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WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS FOR WILLIAM F. ROSS III, M.S., CI/CT

WORKSHOPS FOCUSED ON LANGUAGE AND INTERPRETING DEVELOPMENT

Incorporating Expansion Techniques in Your Interpreting

The language differences in American Sign Language and spoken English require that interpreters employ various expansion and compression techniques to achieve message equivalency. Expansion techniques are used when interpreting from English to American Sign Language; the goal is to make implicit information in the source language more explicit in the target language. If interpreters are unfamiliar with expansion techniques, the resulting work will demonstrate unnatural phrasing, incorrect grammatical structures, and errors in production. The goal of this workshop is to expose interpreters to various expansion techniques and apply, through practice 3-4, specified techniques found in American Sign Language. [Offered with either educational or community focus-select one]

Expansion Techniques: Scaffolding our Space

American Sign Language and spoken English are very different languages and to achieve message equivalency interpreters must incorporate expansion techniques into their interpretation. The seven recognized expansion techniques are: Contrasting, Faceting, Reiteration, Utilizing 3D Space, Explaining by Example, Couching or Scaffolding, and Describe then Do. The goal of expansion techniques is to improve **clarity** – they are used in order to make implicit information in the source language more explicit in the target language. In this workshop we will unpack all of the expansion techniques, but we will focus our energy on utilizing 3D space, which is invariably coupled with classifiers. If interpreters are unfamiliar with expansion techniques, the resulting work will demonstrate unnatural phrasing, incorrect grammatical structures, and errors in production. During this workshop interpreters will be exposed to all of the expansion techniques, yet we will focus our energy on correctly using **classifiers, 3D space** and **scaffolding** all found in the accurate use of American Sign Language.

Am I Seeing It Right, but Saying It Wrong?

Providing a voiced interpretation for a Deaf presenter has some unique challenges. Suppose they open their story saying there are three generations of Deafness in their family, or maybe they discuss their oral education, and later explain that they learned ASL at a residential school and finally ending their story as a mainstreamed student - what do we say? Research shows that uninitiated (hearing) people do not attached the same meaning to terms that we have come to use so freely when we are interpreting. When we inadvertently incorporate jargon, subject specific vocabulary and culturally rich terms in our interpretation we actually create distance between speaker and attendees. This workshop will provide interpreters ways to manage deaf-centric terminology, thus helping interpreters to render a more comprehensible interpretation. Attention will be given to techniques that aid in developing greater receptive ability. Additional topics: vocabulary/register, recognizing numbers/fingerspelling, regional sign production, and semantically rich signs. [Participants will have an opportunity to utilize a voice interpreting matrix in small groups]

Avoiding the Rabbit Trail

“When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean – neither more nor less.”-Lewis Carol, author of Alice in Wonderland. How many times have you been interpreting and you feel as though you are chasing meaning or maybe you are simply signing what is being said? Our desire is to offer an interpretation that is beyond the surface structure of language. This workshop hopes to conquer those concerns by employing **Socratic Circles** to take message analysis to a deeper level. We will work to convey abstract concepts in meaningful ways that lend to message equivalency, not solely message accuracy; thus, encouraging us to become more sensitive to meta-messages, inference/implication and other vague language forms. Participants will practice managing figurative and arbitrary language, which are often used to subtly shift meaning. Each of these language features complicates the work we

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do as interpreters. This *advanced workshop* will focus on the skills needed to enhance deep language processing and determine the genuine meaning of the speaker's message as we seek liberty through knowledge.

Connecting the Dots with Cohesive Devices

Have you ever felt like you couldn't "connect the dots" while you were interpreting? Rather than producing a clear and cohesive interpretation all that was rendered was a list of facts, ideas and sentences. One of the most important elements to an articulate message is the inclusion of cohesive devices. Cohesive devices, also known as discourse markers, are elements that make overt connections between thoughts, ideas and concepts. Linguistic cohesion helps a listener determine the relationship between sentences, enabling them to predict what is coming, and to make sense of what was said. The research concerning message cohesion indicates that practitioners often create interpretations lacking cohesion; this is evidenced in the work of both spoken and sign language interpreters. This workshop will address cohesive devices, their function, and will allow ample time to practice incorporating them into our work.

Discourse Analysis -WHAT?

