Panel call for papers

The interpreter’s role in healthcare conversations: A multimodal analysis of a multimodal reality

A panel organized by
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Due to demographic changes, cities all over the world are developing rapidly into multicultural societies. As a consequence, healthcare workers are frequently confronted with patients that do not share their language. Especially in mental healthcare this can be problematic since the diagnosis is mainly based on the patient’s narrative. The patient’s words are taken into account, but the way these words are expressed and gestures, gaze, facial expressions, head movements, etc. are also part of the diagnostic instruments (Bouhuys 1989). The importance of multimodality in interpreter-mediated discourse is highlighted mainly in the last decade (Mason 2012, Davitti 2013, Pöchhacker 2016). This panel will focus on interpreter mediated conversations in healthcare with special attention to mental healthcare. The focus is in particular on how interpreters, (mental) healthcare professionals and patients manage the multimodal reality on the one hand, and how to analyse this multimodal reality on the other hand.

Interpreters are bound by codes of conduct prescribed by national and international organisations. Often these codes are written for public service interpreters in general and not tailored to the requirements of a specific setting, like (mental) healthcare. The traditional view in these codes is that interpreters are neutral, discrete, passive and transparent (Mason & Ren 2012). An illustrative example can be found in the Flemish code of conduct (Kruispunt Migratie-Integratie 2013 - translation):

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\text{The interpreter has the duty to interpret completely and faithfully everything that is said [...] without adding, omitting, or changing anything. The interpreter uses the same register and the same intonation as the speaker [...]}
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Moreover, the interpreter

\[
\text{does not show personal opinions, preferences, interpretations of feelings, not even non-verbally [and] at any time refrains from taking part in the conversation.}
\]
In reality many multimodal resources like positioning, gaze and facial expressions make it almost impossible for the interpreter to be completely neutral and passive. Instead, the interpreter seems to be a co-constructor of the conversation (Mason & Ren 2012: 233) that can exercise power “by adopting various verbal and non-verbal strategies to negotiate, coordinate, check, and balance power relations.” According to Pasquandrea (2012: 150) the three main functions of multimodal resources are “monitoring the ongoing interaction, displaying engagement in the activities performed, and reorienting the participant’s constellation”.

The second focus of this panel is on multimodal analysis of the multimodal reality, since this kind of analysis can enrich our understanding of the triadic interaction (Davitti 2015). Verbal and non-verbal resources should be seen as a whole and should be analysed as such if we want to “gain a thorough understanding of the communicative dynamics of interpreter-mediated interaction”. (Pasquandrea 2012: 150). The composition of a multimodal corpus implies the availability of video material, which is not easy in the sensitive setting of mental healthcare.

We invite papers relating to the multimodal reality and multimodal analysis of interpreter-mediated consultations in (mental) health care in general and in specific on:

- multimodality in mental healthcare
- multimodality and the role of the interpreter
- multimodality and interpreting standards
- multimodal analysis: (dis)advantages, pitfalls, challenges, opportunities, etc.
- multimodal analysis systems
- multimodal corpora

To submit a proposal, please use the following guidelines:

- Go to the IPrA website (http://ipra.ua.ac.be/) > CONFERENCES > 15th Conference, or directly to the conference subsite (http://ipra.ua.ac.be/main.aspx?c=CONFERENCE15&n=1510)
- Note that IPrA membership is required for submitting an abstract (in 2016) as well as for presenting during the conference (in 2017). Membership can be arranged instantly by going to ‘Membership application’.
- Read the ‘Call for papers’ carefully (http://ipra.ua.ac.be/main.aspx?c=CONFERENCE15&n=1516)
- Logging in with your user name and password will enable you to ‘Contribute’. When clicking this link, you will be asked to choose between ‘Lecture’, ‘Poster’ or ‘Panel Contribution’. You choose ‘Panel contribution’ and the entire list of accepted panels appears (title + name of the first organizer).
- **The deadline is October 15th, 2016.**
- For more information contact one of the panel organizers
References


