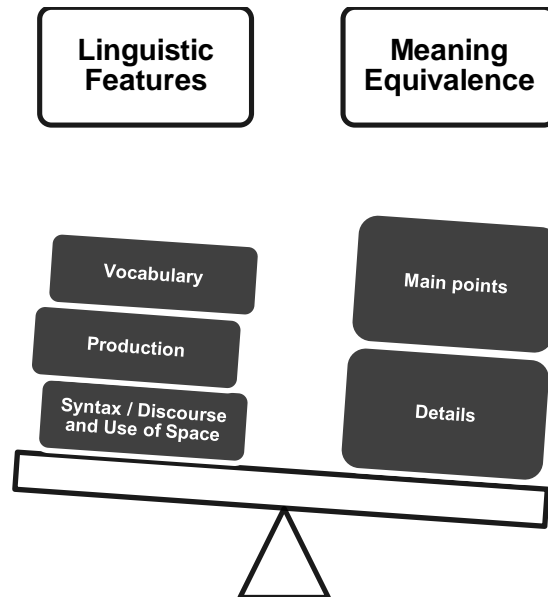


The Qualitative Skill-Set Rating (QSSR) analyzes the *meaning equivalence* and *linguistic features* of a filmed interpretation. Although both categories are highly important, for scoring purposes the meaning equivalence is considered more important than the linguistic features. This page summarizes the categories and terms included in typical assessment results.



ASL to English Interpreting	
Main Points Equivalence	Main points were effectively represented
Details Equivalence	Details were effectively represented
Vocabulary	Vocabulary was appropriate for intent and register, while avoiding ASL intrusions
Production	Clear pronunciation, volume, tone, pitch, and pacing/pausing
English Syntax / Discourse	Correct English word order, sentence types, tense, and discourse markers

English to ASL Interpreting	
Main Points Equivalence	Main points were effectively represented
Details Equivalence	Details were effectively represented
Vocabulary	Vocabulary was appropriate for intent and register, while avoiding English intrusions
Production	Clearly produced fingerspelling, numbers, and signs with natural pacing/pausing
ASL Syntax / Discourse	Correct ASL sign order, sentence types, tense, and discourse markers
Use of Space	Appropriate use of directional verbs, constructed action, constructed dialogue, eye gaze, contrastive structure, indexing, classifiers, etc.

Terminology

Additions: meaning inequivalence due to extra information that was not intended in the source message (e.g. MY NAME fs-SHEILA fs-WALKER ≠ “My name is Sheila Medina Walker”)

Adverbial nonmanuals: ASL mouth movements that show duration, intensity, relative distance, etc. (e.g. pah, cha, puffed cheeks, etc.)

Affect: observable expressions of emotion, such as facial expressions, gestures, tone of voice, laughter, etc.; errors may be related to seeming inaccurately angry, impatient, hesitant, confused, inaccurate emotional tone, monotone, lack of expression, or exaggeration.

Avoiding use of fingerspelling: ASL vocabulary error marked by ineffectively signing words that should be fingerspelled or accompanied by fingerspelling

Classifiers: depictions of size, shape, location, and/or movement of nouns

Constructed action/dialogue: the act of becoming the characters and objects within an ASL message, and showing action or dialogue rather than telling about it; during constructed action/dialogue, the interpreter’s eye gaze looks towards space/characters

Contrastive structure: use of space in ASL that is used to compare concepts

Demeanor: refers to the interpreter’s ability to focus on the interpreting task without distracting mannerisms or statements that show the interpreter’s personal feelings, e.g. inappropriate reactions to errors, facial expressions, side comments, laughter, and other behaviors directly related to the interpreter rather than the consumers; demeanor also includes distracting movements, noises, and appearance

Details: specific information in the source message, e.g. numbers, proper nouns, and other important particulars that support the main points

Directional verbs: ASL verbs that include spatial information; for example, the sign GIVE already has the subject and object embedded in it (i.e. who is giving the item and to whom)

Discourse: general category of linguistic features related to the entire context of a communication event, e.g. the relationships of the participants, status, culture, gender, schema, etc.

Discourse markers: words, phrases, pausing, or nonmanuals that create cohesive transitions in a conversation or lecture by linking together ideas and signaling what will happen next; ASL discourse markers may include WARN, INFORM, CURIOUS, UNDERSTAND, ANYWAY, PUSH-ASIDE, BACK-UP, #OK, etc.; English discourse markers include “oh,” “okay,” “now,” “so,” “basically,” “first,” “second,” “finally,” etc.

Eye gaze: movement of the interpreter’s eyes that signal topicalization, characters, etc.; during “narrator mode”, the interpreter should maintain eye contact with the consumer(s); the interpreter looks toward space/characters during constructed action and constructed dialogue

Fingerspelling production: clarity of fingerspelling; errors may be related to handshape, movement, natural transitions between letters, misspellings, etc.

Grammar nonmanuals: eyebrow movements and head movements that signal sentence types (e.g. eyebrows up for yes/no questions, eyebrows down for wh questions, eyebrows up for topics, conditionals and rhetorical, head moves back and forth for negation, etc.)

Handshape: specific manual configuration for an ASL sign

Inappropriate mouthing: distracting mouth movements while signing that do not serve functions to show grammar, adverbials, or affect (e.g. exaggerated English mouthing, exaggerated tongue movements, etc.)

