

Playing with Register

Goal: To hone skills in conveying the same meanings with different levels of formality.

Rationale:

Levels of formality are denoted in different ways in each language. Often interpreters can recognize a relative level of formality in a text and create an appropriate level in their interpretation, but often it can be difficult to identify how this is done. This activity aids interpreters in becoming more consciously aware of tools that can be used for recognizing and forming texts accurately relative to register.

Prep for the Activity:

- Find a video to use as a source text. It is recommended to do this activity several times, alternating an English video and an ASL video so you can practice form in both languages (if you are trilingual, also include practice videos in your third language).
 - If you do not know where to find videos like this, attend a Deaf or interpreting event and ask people who their favorite Deaf Vloggers are, favorite go-to sites are for English source texts, etc..
- Make sure you have enough memory on your camera/phone to record yourself three or four times interpreting the video.
- If you are using your phone to record yourself, put it on airplane mode so it will not be interrupted by incoming messages.

Practice Activity:

- Videotape yourself interpreting the source text. This can be done “cold,” without previously watching the video, or “warm,” having reviewed the full video to ensure full comprehension and focus only on this activity’s particular task. Additionally, this can be done consecutively (pause the video each chunk while you interpret it), or simultaneously (let the video run as you interpret).
- Interpret the video three times.
 - Once interpret it into a target text with a matching register to the source text.
 - Then interpret the video into a target text that is much more casual than the original.
 - Finally, interpret the video into a target text that is much more highly formal than the original.
- Watch the three interpretations and take note of the features you used to differentiate between the different registers.
 - Word choices
 - Tone of voice or overall pitch of voice
 - Speed/pace of signing
 - Size of signing
 - Intonation choices
 - etc...
- You may also want to google articles and videos that address register in English, ASL, and any other languages with which you regularly work.
- You may also find videos with a particular level of formality that you would like to practice, and take note of how that level is conveyed through both the words/signs they choose, and the

way they say or sign them (prosody).

After activity (follow-up):

DO NOT SKIP THIS PART! Learning through action without reflection is fleeting.

- Write a journal entry/blog post/reflection paper/letter-to-a-friend-or-classmate about what you noticed, what you learned, and what you still want to work on.
- Use your reflections to inspire the next activity you will choose.
- Be sure to complete at least two activities a week, one way or another (one every day would truly indicate deep commitment). Be sure to document this on your activity log.

(This is rich ground for your excuses to rear up. Don't let them win!! Find a way.)