

# Do sign language interpreter accents compromise comprehension?

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# Defining accent

Regional or geographic (or dialect)

Social (age, ethnicity, class)

Influence from first language (foreign accent)



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# Foreign accent

To speak with “a strong accent”

Or a “light” or “faint accent”

A quality of the *voice, pronunciation and distinction of vowels and consonants, stress, and prosody*



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# Accents in sign language?

ASL accent while using another sign language

Across sign languages, by bilingual signers

Foreign sign language accent

Influence from first language, spoken or signed

A quality of movement, handshape, contact, location and prosody



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# “Voice” coaching?

Why voice coaching for sign language interpreters?

Improve comprehension

Reduce ambiguity

Aesthetics of sign language interpreting for the stage



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