

The Department of Applied Linguistics/Translators & Interpreters of the University of Antwerp would like to invite you to a master class taught by Prof. Sandra Hale on Thursday 3rd April 2014, on the occasion of the University of Antwerp awarding her an Honorary Doctorate in Interpreting and Translation

Interpreting culture: The challenges faced by community interpreters

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Place:

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Date and time: Thursday 3rd April 2014, 7 p.m.

The master class will be followed by a reception.

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Please confirm your attendance by Monday, 24th March.

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Abstract

Interpreters who work in community settings with participants from disparate cultural backgrounds may be confronted with difficulties due to cross-cultural differences when conveying the source message into the target message accurately. Such cross-cultural differences can range from pragmalinguistic differences at the discourse level of speech to sociopragmatic differences which go beyond the utterances. Faced with such issues, interpreters may be unsure how to react or even understand what is expected of them. The few studies that have looked at cross-cultural differences in community interpreting (e.g., Hale, 2007; Kelly, 2000; Pöchhacker, 2000) clearly show that there is no consistency in the ways in which interpreters approach potential cross-cultural misunderstandings. Opposing views about the interpreter's role in cross-cultural brokerage seem to exist nevertheless. At the one extreme, interpreters are seen as mechanical conduits who are not involved in anything other than 'switching' words from one language to the other (see, for example, Morris, 2008, on the views of some members of the judiciary about court interpreters). The other extreme sees interpreters as advocates and gatekeepers who are free to censor the content of the interlocutors' turns to fit within what they consider to be appropriate or relevant (see, for example, Barsky, 1996; Kaufert, 1997). This paper will examine the different views about interpreting cross-cultural differences with particular reference to the Australian context.

References

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- Thomas, J. (1983). Cross-cultural pragmatic error. *Applied Linguistics*, 4(2), 91–112.

Bionote

Prof. Sandra Hale has a long career as a community and conference interpreter, educator and researcher. She is a pioneer in community interpreting pedagogy and research and is recognized internationally as an authority in the field. She is regularly invited as a speaker at international conferences and she is regularly a visiting scholar at universities around the world. She graduated from Macquarie University with the first PhD ever in court interpreting in Australia, and she headed the undergraduate and postgraduate Interpreting & Translation courses and the Interpreting & Translation Research Group at the University of Western Sydney before taking up her position as at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. She was co-founder and co-editor of the international refereed journal *Translation and Interpreting* and is a member of the Advisory Boards for *Interpreting*; the *International Journal of Research and Practice in Interpreting*, and *Linguistica Antverpiensia NS - Themes in Translation Studies* published by the Department of Applied Linguistics/Translators and Interpreters of the University of Antwerp. Her books *The discourse of court interpreting* (2004) and *Community Interpreting* (2007) are widely used as text books nationally and internationally, with the latter already translated into Spanish and currently being translated into Japanese. In 2013 she was appointed Fellow of The Australian Institute of Interpreters & Translators (AUSIT).