

Action Plan – Incorrect / Non-Standard Vocabulary

Goal - Skill to improve:

Reduce ineffective sign choices that would not make sense to the target audience due to being the incorrect concept or being a variation that is not widely known (i.e. regional signs, etc.).

Source: English

Target: ASL

Related terms: form and meaning, conceptual inaccuracy

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 this resource: Page 29 in Interpretation Skills: English to American Sign Language by Marty M. Taylor, Ph.D. regarding semantic accuracy as it relates to vocabulary choices. (available for purchase at <http://www.aslinterpreting.com>)

2) Read this resource: Isham, William P. (1986) *The Role of Message Analysis in Interpretation*, in Marina McIntire (ed.) *Interpreting: The Art of Cross Cultural Mediation*, Linstok Press: RID Publications, 151-165. (This document can be accessed by center management in the SharePoint QSSR "Materials Library" section.)

Activities:

1) Journal your current interpreting process for determining the most effective vocabulary choices as it relates to providing conceptual accuracy within the interpretation. Evaluate whether or not there are any pieces missing in your interpreting process (comprehension, background knowledge, visualization, reformulation, monitoring, memory) which could contribute to occasional errors related to vocabulary choices.

2) Have a colleague write five to ten sentences that include English idioms or vocabulary that has several potential meanings depending on context and consumer. Brainstorm effective vocabulary choices that would express message equivalency in a potential English-to-ASL interpretation. Practice your interpretations and jot down concepts that were difficult to convey.

3) Record your English-to-ASL interpretation of the "Immigration" scenario on the NIC Interview and Performance Practice DVD. Afterwards, review your interpretation and gauge your success in producing message equivalency through effective vocabulary choices. Mark instances of incorrect or non-standard vocabulary within the work and journal as to the root cause which contributed to the incorrect or non-standard vocabulary used. Brainstorm more effective options for areas that were marked as incorrect or non-standard. Film a second interpretation of the "Immigration" scenario, specifically focused on more effective vocabulary choices. Review the interpretation and journal improvements in the work and how it affects the overall interpretation.

