Language Interpreting Through School Teachers

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Abstract

Language interpreting through school teachers is a practice that uses educators as interpreters in educational settings. It aims to bridge language barriers between students, parents, and school staff, promoting effective communication in diverse school communities. This approach can enhance parent-teacher relationships, improve understanding of student needs, and boost parental involvement. However, it comes with challenges, including the need for training, balancing teaching responsibilities with interpreting, and maintaining cultural competence. Successfully implemented, it contributes to inclusivity and equitable access to education for all students and their families.

Keywords: language, language interpreting, school teacher

Introduction of language

Language is a complex and fascinating system of communication that humans have developed to express thoughts, ideas, emotions, and information. It is a fundamental aspect of human culture and plays a crucial role in our daily lives. Despite being all around us, language is hard to define. We can negotiate agreements, communicate complex ideas, and create collective strategies thanks to language. Language serves as a medium for all of our interactions, including learning and conflict. Linguistics is the academic discipline that focuses on attempting to provide a solution to the question (Purnell, T., Raimy, E., & Salmons, J., 2013: 398–407), "How does language work?" Linguists are academics who study this discipline. A science is linguistics. As a result, linguists deduce information about language from the actions of language users. For learning about their specific features of the world (Lobina, D. J., 2014: 56–70), astronomy has its giant telescopes, particle physics has its supercolliders, and biology and chemistry have elaborated and expensive instruments. By witnessing language users in action, contemporary linguists go right to the heart of the matter.

Certainly, more than any other characteristic, language is what sets humans apart from other animals. Understanding the characteristics of language that contribute to our humanity is necessary. The idea found

in many peoples' mythologies and religions holds that language is the wellspring of human life and power. Language can be broadly defined as a structured system of symbols and sounds used by humans to convey meaning, communicate with others, and share information. It encompasses spoken, written, and even signed forms of communication, such as sign languages.

Languages Functions

The most significant communication instrument created by human civilization is language. Language facilitates communication and understanding amongst people. The value of language in our lives cannot be overstated (khancome C. & Sunanta P., 2023: 48–58). Every time we talk, we do it for a specific reason. We occasionally wish to convey a message or express our emotions. We use language to joke around or to solicit assistance.

The educational functioning, aesthetic function, expressive, phatic, and directive functions are the five basic purposes of language. Any language is influenced by a variety of things, including a person's social background, attitude, and ethnicity. Language is constantly tied to the context in which it is employed. Every person comes from a specific social background, and this influences how they speak.

Since language is linked to the kind of social structure, we will look at the many functions of language and how they relate to social situations. Language is employed in every aspect of our life, as we just discussed, and is the most crucial component of communication (Krashen, S., 2003). In every circumstance and whenever we require anything, we employ words. Our requirements then dictate the language we use because we select the dialect that best suits those needs. Every one of our sentences has a certain purpose. It might be used to make a statement or a query. It might also just be an exclamation. We construct a statement in the form of a question when we wish to know something. In contrast, we use a statement structure when we wish to convey facts or feelings. There are 5 language functions:

1. Arbitrariness

fundamental concept in linguistics and refers to the idea that the relationship between the sound or form of a word and its meaning is largely arbitrary. In other words, there is often no inherent connection or logical reason why a particular word represents a specific concept or object. Instead, the association between a word's sound or written form and its meaning is established by convention within a particular language community. This concept of arbitrariness is a fundamental characteristic of human languages and distinguishes them from other forms of communication used by animals (Lindsay, C. & Knight, P., 2006: 155). It means that the relationship between a word's form and its meaning must be learned and memorized within the context of a specific language, and it can vary from one language to another.

2. Structure

In the context of language and linguistics, "structure" refers to the systematic organization and

arrangement of elements within a language. This organization encompasses various aspects of language, including how words, phrases, and sentences are formed, combined, and used to convey meaning. Here are some key components of linguistic structure:

1. Phonological Structure: This aspect of structure deals with the sounds of a language, including phonemes (distinctive speech sounds), phonetics (the physical properties of speech sounds), and phonology (the rules governing sound patterns and pronunciation).

