

LANGUAGE IDEOLOGY AND ATTITUDES WORKSHEET

You are to read a *Street Leverage* article, “Marginalization Within the Sign Language Interpreting Profession: Where is the Deaf Perspective?” (link: <http://www.streetleverage.com/2014/04/marginalization-within-the-sign-language-interpreting-profession-where-is-the-deaf-perspective/>). The article is the English translation of the talk given by Nancy Bloch on April 23, 2014 (link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yw1tQwL0F04>). The discussion questions below are based on Nancy Bloch’s talk and Dr. Joseph Hill’s video lecture.

Discussion Questions

1. Nancy Bloch gave a talk about the Deaf community that had been increasingly marginalized within the sign language profession and, as a consequence, the Deaf perspective was ignored. Considering that sign language interpreting was created a legitimate service provider profession to meet the needs of the members of the Deaf community, it makes sense that the Deaf members should have always been involved in the profession in some ways, but this is not always the case. **In your opinion, what are the reasons for the exclusion of the Deaf community in the profession?**
2. The sign language interpreting profession not only includes working interpreters, but it also includes the industry as Bloch mentioned in her talk. **What are the examples of the industry and in what ways Deaf people can be (and have been) part of the industry?**
3. Bloch touched on a point about the choice of language as English at various interpreter events on local, state, and national levels. Many interpreters are capable of using ASL and yet they prefer to communicate in English, even in the presence of a Deaf person. The interpreters have an insight into a daily communication struggle experienced by Deaf people that the hearing majority who may not understand, so it is ironic that the interpreters choose to communicate in English instead of ASL at the events where many attendees knows ASL. **How would you describe the language ideology and attitudes as demonstrated by the interpreters who choose to use English instead of ASL at the events where Deaf people could attend?**
4. In a sense, the interpreters are practicing multi-lingual and multi-cultural professionals who are familiar with the ideologies and communication practices of both hearing and Deaf communities. However, many interpreters are hearing and they learned ASL at a later age. Typically, their primary mode of communication is spoken language. Deaf people do not have that advantage of communicating in English at all times in any way. **With two very different ideologies and communication practices, what would be an effective blend of the ideologies and communication practices that creates communication access equality for Deaf and hearing bilinguals at a sign language interpreting conference?**

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