a picture and describe it using CLs.

* Describe similar objects. Ex. shoes - how are two pair of shoes different? How are they alike? Other ideas are people, clothing, etc.

* Practice "interpreting" silent movies (some can be found at Pixar.com)

* Practice signing what's happening on a videogame - lots of shapes and movements.

Step-by-Step description:

(At home)

1. Week One - Select one activity per at-home practice session from the activities above. Keep a log of what CL or SASSs could be incorporated for each (e.g., if describing shoes, list the specific CL & SASSs that could be used to describe each pair of shoes.)
2. Second week, go back through the same activities and without reviewing the log entries. Film yourself signing the descriptions of the same objects from Week , intentionally focusing on incorporating as many CLs and SASSs as you can remember.
3. Review filmed sample and note the CL and SASSs used.
4. Compare the film sample with the log entries in your journal. Note instances where more or different CL or SASSs could be used. Compare the number of CL/SASSs used in the sample compared to the log. Are there more or less? Why?

(At meeting with mentor)

1. Review recognition activity, showing mentor all instances of SASS incorporation in one text.

2. Watch same text together again and discuss any that may have been missed.

3. Mentor explains goal and purpose of new activity.

4. Go back through same ASL text and produce each SASS as they occur.

5. Practice 1-2 minutes of a new text together.

6. Discuss any issues that arise.

7. Continue work and wrap up session - making appointment for next meeting.

Post Meeting:

1. Interpreter or mentor (or combined) will identify 3-4 additional texts to work with.

2. Interpreter will commit to practicing until next meeting. Note - keep practice sessions limited to only 15-20 minutes each time.

3. Interpreter will log SASSs - handshape and descriptor.

4. Interpreter will log instances of incorporation, including activity, topic, environment and audience.

Materials

- Angela Petrone Straitiy's CL videotape
- Read With Me series of children stories in ASL from BoysTown
- ASL Monologues from Gallaudet - specifically looking for topics of familiarity
- Technology to support video recording. Depending on which technology used, storage for work samples - DVD, thumbdrive etc
- Log of Classifiers/SASS attempts and techniques applied
- Good Dog, Carl books by Alexandra Day
- Picture Dictionary
- Catalogs, magazines and family photos
- Ice cream bucket
- Various objects to describe

Suggested Timelines

2-3 times weekly for 15 minutes each time

Next Steps

Move towards working with English texts, interpreting into ASL

Progress Measurements

Interpreter will keep a log of practice sessions, identifying any struggles, any instances that were easier than others for discussion with their mentor. Interpreter will note instances of incorporation in the regular work.