

EFFECTIVE USE OF INTERPRETERS

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EFFECTIVE USE OF INTERPRETERS

Translation, interpreting - what's the difference?

On the surface, the difference between interpreting and translation is the mode of expression:

- Translation is the process by which written text is rendered from one language into another. The original is in written form, and the translation into the other language is also produced in written form.
- Interpreting is the process by which oral communication is rendered from one language to another. The original is either spoken or signed language, and the rendition is delivered either in another spoken language or in a signed language.

In both interpretation and translation, while both language-related are not identical disciplines. Each requires specific knowledge, training, and practice. Some are equally adept at both; others specialize in one discipline or the other.

EFFECTIVE USE OF INTERPRETERS

Translation & interpreting

- The key skills of a good translator are:
 - the ability to write well and express oneself clearly as evidenced by a thorough knowledge of both source and target languages, as well as above-average familiarity with the particular subject matter and the culture of the country where the text originated using a good library of dictionaries and reference materials to render that material into the target language.

EFFECTIVE USE OF INTERPRETERS

INTERPRETING

- Interpreters must be able to command the vocabulary of all types of specialized speech varieties such specialized vocabularies is evidenced by special sections on barrio Spanish, idioms, drug terminology, medical terminology and social services and vehicle code vocabulary.
- Beyond the area of specialized vocabulary, interpreters must command a range of styles, in both their languages. These range from the most formal to the most casual.
- The role of the interpreter then, is to convert speech as it is heard in the source language into its nearest equivalent in the target language.
- There are four modes of interpreting:
 - Simultaneous
 - Consecutive
 - Sight translation
 - Summary Interpretation

TRANSLATING & INTERPRETING

In spite of the vast differences and skills of translators and interpreters, besides deep knowledge of both languages, it is crucial that they also understand the subject matter of the text or speech they are translating.

Translation and interpretation are not a matter of substituting words in one language for words in another.

It is a matter of understanding the thought expressed in one language and then explaining it using the resources and cultural nuances of another language.

BILINGUAL/BICULTURAL/LINGUIST

Bilingual

having or expressed in two languages

using or being able to use two languages especial with equal fluency

Bicultural

of, or relating to, two distinct cultures

Linguist

refers to someone who engages in the study of the nature, structure, and variation of language, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics, and pragmatics.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary>

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WHAT ABOUT TRANSLATION SOFTWARE?

- If you are pressed for time and want to get the gist of something for your own use, translation software may be helpful. It is certainly fast.
- As a general rule of thumb, do not use raw computer output for anything outbound. It is simply not suitable and you run the risk of being inarticulate on important issues.
- One word can have several meanings:
 - Órale
 - Gansito
 - Se me hizo fácil

CULTURAL COMPETENCY WHEN WORKING WITH SPANISH SPEAKING CLIENTS

LATINOS

- The word *Latino* or *Hispanic* usually describes people whose ancestors come from the Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America.
- The word *Latino* is also used to describe people of Spanish and Indian descent whose ancestors have always lived in areas of the Southwest that were once part of Mexico.
- The word *Latino* describes diverse ethnic cultural groups, not a singular religious or racial group.
- Latinos engage in a variety of religious and spiritual practices and may be White, Black, Indian, or Asian.
- Latinos most often identify themselves by their national origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Dominican, or Guatemalan for instance.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY WHEN WORKING WITH SPANISH SPEAKING CLIENTS

- What is cultural competency?
 - Speaking the language.
 - A little Spanish is worse than no Spanish
 - Examples of bad Spanish
 - How much
 - Discuss
 - Our shorthand does not translate well
 - Other languages have their own shorthand
 - Use of children/family/neighbors is not a good idea
 - Confidentiality issues
 - Involving children in adult matters
 - Embarrassing children/adults

CULTURAL COMPETENCY WHEN WORKING WITH SPANISH SPEAKING CLIENTS

- Understanding the customs, traditions.
 - Different regions have different traditions – don't generalize
 - It's like saying all US citizens are alike
- Other factors that affect the daily living of the person.
 - Immigration status – huge issue.
 - Job status
 - Housing issues

CULTURAL COMPETENCY WHEN WORKING WITH SPANISH SPEAKING CLIENTS

- Who are we talking about?
 - Recent arrivals.
 - Second generation and on.
 - Indigenous speakers.
- Why are they here?
- Why are they in our system?
- Is there really a threat of harm?
 - Could it be a failure to communicate?
 - Could it also be a failure to understand the cultural difference?
- Why will they not cooperate if we're just trying to help them?
 - Fear of the unknown.
 - Fear of the known (immigration).
- What other barriers face them in the court system in general?