Language Foundations: Asking Questions in ASL

Terry Malcolm
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QUESTIONS ASKED IN ASL

- Information derived from my work in the field as a Deaf Interpreter
Who are the Consumers?

1. Children
2. Youth
3. Teenagers
4. Adults
5. Senior Citizens
6. Grassroots
7. Non-immigrants
8. Immigrants

- Deaf
- deaf
- Hard-of-Hearing
- Deaf-Blind
Background of Deaf Consumers

1. Some ASL acquisition
2. Some social experience
3. Some language exposure (home and school)
4. Use home signs and some ASL signs
5. Cognitive-challenged
6. Physically-challenged
Need to be familiar with:

1. Signing styles (age, local, regional, national and international)
2. Discourse styles
3. Context/topical knowledge
Let Us Focus on Questions

WH and YES-NO QUESTIONS

How to recognize hearing people’s question format and how to change to deaf consumer’s question format
What is …

- Clarifying
- Expanding
- Framing and reframing
When to Clarify?

Topic is:
- Vague
- Abstract
- Complicated
- Too general

Note: Need to double check
When to Expand?

- Use classification of terms (e.g., fruit, transportation)
- Give examples
- Give different meanings of the word
When to Frame and Reframe?

- When the consumer is going off the point
Can Apply These Tools in Interpreting

- Break down the question
- Ask Hearing Consumer for more information or examples
- Bringing Deaf Consumer back to the point
- Double check for right information
A Sample Topic: Medical

How questions are being asked in a medical setting

In the following dialogue samples, abbreviations will be used:
HC = Hearing Consumer
HI = Hearing Interpreter
DI = Deaf Interpreter
DC = Deaf Consumer
Medical Questions for Sore Knee (Clarifying)

HC: Describe pain in your knee
HI: KNEE PAIN EXPLAIN
DI: KNEE THROB (1X or 2X)?
DC: YES
DI: WHAT? THROB (1X OR 2X)?
DC: NO, THROB (3x)
DI: THROB (3X)? (Double check)
DC: YES
Medical Questions for Diabetics (Expanding)

HC: Do you have any health problems?
HI: ANY HEALTH PROBLEMS HAVE?
DI: ASTHMA? HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE? DIABETES? SEIZURES?
DC: YES, DIABETES
Medical Questions about Birth Control (Framing and Reframing)

HC: Have you taken any birth control pills?
HI: BIRTH CONTROL PILL BEFORE?
DI: PILL BC BEFORE?
DC: PREGNANT DO-NOT-WANT DI: (wave hands “no”) PILL CL:F TAKE?
DC: YES
Concluding (Work in Progress!)

- The use of questioning can be applied to different settings, except in legal setting.
- Suggest research of this topic related to Deaf Interpreters