Discourse analysis takes the high-speed work we do as interpreters and slows it down; furthermore, the message is divided into ten manageable and identifiable parts. This workshop will work from spoken English into American Sign Language. Utilizing a brief video recording (under four minutes), participants will walk through the work of interpreting giving consideration to some of the obvious parts of interpreting, as well as, some of the more subtle and complex aspects of the work. Based on the work of Anna Witter-Merithew, this training will address the identification and development of critical interpreting features such as: Content mapping, salient linguistic features in both the target/source language and visualization mapping. This training is hands on, allowing participants time to practice and discuss each step along the journey of discourse analysis.

Being Comfortable in the Uncomfortable

Sign Language interpreting is not a profession for those who are uncomfortable with change. Interpreting is an ever-developing field that requires its practitioners to change, adapt, and grow. Often, the issue is not the lack of desire to change, rather it is creating **lasting change**. How do we, as interpreters, know what we should be changing; what should we keep, tweak or trash? How can we improve our work in ways that are identifiable and visible? In this training we will utilize some proven tools to create genuine change. Collectively, we will identify potential areas of growth, then individually we will draft SMART goals. In addition, we will employ deliberate practice through focused interpreting as we work to transform our current skill set. Specific areas that participants will have an opportunity to address are voice interpreting, semantic intent, expansion techniques, and developing realistic and tangible goals.

Mixed-up Genres

American Sign Language and English handle various language features differently. Differences can be seen in the use of pluralization and constructed dialogues (role shifting). This workshop proposes that the difference in *discourse genre* should also be managed differently when we are interpreting. Where does register end and genre begin? We use varying styles or forms of register and discourse when communicating – some factors that influence register and genre are the goal of the speaker, social context, and audience to name a few. To communicate more effectively and clearly, speakers often make changes in their discourse type (or genre). Some examples of discourse are narratives, persuasive arguments, procedural information and anecdotal comments; we use these styles every day during our dialogues. This training will identify several discourse types and will identify differing methods that sign language interpreters can utilize to manage those difference in their interpretation.

Developing Receptive Skills

Improving visual receptive language skills among sign language interpreters is the focus of this training. Many interpreters for the Deaf today acquire American Sign Language as a second language. Receptive skills and voice interpreting are separate skills, yet both are needed to render an accurate interpretation (each will be addressed

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using a variety of stimulus materials). Attention will be given to various techniques that aid in developing greater receptive ability thus providing interpreters with the tools needed to address areas of concern. Some topics addressed: Sign-word pairs, contextual clues, deaf-centric terms, numeric recognition, fingerspelling, regional signs, and techniques used to elicit repetition from Deaf speakers.

The Three R's – Real Reputation Restoration

In the field of interpreting a solid reputation is invaluable. We know that our reputation is built over our lifetime, but can be destroyed in a moment. The purpose of this workshop is twofold: To help repair damaged reputations and come alongside others to help restore their reputation. Many of us have done things in our past that we regret; some of those things have damaged our reputation – maybe as an interpreter or maybe as a person. One goal of this workshop is to present practical tips and techniques to restore a damaged relationship/reputation. In addition, those with a solid reputation may want to give back by helping to repair the damaged reputations of those around us. We can come alongside others in need of reputation repair; this workshop will provide tools to get them back on the road to success by owning the past and paving a new future.

The Meaning of Meaning: Etymology & Semantics

For a language to survive it must be alive, growing and changing. As interpreters, we need to be aware of those language changes; both in English and American Sign Language. This workshop will examine ASL and the relationship between etymology and semantics as both address meaning. Etymology tends to look backwards at the original meaning of the signs whereas semantics typically tends to focus on the current meaning of signs or concepts ascribed by a community. We will engage in discussion about semantically rich signs, which are used and understood by native users of a language. However, the intended meaning of such signs is often figurative in nature; therefore our comprehension cannot depend on the literal or accepted production of such signs. While exploring the content of this training we will consider the potential impact on our work as sign language interpreters.

Transliterating-Interpreting: What's the Difference?

What is the difference between interpreting and transliterating-do we know? Most of us would answer, 'yes' since we have a general understanding of the principles of interpreting and transliterating (coding). However, in practice, the act of analyzing our consumers' language preference and providing a signed message, whether interpreted or transliterated, in an equivalent manner may not come as easily. This workshop is designed to offer an explanation by providing a practical comparisons (and models); the challenges of transliteration (coding) will be discussed. The major aspects of each, interpreting and transliterating, will be clearly defined, thereafter, opportunities will be provided for participants to put into practice what knowledge they have gained by way of hands-on practice activities.