Incomplete thoughts: unfinished sentences signed/said by the interpreter that do not become full ideas (e.g. “I decided to... Where should we go for dinner?” or “I want something the store”); errors may also be related to using a pronoun without saying what it refers to, deleting the verb of a sentence, etc.

Incorrect/non-standard vocabulary: ineffective sign/word choices that do not make sense for the context and/or intended meaning; the sign/word choices may not be clear for the target audience due to being an incorrect concept or being a variation that is not widely known (i.e. regional signs, etc.)

Indexing in space: structuring space in ASL to refer to people, places, and things; space can be used horizontally, vertically, etc.

Indexing/listing on hand: using a listing technique on the interpreter’s fingers to refer to specific items

Intrusions: unnatural word choices and/or grammar that occur when the source language unduly influences the interpretation, e.g. RAIN+++ ≠ “It rained and rained and rained” (ASL intrusion) and “He was bitten by the dog last week” ≠ fs-HE BITE #DOG FINAL WEEK” (English intrusions)

Linguistic features: characteristics of language symbols, including vocabulary, production, syntax, use of space, etc.; features of a language refer to the specific form of how the concept was said or signed

Location / contact point: specific placement of the hand(s) expected for a sign or letter in ASL; errors may be related to unclear production of where the interpreter’s hands stop or touch

Main points: the fundamental concepts in the source message; very general information; the goal(s) of the signer/speaker

Meaning equivalence: accuracy of the target message in an interpretation; refers to how the interpreter conveys the same content and spirit of the participants’ messages; errors may be related to omissions, skews, additions, etc.

Movement: specific motions of the hand(s) expected for a sign or letter in ASL

Nonmanual markers: see adverbial nonmanuals and grammar nonmanuals

Non-standard English grammar: idiosyncratic errors of English syntax, such as incorrect subject-verb agreement, nouns, verbs, prepositions, plurals, articles, adjectives, adverbs, etc.

Numbers production: clarity of numbers; errors may be related to handshape, movement, natural transitions between numbers, money rules, etc.

Omissions: meaning inequivalence due to deleted information (e.g. fs-SHEILA fs-WALKER ≠ "My name is Sheila")

Overuse of fingerspelling: ASL vocabulary error marked by unnecessarily fingerspelling words that should have been signed or omitted

Pacing/pausing: flow and speed of ASL sentences and English sentences; errors may be related to long pauses, pauses mid-thought, fast pacing, slow pacing, etc.

Palm orientation: specific position of the hand(s) expected for a sign or letter in ASL; errors may be related to unclear production of which direction the interpreters palm is facing

Production: general category of linguistic features related to the clarity of signs/words; in ASL this includes fingerspelling, numbers, signs, and pacing/pausing; in English this includes pronunciation, volume, tone/pitch, and pacing/pausing

Pronouns: words that represent nouns, e.g. "he," "she," "they," etc.

Pronunciation: clarity of spoken words; errors may be related to muttering, spoonerisms, or other peculiarities while speaking that make words difficult to comprehend

Redundant concepts: phrases and/or sentences that are repeated unnecessarily (e.g. "I really want to know how I can help him.... How can I help him?... Because he really needs me to support him.")

Register: the level of formality in a situation; often categorized as formal, consultative, informal/casual, intimate, or frozen; register affects vocabulary choices, fingerspelling rules, pronunciation, size of sign space, ellipsis (leaving out information that is expected to be understood), and other signing and speech patterns; it establishes social distance - unspoken rules of who has the power to manage turn-taking, topics, expectations of politeness, etc.

Sentence types (ASL): topic-comment, conditional, yes /no questions, wh questions, rhetorical, declarative, or imperative, etc.; topic-comment structure is very common in ASL; grammar nonmanuals often mark questions

Sentence types (English): subject-verb-object, passive voice, conditional, yes /no questions, wh questions, declarative, or imperative, etc.; subject-verb-object structure is very common in English; intonation often marks questions

Sign order: the sequence of signs within an ASL sentence; errors may be related to intrusions from English grammar

Sign size too small or large (sign envelope): an ASL production error related to signing space being too limited or being on too broad of a canvas; errors may be related to tightening up shoulders, raising elbows, extending arms too far, etc.

Skews: meaning inequivalence due to incorrect information (e.g. MY NAME fs-SHEILA fs-WALKER ≠ “My name is Cecilia Waters”)

Stammering: false starts of a word or phrase (e.g. “I need to - well I need to get some information,” “How-how much is required?,” etc.)

Syntax: general category of linguistic features related to grammar, e.g. sign/word order, sentence types, tense, discourse markers, complete thoughts, redundancy, etc.

Tense: a part of syntax that conveys the timing of thoughts in the past, present, and future; in ASL, tense is often set at the beginning of a topic by individual signs (e.g. FINISH, WILL, NOT-YET, etc.); in English tense is repeated in every sentence through a combination of words and suffixes (e.g. walkeded, is walking, will walk)

Tone/pitch: the high/low sound frequency of spoken words

Unnecessary use of space: using space excessively when other ASL vocabulary and/or grammar would have been more effective

Use of space: general category of linguistic features that includes use of classifiers, directional verbs, constructed action, constructed dialogue, eye gaze, contrastive structure, indexing, etc.

Vocabulary: general category of linguistic features related to sign/word choices; errors may be related to incorrect sign/word choices, non-standard sign/word choices, register, intrusions, etc.

Volume: the audibility of spoken words; errors may be related to being too loud or too soft

Word order: the sequence of words within an English sentence; errors may be related to intrusions from ASL grammar