

Interpreter's ethics: Role and legitimacy in the process of creating sign language neologisms in the professional field

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Who we are

- Aline ALEMANY // Marine DUPONT // Claire BONREPOS.
- Toulouse, France.
- Our working environment and context.



Cyril CLAUDET



Taillandier Architectes Associés

Plan

1. A global background and its impacts
2. Think tank group
3. Interpreters legitimacy
4. Neologisms' spreading

A global background

How it impacts our reflexion and work?

- Bilingual educational system



Deaf students = Deaf workers

- Interpretis



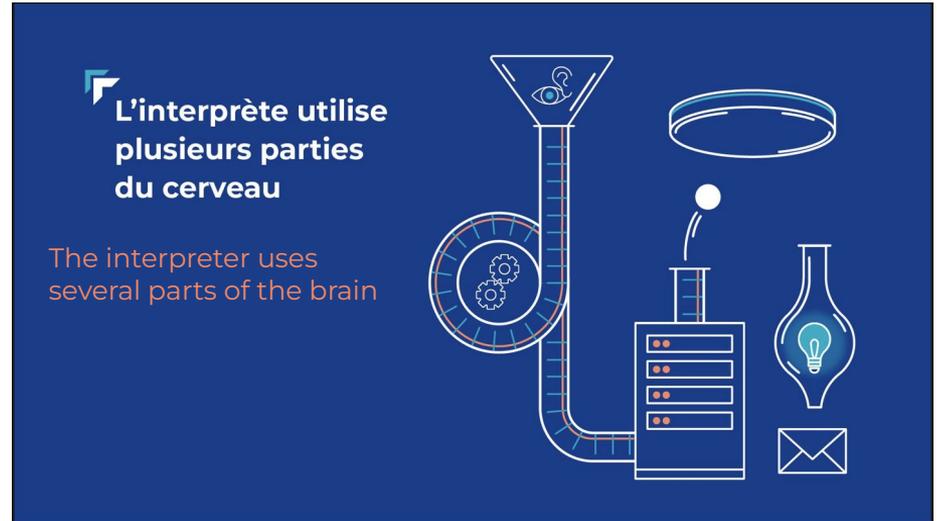
23 years of working with
the Deaf community

Interpreting strategies and needs

- From one language to another ➡
- Lexicon gap
- Interpretation strategies...

...applied in different situations ➡

- Fingerspelling
- Paraphrase
- Free combination of signs
- Asking for explanation
- Temporary sign



A think tank on neologisms

Where did the need come from?

When the interpreting strategies are reaching their limits.

Everyday language VS technical language.

Communication: Deaf and hearing professional with hearing interpreters.

A think tank on neologisms

How do we work?

- Cyril CLAUDET + 3 hearing interpreters

↪ Image + definition

↪ exchanges about the concepts ➤ a convergent conceptualisation

- **Some parameters we keep in mind:**
 - Is it explicit enough without being a paraphrase?
 - Is the sign easy enough to make? Is it simply applicable in an interpreting situation?
 - Is the classifier visually explicit enough to avoid misunderstandings and/or being mistaken with another sign?

A think tank on neologisms



◀◀ “balcony”: everyday language



“balcony”: technical language ▶▶

A think tank on neologisms

- Time management
- Giving a lot of space to trial and error on the interpreting situation

... Perspectives?

Interpreters legitimacy

Two kind of legitimacies:

the one Deaf people are according to us



Interpreters: Oppressors or Allies?
(research by S. Jordan Wright - assistant professor presented during Clin D'Oeil festival, July 2022).

Linguistic appropriation.

the one we accord ourselves



Impostor syndrome (research presented during efsli conferences, sept. 2022, Dr Jules DICKINSON and Brett BEST): interpreters feeling as a fraud in a new field and not qualified enough.

Interpreters legitimacy

Comparison between two different situations: high school (temporary signs) VS our think tank in the architecture field (neologisms).

Are interpreters qualified to be part of these kind of think tank on the sole ground that they have a diploma in interpreting?

Are we qualified enough or certain that what we are creating truly are “neologisms”?

How do we spread these neologisms?

Should we spread them?

Their spreading:

- Interpreters are natural language spreaders >> this may be done carefully.
- Create a special website?
- Use what already exists: STIM?

Limits:

- Do these neologisms must only be used in interpretation settings?
- The interpreter's choice to use them or not, knowing other people might not understand the discourse if the neologisms are used carefully.

Conclusion

Professional point of view.

True legitimacy: not taking over from Deaf people.

Constant evolution.

Thank you

