

Authenticity: The Impact of a Sign Language Interpreter's Choices

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First Grade Student

“Oh, you’re pretending to be him!”

Student response to interpreter

March 13, 2013



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Consumer Assumptions

- Interpreters are the experts.
- Interpreters are **verbatim reporters** of the source message.

“You’re supposed to be just saying what they’re saying.”

Interview with hearing non interpreters
NYC, May 1, 2011



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Authenticate Identity

- **Bucholtz and Hall (2005)**– “**Identity** may be in part intentional, in part habitual and less than fully conscious, in part an outcome of **interactional negotiation...**”
- **Bucholtz and Hall (2004)** – The listener makes the determination if the speaker is **genuine and credible.**



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Unexplored Interactive Norm

“It’s rude to interrupt”

Evaluations of Knowledge of Deaf lecturer

Deaf rater comments	Hearing rater comments
And plausible	Lecturer did not really understand what s/he was talking about
Very knowledgeable	Aside from the confusing explanation of the false door, good
Very knowledgeable... Thorough understanding	Superficial knowledge
Exudes confidence	Lecturer does not have the confidence...



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GENUINE and CREDIBLE

- Bucholtz and Hall (2004) – The listener makes the determination if the speaker is **genuine and credible**.
- Feyne - The hearing and Deaf interlocutors rely upon the interpreter's language and presentation choices to evaluate each other as **genuine and credible**.



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