Interpreting what they Mean, Not what they Say

Very often interpreters feel bound to the English words, and find it difficult or daunting to **drop the form** of the words and determine the actual intent, meaning, or concept of the message. To accurately interpret from **English into American Sign Language**, we must focus on meaning and not necessarily the words we hear. We must understand the meaning of the message we are hearing to be able to clearly express it in the target language. This workshop will focus on some of the most vital aspects of the process of interpreting. This includes, hearing the message to analyze for meaning, formulate the message and finally produce an equivalent message in ASL. When do we *retain form* instead of *releasing form* and still preserve meaning of the message? Can we convey abstract concepts in a meaningful way that lends to message equivalency, not solely message accuracy? Utilizing practice time this workshop will answer these questions and more.

Living in the In-Between: Children of Deaf Adults

Hearing children of Deaf parents often find themselves moving between worlds. Frequently growing up in a society that is culturally and linguistically different than that of their home. Their ability to hear puts them in a unique

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position; that of a native, but not a member of the Deaf community. Ironically, these natives do not always gain mastery of the culture or language used by the majority culture...they grow up in-between worlds. The children who experience this phenomenon are referred to third culture kids as children raised in a culture other than their parents' or the culture of another "country" for a significant part of their early years. Are they bicultural and bilingual – sometimes, but not always. How do they identify themselves...as hearing, as Deaf or CODA? Come to this facilitated forum to discuss, to share, and to understand that one size does not fit all!

Team Interpreting...There's No 'I' in Team

As interpreters, we are often placed in settings that are physically and mentally demanding, thus we rely upon our colleague. It is critical for each interpreter to be a team player; we must be a supportive colleague while working. The professional courtesies of trust, humility and respect (to name a few) will be addressed. The way in which we handle responsibilities, communication, and environment management will be considered before and after an assignment. This training will also discuss: the "Open Process," the process of team interpreting, dysfluency, logistics and rapport. Lastly, providing appropriate feedback in an objective, work focused, impartial manner will be presented, modeled and practiced.

Presenter under Construction

This workshop is relevant to **anyone**, Deaf or hearing, who has thought about becoming a presenter. The material offered in this training provides a framework for those who want to develop and offer workshops. Individuals interested in presenting often struggle with feeling of insecurity, nervousness or they just don't know where to begin. Often budding presenters possess the knowledge and skills but need a place to "pull it altogether." This workshop will offer the ideas, tools and the practice needed to begin developing workshops on their own. Many pragmatics of workshop development will be discussed such as attire, appropriate use of PowerPoint (PPT), teaching strategies (bulleted listed, scripts, PPT notes), co-presentation, research and creating beneficial hands on activities. Potential training topics will be suggested. There will be time for application of the skills acquired at which time each participant will have the opportunity to develop a brief, but relevant training; the participants will also have time to write (tweak) their biography, workshop description or begin developing their own training. **[Participants should bring a laptop (with USB port) and, if available, their most current bio and ideas for a tentative workshop including a description; presenter will provide participants with the PowerPoints for 2 different workshops]**

The Practical Side of Interpreting: Resumes, Invoices, Branding & Interview Questions

Representing ourselves on paper in a professional and practical manner is an important part of our work - though not often given adequate consideration. This workshop will address how to showcase your interpreting skills in the most practical ways. Attention will be given to designing resumes, invoices, logo images and compiling all the data into a DVD/flash drive portfolio. Guidelines as to how to make each document appear professional, functional and easy to send in electronic format, as well as current trends and language regarding each will be presented and discussed. Work samples will be provided along with tips on ways to answer interview questions will be discussed and modeled. An excellent workshop for anyone, but especially for new or soon to graduate interpreters! Participants will have time to draft their profile, biography or preliminary resume. **[Participants should bring a laptop and, if available, their most current resume]**

Interpreting - The Dark Side

The interpreting profession has a sense of camaraderie unlike many other professions. As part of a human services profession we have the honor and privilege of being present at some of the most sacred moments in the lives of Deaf people. Yet, in spite of all this goodness, there is a darker, less desirable side to our profession. Some of the dark marks on our profession are lateral (or horizontal) violence, the absence of grace and compassion for our colleagues, and personal/professional comparisons. These are just a few of the "weeds" growing in the field of interpreting, however, it does not have to remain this way. This workshop will address being agents of change,

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deliberately building goodwill, and additional strategies to become undivided, whole practitioners for our own benefit and for the benefit of the people we serve.