

INTERPRET + PERSON

Presentation of Self and
Sign Language Interpreters

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"I am large, I contain multitudes."

Walt Whitman



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Imagine an interpreted interaction...



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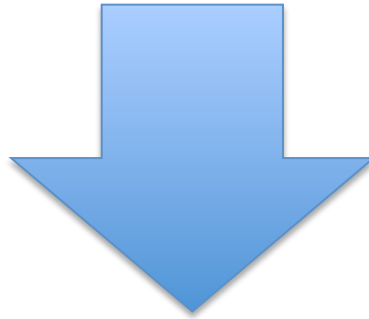
Layers of Identity

- **Professional**
- **Cultural**
- **Linguistic**



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INTERPRETER



INTERPRET (verb)

PERSON (noun)

WHAT is being done

WHO is doing it



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Identity: Experience vs. Perception



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Presentation of Self:

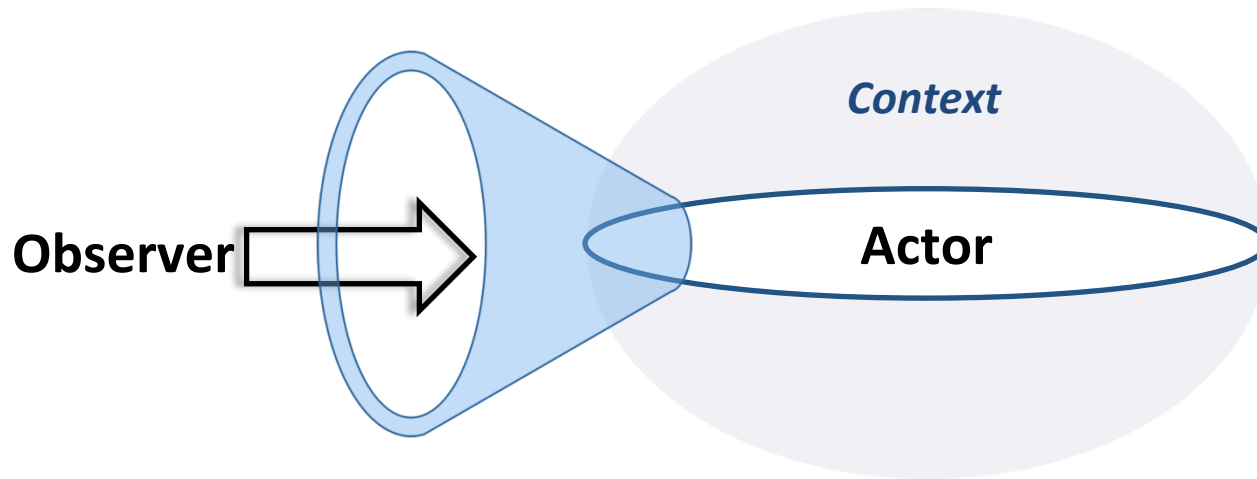
I can not interpret without my “self”



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Observer vs. Actor perspective

