

Action Plan – English Intrusions

Goal - Skill to improve:

Reduce unnatural word choices and/or grammatical structure that does not make sense in the target language.

Source: English

Target: ASL

Related terms: source language intrusions; glossing; interference; literal interpretation; word-for-word; “signing English”

Root cause - What is causing the error in your work?

- Did you have problems understanding exactly what the hearing person said in English? (comprehension)
- Was the source information unfamiliar to you? (background knowledge)
- Did you have a clear mental picture of what the hearing person meant? (visualization)
- Did you know how to interpret what the hearing person meant, using effective ASL vocabulary and grammar? (reformulation)
- While you were interpreting, did you simultaneously check your interpretation to see if it made sense? (monitoring)
- Did you prepare to interpret a concept, but then forget it? (memory)

Knowledge Resources:

1) Read “Processing models, a workshop” by David Bar-Tzur –

<http://www.theinterpretersfriend.org/pd/ws/pcsg-mdls/text.html>

2) Read the expansion article located on the “Interpreter Discourse: English to ASL Expansion/ASL to English Compression” by L. Finton and R. Smith on CD-ROM (may not be available in all centers – can be purchased from RIT or www.dawnsignpress.com).

Activities:

1) Watch the “Immigration” scenario from the NIC Practice DVD. Pause the DVD when you hear a word or phrase that could be an English intrusion in an interpretation. Brainstorm several potential options for that word or phrase and which would be the most effective choice and why. Identify any patterns where you may potentially rely on fingerspelling or one sign for certain words or phrases.

2) Using the CD-ROM, “Interpreter Discourse: English to ASL Expansion/ASL to English Compression” by L. Finton and R. Smith, select at least three different English-to-ASL interpreting expansion techniques to focus on. Film your English-to-ASL interpretation of each of the sentences included in each expansion technique. Journal your initial thoughts regarding the interpretation and potential consequences to both consumers, hearing and deaf. Review the interpretations and compare with the ASL model on the CD-ROM. Brainstorm other options for ASL word choices.