The Academic Foundations of Interpreting Studies

An Introduction to Its Theories

Reaching New Heights in Textbooks

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Conference of Interpreter Trainers
Reaching New Heights in Interpreter Education
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Agenda

• Provide an overview of our new book
• Discuss the key ideas of 6 disciplines
• Discuss how these 6 disciplines can/do inform IS
• Discuss how this text might be used
All chapters include:

• Opening quotes and comments to the chapter
• Subsections
• Key questions within the chapter
• Images and pictures of scholars
• Discussion questions at end of chapter
• Further readings at end of chapter
The discipline of Interpreting Studies
Through the Lens of History
Registers occasionally bear witness to unusual marriages wherein one of the contracting parties is defective or deformed. A marriage at St. Martin’s, Leicester, in 1576, wherein the man was **deaf** and dumb gave rise to a long entry:

“Feb. 15. Thomas Tilsye and Ursula Russel were maryed; and because the sayde Thomas was and is naturally **deafe**, and also dumbe, so that the order of the form of marriage used usually amongst others, which can heare and speake, could not for his parte be observed. After the approbation had from Thomas, the Bishoppe of Lincolne, John Chippendale, doctor in law, and commissarye, as also of Mr. Richd. Davye, then Mayor of the town of Leicester, with others of his brethren, with the rest of the parisyhe, the said Thomas, for the expressing of his mind instead of words, of his own accord used these signs: first, he embraced her with his arms, and took her by the hand, putt a ring upon her finger, and layde his hande upon his hearte, and then upon her hearte, and held up his handes toward heaven. And to show his continuance to dwell with her to his lyves ende, he did it by closing of his eyes with his handes, and digginge out of the earth with his foote, and pullinge as though he would ring a bell, with diverse other signes.”
Through the Lens of Translation
Through the Lens of Linguistics
Through the Lens of Sociology & Anthropology
Through the Lens of Social Psychology
Through the Lens of Cognitive Psychology
Applying the Lenses

1. Video relay user signs to the interpreter
2. Interpreter speaks to the phone user
3. Phone user responds
4. Interpreter signs the response
Applying the Lens of History
Through the Lens of Translation
Applying the Lens of Linguistics
Recently, I had a colleague, Brenda, who was observing me, say that men tend to match the hearing person instead of matching the deaf person. I guess, when I am listening to the hearing person, I tend to match that level instead of the [deaf person’s] register. I am not sure how I feel about that. It is a little unnerving.
havent gotten an answer, I go with my gut. My gut tells me to voice it as, (feigning a black dialect), “What up, whatcha fit’n do nite?” I am going to try to match that and relax a little with my signing. Make it clear but make it…in sync with what their conversation is.
Applying the Lens of Cognitive Psychology

VS.
Interpreting Studies

• To our minds, IS is the encompassing term for studies of interpreting between any language pair, and sign language interpreting is an area of study within IS.

• Our aim is to label IS for what it is, *transdisciplinary*. That is, IS examines interpreting at the nexus of multiple disciplines.

• This approach can potentially move us closer to more holistic analyses of interpreting which would become both the form and the theory of the discipline of IS and Sign Language Interpreting Studies (SLIS).