

International Conference Interpreting Teams: Reflections on Collaboration

The Study:

An examination of the strategies used between interpreters in order to support effective interpreting.

The Teams:

- Deaf interpreters (DI) with a non-deaf co-interpreter (ndi)
- Non-deaf interpreters (Nd)
- 2 teams had little experience working together: Nd/Nd & DI/ndi
- 1 team had considerable experience working together: DI/ndi

Linguistic Strategies Used:

- Chunking indicators
- Accommodations
- Affirmations – Interpreting Product
- Affirmations – Interpreting Relationship

Findings:

- Duration of sign production, head nods and held gaze are used for different aspects of team communication.
- Teams getting to know each other may use a greater number of types of indicators.
- These data shows trends for an experienced team with one language pair using (DI 2 and ndi 2):
 - Pause markers (DI) or drops (ndi) for chunking.
 - Gaze duration and head nods for feed requests (DI).
 - Sign duration for feed accommodation (ndi).
 - Slow nods for affirmation (ndi).

Implications and Recommendations:

- *Interpreters* - Need to have explicit conversations about strategies for creating interpreting product and creating an effective relationship.
- *Interpreter Coordinators* – DIs work best with feed interpreters they have worked with before.
- *Interpreter Educators* - Professional development opportunities about working in interpreting teams should address the ways in which interpreters can prepare together, and the specific strategies the team will use to manage the interpreting process including the strategies that emerged in this study, i.e. chunking information, affirmations, and accommodating. Educators should also address how they teach team interpreting with Deaf interpreters versus non-deaf interpreters.

Strategy Types: ndi Teams

Chunk indicators: nd teams

	nd a	nd b
Extended sign	2	4
Extended index	4	
Extended fingerspelling	3	
Pause marker		
Pause hands up		
Drops	6	3
Total	15	7

Chunks and Feeds: nd team

	nd a		nd b	
	Chunks	Feed requests	Chunks	Feed requests
Extended	1	1	4	2
Pause marker	1	2	0	0
Nods	1	0	0	0
Drops	1	0	3	
Total	4	3	7	2

Feed Requests: nd team

	nd a	nd b
Extended sign + gaze	2	2
Pause marker + gaze	0	1
Nods		0
Total	2	3

Affirmations: ndi teams

	ndi a	ndi b
Rapid: nod + signs	4	9
Signs	6	3
Fingerspelling	12	5
Manual Pause	2	0
Slow head nod alone	60	77
Slow head nod+ signs	69	55
Slow to rapid: no to yes	4	12
Total	2	3

Repairs between DI and ndi = 9 times
 Clarifications between DI and ndi = 9 in total
 Situational information given to DI = 24 times

Strategy Types: DI Teams

Chunk indicators

	DI 1 (25' 32")	DI 2 (23' 15")
Extended sign	27	10
Extended index	7	
Extended fingerspelling		
Pause marker	72	163
Pause hands up	31	3
Drops	18	
Total	155	176

Chunk indicators

	DI 1	ndi 1	DI 2	ndi 2
Extended sign	27	21	10	4
Extended index	7	7		
Extended fingerspelling		2		
Pause marker	72	28	163	3
Pause hands up	31	36	3	7
Drops	18	17		72
Total	155	111	176	86

In general, DIs have more audience orientated chunk indicators than ndis.

Team 1 has more types of chunk indicators – Trying to find more effective strategies? Influencing each other?



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