

Reading List in Interpreting for ASL-English Interpreters

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This reading list is divided into three categories:

1. Material we'd like to assume everyone has read already
2. Moderately new material that interpreters should have read by now
3. New material – what to be reading now

There are many good reasons why interpreters need to read. Reading current literature enables you to learn about new advances in the field, both in terms of research findings and practical aspects. Critical, however, is that you can evaluate new writing against what has been the trend, or the status quo, in the field already. To do this, you must already know what researchers and leading practitioners have been contributing to the field.

As one fairly obvious example, take the notion of the interpreter as “machine” or as “conduit”. Why are some current researchers saying that in the right circumstances, operating simply as a machine can be the right choice? Why are others saying that making such a choice is not actually a decision to be objective, but is in itself a very subjective approach to the work? Why are still others saying that even though interpreters have eschewed a conduit-model stance, they still view the process of linguistic transfer in terms of a conduit model, so have not really moved beyond thinking of the interpreter as a conduit? Now, to understand this very important and current debate, we really must evaluate the literature against earlier work that addresses the issues, namely, the well-intentioned motivations for advocating for a machine-model stance and the eventual objections to it. You can read more recent summaries of this debate in some more current writing, but then again, you'd be reading *that* person's view of the debate; why not discover the original proposals and arguments for yourself?

There are more reasons to be reading: If interpreters want to consider themselves as professionals, a deep understanding of the field is a must. However, this being a field that is minimally regulated, the impetus for developing as a professional must come from within. Fortunately, some valuable resources are within easy reach – these books and articles are available in the library, some as e-resources, or from publishers catalogues, through amazon.ca or amazon.com, through internet used book sellers, and borrowed from colleagues.

The following list is not intended as a complete list of available works. There is plenty more out there to read! Consider what follows as some of the most important material, in my opinion. But please also understand that just because an item appears on this list does not mean that everything in it is undisputed truth. Some items are here because they warrant serious debate, and they are being read by many interpreters. Once again let me stress that thoughtful, informed evaluation is always needed in one's professional reading.

Here's the list (note that there is no order of importance intended; items are listed alphabetically):

1. Material we'd like to assume everyone has read already:

-surely you've read these! If not, however, this is the place to start. But consider these materials as the foundation for more current work you'll be reading soon.

Baker-Shenk, Charlotte. 1986. Characteristics of oppressed and oppressor peoples: Their effect on the interpreting context. In Marina L. McIntire (Ed.), *Interpreting: The Art of Cross-cultural Mediation*. Silver Spring, MD: RID Publications. 59-71.

Baker-Shenk, Charlotte. 1992. The interpreter: Machine, advocate, or ally? In Jean Plant-Moeller (Ed.), *Expanding Horizons*. Silver Spring, MD: RID Publications. 120-140.

Cokely, Dennis. 1992. *Interpreting: A Sociolinguistic Model*. Burtonsville, MD: Linstok Press.

Frishberg, Nancy. 1990. *Interpreting: An Introduction*, Revised Edition. Silver Spring, MD: RID Publications.

Gish, Sandra. 1986. I understood all the words, but I missed the point: A goal-to-detail/detail-to-goal strategy for text analysis. In Marina L. McIntire (Ed.), *New Dimensions in Interpreter Education: Curriculum and Instruction*. Silver Spring, MD: RID Publications. 125-137.

Padden, Carol, and Tom Humphries. 1988. *Deaf in America: Voices from a Culture*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Seleskovitch, Danica. 1978. *Interpreting for International Conferences*. Washington, DC: Pen and Booth.

Taylor, Marty M. 1993. *Interpretation Skills: English to American Sign Language*. Edmonton, Alberta: Interpreting Consolidated.

2. Moderately new material that interpreters should have read by now:

Metzger, Melanie. 1999. *Sign Language Interpreting: Deconstructing the Myth of Neutrality*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

Mindess, Anna. 1999. *Reading Between the Signs: Intercultural Communication for Sign Language Interpreters*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press.

Napier, Jemina. 2002. *Sign Language Interpreting: Linguistic Coping Strategies*. Coleford, England: Douglas McLean.

- Pollitt, Kyra. 2000. Critical linguistic and cultural awareness: Essential tools in the interpreter's kit bag. In Cynthia B. Roy (Ed.), *Innovative Practices for Teaching Sign Language Interpreters*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press. 67-82.
- Russell, Debra. 2002. *Interpreting in Legal Contexts: Consecutive and Simultaneous Interpretation*. Burtonsville, MD: Linstok Press.
- Roy, Cynthia B. 2000. *Interpreting as a Discourse Process*. New York/Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Seal, Brenda Chaffin. 1998. *Best Practices in Educational Interpreting*. Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.
- Taylor, Marty M. 2002. *Interpretation Skills: American Sign Language to English*. Edmonton, Alberta: Interpreting Consolidated.
- Wadensjö, Cecilia. 1998. *Interpreting as Interaction*. London and New York: Longman.
- Winston, Elizabeth A., and Christine Monikowski. 2000. Discourse mapping: Developing textual coherence skills in interpreters. In Cynthia B. Roy (Ed.), *Innovative Practices for Teaching Sign Language Interpreters*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press. 15-66.

3. New material – what to be reading now:

- Janzen, Terry (Ed.). 2005. *Topics in Signed Language Interpreting: Theory and Practice*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Marschark, Marc, Rico Peterson, and Elizabeth A. Winston (Eds.). 2005. *Sign Language Interpreting and Interpreter Education: Directions for Research and Practice*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Napier, Jemina, and Roz Barker. 2004. Sign language interpreting: The relationship between metalinguistic awareness and the production of interpreting omissions. *Sign Language Studies* 4: 4, 369-393.
- Padden, Carol A., and Tom Humphries. 2005. *Inside Deaf Culture*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Schick, Brenda, Marc Marschark, and Patricia Elizabeth Spencer (Eds.). 2006. *Advances in the Sign Language Development of Deaf Children*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Winston, Elizabeth A. (Ed.) 2004. *Educational Interpreting: How It Can Succeed*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.