

November 17, 2011 - Article and Abstract

Article

Comprehension of Sign Language Interpreting: Deciphering a Complex Task Situation by Marc Marschark, Patricia Sapere, Carol Convertino, Rosemarie Seewagen, and Heather Maltzen.

Abstract

Remarkably few studies have examined the outcomes of sign language interpreting. Three experiments reported here examine deaf students' comprehension of interpreting in American Sign Language and English-based signing (transliteration) as a function of their sign language skills and preferences. In Experiments 1 and 2, groups of deaf students varying in their sign language skills viewed either an ASL or English-based interpretation of a nontechnical lecture, followed by either a written comprehension test (Experiment 1) or a signed comprehension test (Experiment 2). Experiment 3 involved a more technical (physics) lecture, separate testing of students with greater ASL or English-based sign skills and preferences, and control of students' prior content knowledge. Results consistently demonstrate that regardless of the deaf students' reported sign language skills and preferences, they were equally competent in comprehending ASL interpreting and English transliteration, but they gained less knowledge from lectures than hearing peers in comparison groups. The results raise questions about how much deaf students actually learn in interpreted classrooms and the link between their communication preferences and learning.

January 17, 2012 - Article and Abstract

Article

Identifying Movement Patterns and Severity of Associated Pain in Sign Language Interpreters by Freeman, Julie K. ; Rogers, Janet L.

Abstract

This research sought to identify the most common movement patterns and postures performed by sign language interpreters and the frequency and severity of any pain that may be

associated with the movements. A survey was developed and mailed to registered sign language interpreters throughout the state of Illinois. For each specific upper extremity movement pattern and posture the respondents were requested to rate the following on a Likert Scale: the frequency of the task in terms of number of hours of task performance, the frequency of pain associated with the movement pattern or posture in terms of numbers of times per week the pain is experienced with the movement pattern or posture and the perceived severity of the pain experienced. Results were analyzed for frequency of performed movements or postures, frequency of pain with specific movements or postures, and the severity of pain with each task. Recommendations, based on the results, focused on "signing" in a biomechanically correct manner as well as postural and stress reducing exercises programs.

March 22, 2012-Article and Abstract

Article

Respect in the Face of Witnessing Oppression: It Can Be Done by Amy Elizabeth Seiberlich

Abstract

This article explores the challenges interpreters face on a daily basis as we are asked to maneuver between two cultures, languages and communities. Part of this challenge is dealing with "outsiders" who do not completely understand the role of the interpreter. The nature of our work requires that we witness the lives of others in a way that no other profession can justify. Because of this, a significant part of our day is spent trying to equalize power and communication dynamics between Deaf 1 and hearing people. Regardless of the situation, interpreters regularly bear witness to Deaf people being treated differently than their hearing peers. The effects of repeatedly witnessing even subtle forms of oppression play a significant role in interpreter's maltreatment of one another, and inhibit our ability to achieve common professional goals.

Article

Spatial Referencing and Cohesion in an American Sign Language Text by Elizabeth A. Winston

Abstract

Spatial referencing in American Sign Language (ASL) functions at both the lexical and the discourse levels. In discourse, it can be used by a signer to produce cohesion in comparisons, performatives, and time mapping. The occurrence and function of spatial referencing in an ASL text as it produces cohesion is examined.