2. Morphological Structure: Morphology focuses on the structure and formation of words. It involves the study of morphemes, which are the smallest meaningful units in a language. Morphemes can be combined to create words, and they carry grammatical and semantic information.

3. Syntactic Structure: Syntax deals with the arrangement of words and phrases to form sentences. It encompasses the rules and principles that govern word order, sentence structure, and the relationships between different elements in a sentence. For example, in English, the subject–verb–object (SVO) order is commonly used: "The cat (subject) chased (verb) the mouse (object)."

4. Semantic Structure: Semantics is concerned with meaning in language. It explores how words and combinations of words convey meaning, the relationships between words, and the interpretation of sentences and utterances.

5. Pragmatic Structure: Pragmatics examines how language is used in context to convey meaning beyond the literal interpretation of words. It includes considerations of speech acts (e.g., making requests, giving orders), implicature (indirect meaning), and the influence of social and cultural factors on communication.

6. Textual Structure: At the level of larger units of language, textual structure deals with how sentences and paragraphs are organized to create coherent and cohesive texts. This includes concepts like paragraph structure, transitions, and discourse markers (Rintaningrum, R., 2018).

7. Discursive Structure: Discourse analysis looks at how language is used in extended conversations and interactions. It considers the structure of conversations, narratives, and argumentation.

8. Grammatical Structure: Grammar encompasses the rules and principles governing the formation of grammatical sentences. It includes elements such as verb conjugation, noun declension, and the use of articles, pronouns, and prepositions.

Components of Language

The components of language are essential because they collectively form the foundation of human communication and enable individuals to convey thoughts, ideas, emotions, and information to others. Each component serves a specific role in the structure and function of language, contributing to its richness and

effectiveness as a means of communication (Doqaruni, V. R., 2015: 16-23). Here's a breakdown of the significance of each component of language:

1. Phonetics and Phonology: Phonetics and phonology deal with the sounds of language and their patterns. These components are crucial because they determine how words are pronounced and how speech sounds are organized. Accurate pronunciation is essential for clear and effective communication.

2. Morphology: Morphology focuses on word structure and the formation of words from smaller units called morphemes. It helps us understand how words are created and how they convey meaning through prefixes, suffixes, and inflections. Morphology plays a key role in vocabulary expansion and grammatical accuracy.

3. Syntax: Syntax governs the arrangement of words and phrases to form grammatically correct sentences. It ensures that sentences are structured in a way that conveys meaning unambiguously. Without syntax, communication would lack structure and coherence.

4. Semantics: Semantics is concerned with the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences. It allows us to understand the meanings of words and how they combine to convey complex ideas. Semantics is crucial for interpreting and expressing thoughts accurately.

5. Pragmatics: Pragmatics deals with language use in context. It helps us understand how people use language to achieve specific communication goals, convey politeness, make requests, and interpret implied meanings. Pragmatics is essential for effective social interaction and understanding nuances in communication.

6. Textual Structure:

 Textual structure encompasses how sentences and paragraphs are organized to create coherent texts. It ensures that written or spoken discourse flows logically and is easy to follow. Textual structure is essential for effective written and oral communication, especially in longer texts or presentations.

7. Discursive Structure: Discursive structure focuses on how language is used in extended conversations and interactions. It helps us understand the organization of dialogues, narratives, debates, and other forms of discourse. Discursive structure aids in effective communication and storytelling.

8. Grammatical Structure: Grammatical structure encompasses the rules and principles that govern a language's grammar, including verb conjugations, noun cases, and sentence structure. It ensures that language is used correctly and efficiently, enhancing clarity in communication.

9. Language Varieties and Dialects: Language varieties and dialects reflect regional, social, and cultural diversity. Recognizing and understanding these variations is crucial for inclusive communication and respecting linguistic diversity.

