



Bilingual Training Consultants
Consultores especializados en educación bilingüe

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.”



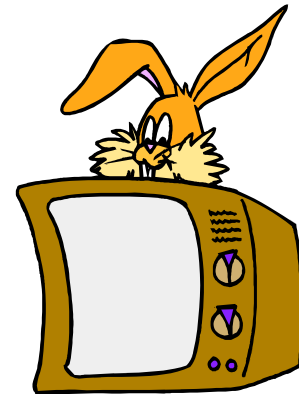
Tip: answer the question



- 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



90/10 PRINCIPAL

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