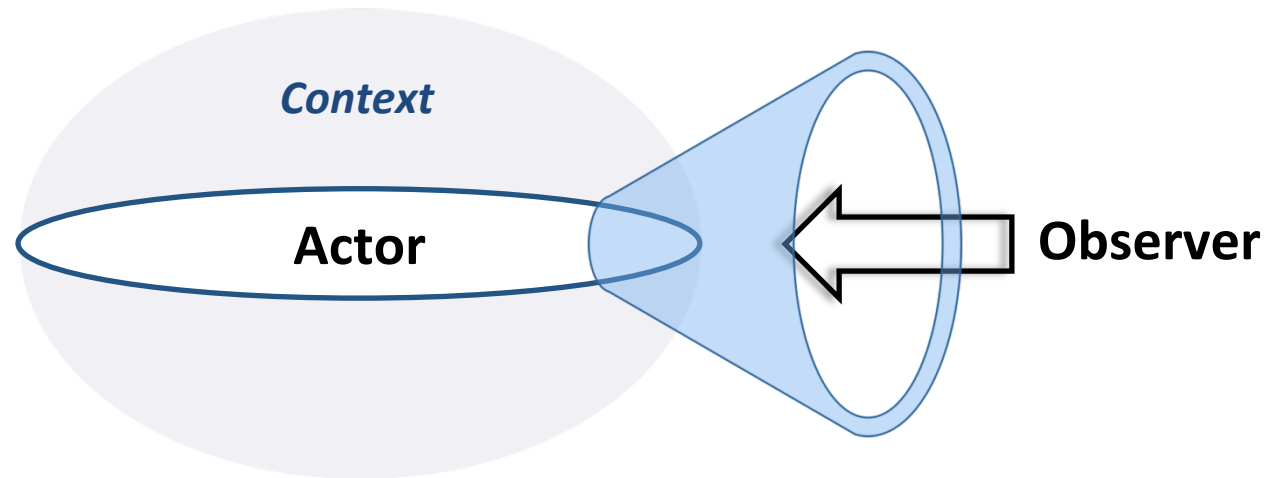


(Jones and Nisbett 1972 cited in Steele 2010)



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Observer vs. Actor perspective

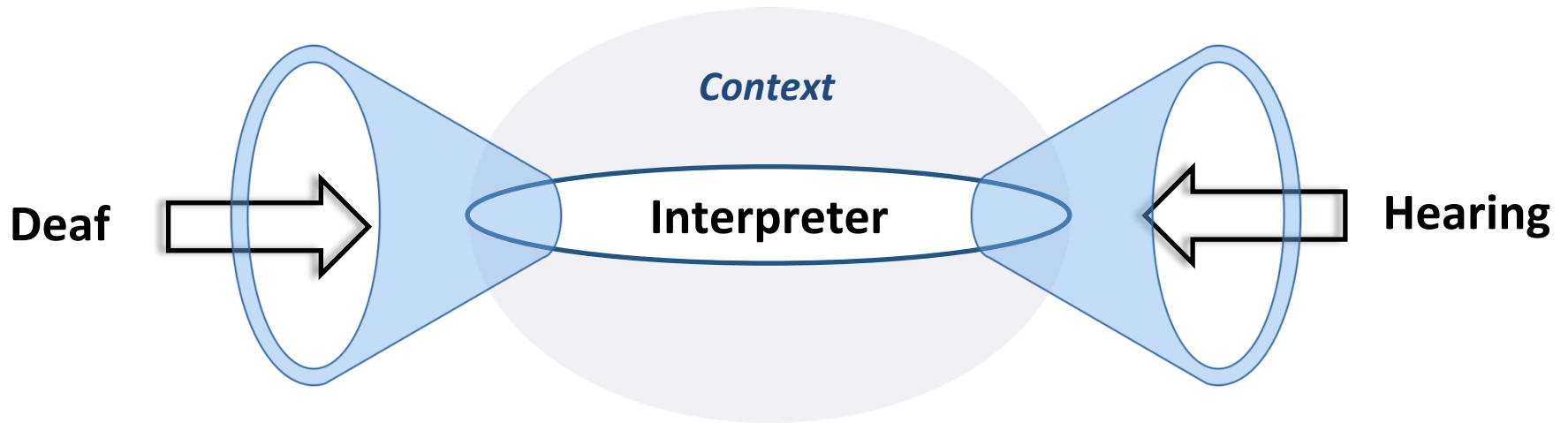


(Jones and Nisbett 1972 cited in Steele 2010)