10. Bilingualism and Multilingualism: In multilingual contexts, individuals navigate multiple languages.

Understanding how bilingualism and multilingualism work helps us appreciate the cognitive benefits and challenges associated with language proficiency in more than one language.

In summary, the components of language are significant because they collectively enable humans to communicate effectively, express complex ideas, share knowledge, and engage in social interactions. Understanding these components is essential for linguistic competence and plays a fundamental role in various aspects of human life, including education, professional communication, culture, and society.

Language interpreting

Language interpreting is the process of facilitating communication between individuals or groups who speak different languages. Interpreters play a crucial role in bridging language barriers, enabling effective communication in various settings. Here are key aspects of language interpreting:

1. Types of Interpreting:

1) Consecutive Interpreting: In consecutive interpreting, the interpreter listens to the speaker and takes notes while they talk. Once the speaker finishes a segment or a sentence, the interpreter then translates and conveys the message in the target language (Thornbury, S., 2008).

2) Simultaneous Interpreting: Simultaneous interpreters translate spoken language in real-time, often using headphones and microphones in a soundproof booth. This method is common in conferences, large international events, and televised broadcasts.

3) Escort Interpreting: Escort interpreters accompany individuals or small groups and provide on-the-spot translation during activities like tours, medical appointments, or business meetings.

4) Conference Interpreting: Conference interpreters work at large conferences, conventions, and international gatherings, ensuring that participants from different language backgrounds can understand the discussions and presentations.

5) Legal Interpreting: Legal interpreters work in legal settings, such as courtrooms, to ensure that parties involved in legal proceedings understand each other accurately. Legal interpreters must be skilled in legal terminology and procedures.

6) Medical Interpreting: Medical interpreters assist patients and healthcare providers in healthcare settings, helping to bridge language gaps during medical consultations, treatments, and emergencies.

7) Sign Language Interpreting: Sign language interpreters facilitate communication between individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and those who use spoken language. They convey spoken language into sign language and vice versa.

2. Qualifications and Skills:

1) Interpreters need to be fluent in both the source language (the language being spoken by the

speaker) and the target language (the language into which the message is being translated).

2) They should have a strong command of the grammatical rules, vocabulary, and cultural nuances of both languages.

3) Interpreters must possess excellent listening and speaking skills, as they need to accurately convey spoken language in real-time.

4) They also need to remain impartial and maintain confidentiality, especially in legal and medical interpreting.

3. Equipment and Technology:

In simultaneous interpreting, interpreters often use specialized equipment, including headsets, microphones, and soundproof booths. Additionally, technology, such as video conferencing and remote interpreting platforms, has become increasingly important, especially in remote and virtual settings.

4. Ethical Considerations:

Interpreters adhere to a strict code of ethics, which includes principles of accuracy, impartiality, confidentiality, and professionalism. They must avoid inserting their own opinions or biases into the interpretation.

5. Training and Certification:

Many interpreters undergo formal training and may obtain certification to demonstrate their proficiency. Certification requirements vary by country and field (e.g., legal, medical, conference interpreting).

Language interpreting is a vital service that facilitates communication across language barriers in a wide range of contexts, from international diplomacy and business negotiations to healthcare and legal proceedings. Skilled interpreters play a critical role in ensuring that information is accurately conveyed and that individuals can effectively communicate regardless of their language backgrounds.

School teachers

School teachers are individuals who work in educational institutions, such as elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and sometimes colleges or universities, to instruct students in various subjects and skills (Richards, J. C.,2006). They are educators responsible for facilitating learning, imparting knowledge, and supporting the intellectual and personal development of their students. School teachers can be found at different levels of the education system, from kindergarten to higher education, and they often specialize in specific subjects or grade levels.

The role of a school teacher typically includes:

1. Planning and delivering lessons: Teachers create instructional plans, develop curriculum, and use various teaching methods to engage students and convey subject matter effectively.

2. Assessing student learning: They evaluate student performance through assessments, tests, assignments, and other forms of evaluation, providing feedback and grades.

