LITERATURE REVIEW

- Valli, C., Lucas, C., & Mulrooney, K. J. (2005). Basic word order for ASL sentences are SVO and SV. CA and CD are narratives or performances in language use.
- Langacker, R. (2006). Defocused agents can be construed by describing a participant, location, or noun with less specificity.
- Janzen, T., O’Dea, B., & Shaffer, B. (2001). Defocusing an agent is possible by assuming the subject from a prior statement or using a less obvious agent like SOMEONE.

REFERENCES


METHODS

- Collected five spoken, passive constructions from spoken English lecture called Living Fully on the DVD entitled Interpreting Practice DVD by Sign Enhancers
- Analyze the strategies used by one interpreter to interpret the spoken English passives

RESULTS

Three strategies used by one interpreter:
1. Insertion of an overt agent
2. Assuming the role of an agent through constructed action and constructed dialogue
3. Omission

Insertion of Overt Agent
Three teachers had been brought into the principal’s office and told, “You three teachers are the best three in the whole school.”

Constructed Action & Constructed Dialogue
These teachers were asked, “Don’t tell any of the students or the parents about this.”

Omission
At the end of the year, it was found that these students tested significantly higher than all of the students.

DISCUSSION

- Interpreter inserted an agent or omitted the defocused agent clause all together.
- No instance where the interpreter construed the same passive as the original speaker.
- This analysis shows that interpreters may not naturally use or acquire ASL structures which defocus agents and it is something that may need to be taught.

CONCLUSIONS

- Intended Subtleties: While interpreters often search for meaning in source language, intended subtleties can be lost if the speaker’s construal is overlooked.
- Cultural Mediation: While hearing people may assume information from a passive construal, the assumptions are based off of prior experience and cultural knowledge.
- K-12 Interpreting: Teachers purposefully construe utterances with defocused agents as a strategy to teach critical thinking skills and other skills.
- Legal and Medical Settings: Allow for effective interpretations of implicit language in legal and medical settings, and may improve the overall interpreting process and interpretation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Fellow researchers are encouraged to support or critique this research using entirely new recordings with samples from multiple interpreters spanning a range of ages and training backgrounds.