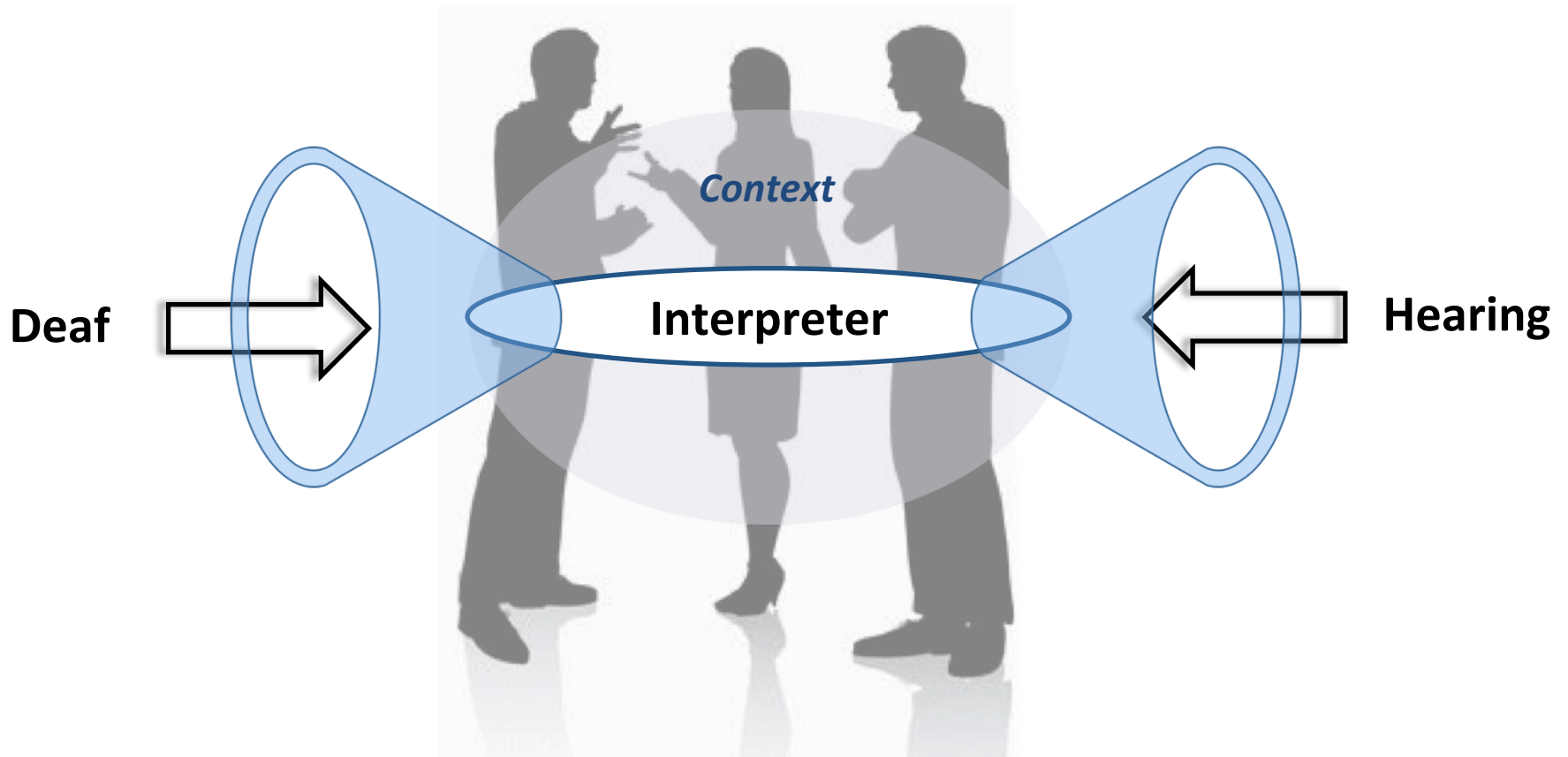


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Observer vs. Actor perspective



Observer vs. Actor perspective



We are lenses, but lenses can be tinted...



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Presentation of Self:

I can not interpret without my “self”

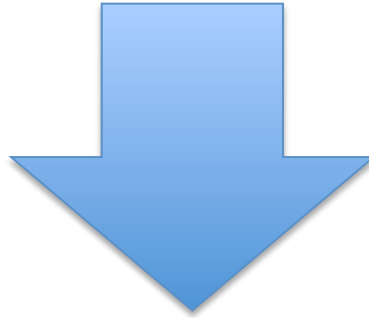
- **My Identities**
- **My Privilege(s)**
- **My Languages**
- **ME!**



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Recall...



INTERPRET (verb)

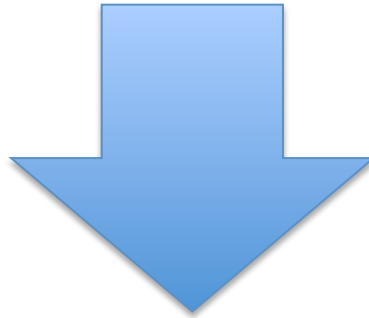
PERSON (noun)



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Maybe instead...



PERSON (noun)

INTERPRET (verb)

We need to explore
WHO we are...

...before we can be
effective at **WHAT** we
do



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References

Goffman E. (1959). *The presentation of self in everyday life*. Garden City, NY: Anchor.

Jones, E., and R. E. Nisbett (1972). The actor and the observer: Divergent perceptions of the causes of behavior in Kanouse, David E., et al. *Attribution: Perceiving the causes of behavior*. Morristown, NJ: General Learning Press.

Steele, C. (2010). *Whistling Vivaldi and other clues to how stereotyping effects us*. New York: W. W. Norton and Company.



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