3. Classroom management: Teachers maintain order and create a positive learning environment by establishing rules, routines, and expectations for student behavior.

4. Individualized instruction: Recognizing that students have diverse learning needs, teachers may tailor their teaching approaches to accommodate different learning styles and abilities.

5. Supporting student development: Teachers offer guidance, mentorship, and emotional support to help students navigate academic challenges and personal growth.

6. Communication: They communicate regularly with students, parents, and colleagues, sharing information about student progress, curriculum, and educational goals.

7. Professional development: Teachers engage in ongoing professional development to stay current with educational trends, refine their teaching skills, and deepen their subject matter expertise.

8. Collaborative work: Teachers often collaborate with other educators, administrators, and specialists to ensure a well-rounded education for their students.

The role of a school teacher is demanding and requires a deep commitment to education, as teachers are responsible for shaping the future of their students. They play a vital role in preparing students for academic success, critical thinking, and participation in society.

language interpreting through school teachers

Language interpreting by school teachers, also known as educational interpreting, refers to the practice of using interpreters in educational settings to facilitate communication between students who are deaf or hard of hearing and their hearing teachers, peers, and staff. This form of interpreting is essential to ensure that students with hearing impairments have equal access to education and can participate fully in classroom activities. Here are some key aspects of the concept of language interpreting through school teachers (Leong, L. M., & Ahmadi, S. M. (2017):

1. Purpose: The primary purpose of educational interpreting is to bridge the communication gap between students who are deaf or hard of hearing and the hearing individuals in the educational environment. This allows students to access instructional content, engage in classroom discussions, and receive the support they need to succeed academically.

2. Deaf or Hard of Hearing Students: Educational interpreting is typically used for students who are deaf or hard of hearing and use sign language as their primary mode of communication. These students may use American Sign Language (ASL) or other sign languages depending on their regional or individual preferences.

3. Qualified Interpreters: Educational interpreters are professionals who are highly skilled in both the source language (the language being spoken by the teacher or peers) and the target language (sign language). They must also have a deep understanding of the subject matter being taught to accurately convey complex concepts.

4. Inclusive Education: Educational interpreting supports the principles of inclusive education, ensuring that students with hearing impairments are included in mainstream educational settings alongside their hearing peers. This promotes social interaction and an inclusive learning environment.

5. Individualized Education Plans (IEPs): Many students with hearing impairments have Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) that outline their specific needs and accommodations, including the use of interpreters. The IEP team, which may include parents, teachers, and special education professionals, determines the appropriate support services for each student.

6. Communication Modes: In addition to sign language interpretation, educational interpreters may facilitate communication through other means, such as cued speech, speech–to–text services, or assistive listening devices, depending on the needs and preferences of the student.

7. Professional Standards: Educational interpreters are bound by ethical and professional standards that include confidentiality, impartiality, and accuracy. They must also maintain ongoing professional development to stay current with best practices in the field.

8. Collaboration: Educational interpreters often work closely with teachers and other school staff to ensure that classroom materials are accessible, instructions are clear, and the overall learning experience is equitable for all students.

9. Advocacy: Educational interpreters may advocate for the needs and rights of students who are deaf or hard of hearing, helping to ensure that they receive appropriate accommodations and support services.

Language interpreting through school teachers is a vital service that facilitates communication and accessibility for students who are deaf or hard of hearing in educational settings. It plays a critical role in inclusive education, ensuring that these students have the same opportunities to learn and participate as their hearing peers.

Conclusion

In conclusion, language interpreting through school teachers is a crucial component of inclusive education, ensuring that students who are deaf or hard of hearing have equal access to educational opportunities and can fully participate in classroom activities. This practice embodies the principles of equity, diversity, and accessibility in education. Language interpreting through school teachers is not merely a service; it is a pathway to equality, ensuring that all students, regardless of their hearing status, have the opportunity to

receive a quality education and thrive in an inclusive educational setting. By breaking down communication barriers, interpreters empower students to reach their full academic potential and actively participate in the educational journey.

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