Did I really say that?

An interpreter’s perspective: tips to improve communication and understanding

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What is the definition of monolingual?

Can you say monocultural?

Can you say monoliterate?

How about monolingual education?
Anyone who is bilingual can interpret or translate, right?

**INTERPRET**
- Verbal / Oral
- Interpreter plus 2 people
- Listen, process, interpret
- 3 modes: consecutive, simultaneous, sight translation

**TRANSLATE**
- Written form
- Translator plus written document
- Read, process, translate
“Interpreters work with the spoken word, transferring speech from a source language into a target language. This is far more than speaking two languages fluently. The interpreter must also communicate the style and tone of the speaker, while taking into account differences of culture and dialect.”

American Translators Association, Careers in Translation and Interpreting
Tip: find the right interpreter

- ask for credentials
- code of ethics
- skill level
- appearance vs. performance standards
- 30 minutes accuracy
- speaks the target language
Tip: c i f e

CONFIDENTIALITY
doctor/patient
privilege

FLOW
speed, tone of voice,
length of questions

I – CONDUIT/VOICE
I am versus
He says he is

EVERYTHING
interpreter must
interpret everything
Tip: demand certified, qualified, professional interpreters

Kids and adults acting as language brokers can be a liability.
Tip: be patient with the patient

- Doctor, “We’re going to take your cast off. This saw won’t cut you, only the cast.”

- 8 year old, “I’m scared.”

- Mother, “¿Qué dijo? ¿Cortar qué?”

- Doctor, “You don’t need to interpret that.”
Tip: answer the question

- Doctor, “The electrodes are glued to his head.”
- Parent, “Does it hurt?”
- Doctor, “Sometimes there is an allergic reaction, itching, or sensitivity to the skin.”
- Parent, “But does it hurt?”
Tip: avoid jokes and assumptions

- Nurse prepares room. Doctor observes patient. Father watches TV. Mother has a contraction.

- Doctor, “Why is it that women on Mexican TV have blond hair? Don’t most have dark hair?”

- Father, via the interpreter, “Doc, we got hair dye in Mexico! Ha ha ha.”
Tip: take time to improve communication

- Greet and shake hands
- Allow time for *cife* introductions
- Speak English
- Paper and pencil - literacy
- Present tense verbs
- Acknowledge children
- Body language, gestures, tone of voice
- Patience
10% of your life is made up of what happens to you. 90% of life is decided by how you react.

“Absolutamente todo lo que damos, hacemos, decimos o aún todo lo que pensamos es un BOOMERANG... regresa a nosotros...”

Stephen Covey

“Absolutely everything we give, do, say, or even think, is like a boomerang... it will come back to us.”
Did I really say that?
train. translate. transform.

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gracias