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# **Interdisciplinary encounters: Dimensions of interpreting studies**

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# **Interdisciplinary encounters: Dimensions of interpreting studies**

Edited by  
*Andrzej Łyda and Katarzyna Holewik*

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## Introduction

Due to an increase in multiculturalism, multilingualism, immigration and globalisation as well as situations of conflict, we can observe a continuous growth of and demand for interpreting services worldwide. Researchers, trainers and interpreters themselves have long been investigating and drawing from various disciplines in order to examine the processes and complexities of an act of interpreting, show how the discipline has evolved over time, discuss the role of an interpreter and also to meet the demands of such a dynamic profession in the modern world. These are only some reasons why interpreting studies have profited from those interdisciplinary encounters. Other reasons, as we hope, can be found in the present volume.

*Interdisciplinary encounters: Dimensions of interpreting studies* brings together researchers, scholars, practitioners, interpreters and interpreter trainers, who share their research results, perspectives and experiences regarding the interdisciplinarity in the field of interpreting studies. This interdisciplinarity is well reflected in the range of topics covered and research questions asked. From the interplay of interpreting and linguistics to the interplay of interpreting and psychology, to mark quite arbitrarily only two distinct epistemologies, and hence distinct methodologies.

The volume opens with an article by **Marta Estévez Grossi**, who focuses on research on community interpreting among migrant workers from Galicia, Spain in Germany in the 1960s and 70s. In her research she spans three areas, namely, interpreting, migration linguistics and social sciences. The study based on narrative interviews required of the author that a corpus be built. To overcome the perennial problem of corpus-building the author resorted to Oral History, thus incorporating the methodology of social sciences. The range of data obtained and the analysis performed testify to the claim that applying interdisciplinary approaches can be beneficial to interpreting research.

The diachronic approach to interpreting or more precisely to research on interpreter training is clearly visible in **Carmen Valero-Garcés's** chapter on the evolution, trends and gaps in public service interpreting (PSI) in the last twenty years. Taking the first Critical Link Conference in Geneva Park, Canada in 1995 as the starting point the author outlines the development of the idea of

interpreter training. She emphasises the growing awareness of the role of inter-disciplinarity in the training process.

The interplay of psychology and interpreting research is explored in the three subsequent chapters, which deal with the problem of stress and self-confidence.

The first of them “Stress, interpersonal communication and assertiveness training in public service interpreting” by **Carmen Toledano Buendía** and **Laura Aguilera Ávila** reports on the results of an introductory course for public service interpreters aimed at delivering assertiveness training. Having analysed the major stress factors in PSI, the authors propose that the development of assertiveness as one of interpersonal competencies could alleviate the stress factors and assertiveness training should be included in the PSI training.

In “Three perspectives on interpreters and stress: The experts, the novices, and the trainees” **Heather Adams** and **Ligia Rosales-Domínguez** explore the relation between the degree of expertise as a conference interpreter and stress-inducers. The results of a small-scale questionnaire-based study seem to indicate that primary stress factors are the density of information, fast speech delivery, and the lack of prior documentation, yet the three groups under analysis differ significantly in what they find the major stress-inducer.

**Amalia Bosch Benítez’s** contribution is also directed at the problem of affective factors in interpreting as the author addresses the role of self-confidence in interpreters. She presents a number of case studies in which she discusses and explores the impact of empathy on this aspect of interpreters’ personality.

The chapter “PEACE in interpreter-mediated investigative interviews — working together to achieve best evidence” authored by **Katarzyna Holewik** attempts to map the PEACE model and the principles of investigative interviewing into interpreter-mediated interviews. The author examines a number of factors and concepts necessary for effective interpreter-mediated police interviews and points out similarities between both participants of the communicative event, that is, interviewers and interpreters, highlighting the importance of professionalism, awareness and understanding, cooperation and trust (PACT).

**Elvira Iannone’s** “Community Interpreting – Professionalisation for Lay Interpreters’: A new initiative for the training of community interpreters in Austria” reports on the development of a new university course in community interpreting in the field of medicine, psychotherapy, social work and community settings. The author concentrates on a wide range of factors deemed instrumental in the practical implementation of her theoretical model and offers a comprehensive assessment of the course results.

In “Elaboration of specialised glossaries as a work placement for interpreting students: Opportunities and pitfalls” **Heather Adams** and **Agustín Darías-Marrero** provide an account of the process of drawing up glossaries for use in a multi-cultural and multi-lingual project. The project meant as a supervised work placement for final-year and recent graduates in interpreting yielded a clear

insight into the problem of assessment of relevance of terminology by novice terminologists, their teachers, interpreters and clients.

The final three chapters in this volume examine the process of interpreting in terms of discourse structure. The chapter by **Maria Bakti** "Explicitation in sight-translating into Hungarian texts" is a good example of analysis of explicitation shifts. The author argues that the specificity of sight translation can be noticed in the fact that it tends to produce qualitatively different explicitation shifts (e.g., extra information) than the shifts reported in many other studies (e.g., strengthening cohesive ties) as typical of the simultaneous interpreting mode.

The other discourse-oriented contribution comes from **Andrzej Łyda**. In "Where have the connectors gone? The case of Polish-English simultaneous interpreting" the author analyses strategies of rendering (a)syndetically-marked discourse-rhetorical relation of concession from Polish into English. By comparing the results with those obtained in Łyda (2008) he investigates whether the factor of directionality plays any role in the comprehension of this cognitively demanding discourse-rhetorical relation in source languages text and its production in the target language by simultaneous interpreters.

The final contribution in the volume takes the reader to one of the least investigated areas of interpreting studies, that is, real time speech-to-text interpreting, in which it is expected that auditory qualities of speech should be represented in written text. In "Discourse prosody and real-time text interpreting: Making live speech visible" **Ursula Stachl-Peier** and **Ulf Norberg** analyse a number of cases focusing on such prosodic features as loudness, stress, pauses and sentence-initial and sentence-final pitch patterns.

Although addressed mainly to scholars studying interpreting, we hope that this collection of articles may prove inspiring also for researchers and practitioners working at the intersection of different disciplines, who will interpret the results of the analyses and discussions included in this volume in terms relevant to their own research interests and in ways which go beyond our brief, introductory outline.

*Andrzej Łyda and Katarzyna Holewik*

***Interdisciplinary encounters: Dimensions of interpreting studies*** brings together researchers, scholars, practitioners, interpreters and interpreter trainers, who share their research results, perspectives and experiences regarding the interdisciplinarity in the field of interpreting studies. This interdisciplinarity is well reflected in the range of topics covered and research questions asked. From the interplay of interpreting and linguistics to the interplay of interpreting and psychology, to mark quite arbitrarily only two distinct epistemologies, and hence distinct methodologies.

“This volume is an excellent addition to the Interpreting Studies literature. The cutting-edge research presented by a wide range of international experts demonstrates the strength of an interdisciplinary approach to the study of interpretation. The volume will be of great benefit to educators, students of interpreting as well as experienced practitioners.”

Robert G. Lee, Senior Lecturer in BSL and Deaf Studies,  
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