

Chapter Seven

1. ASL or Contact Variety:

SPEAKER #1

I think probably the only time I really, really feel confident that I made the right decisions is when a Deaf person actually says to me I want contact variety or I want ASL. <laughter> Sometimes it, it goes back and forth, you know, especially where human people are bi-lingual, have strong ASL skills, strong English skills, sometimes I kind of wonder, you know, what it is that they want. How do I make the decision? Um, if I've never met them before, talking to them before the appointment starts. Sometimes even asking or even saying, if I think it's appropriate with the, the person, even saying, you know, if you want me to mouth more just let me know because I really think I'm quite flexible, you know, or, or you, you feel like you, you want more ASL. I kind of try to stay away from them asking do you want me to sign ASL or do you want me to sign, you know, signed English because sometimes I think that there's lots of Deaf people, I mean, I actually was in college and I studied ASL and I, you know, read books and it's what I do and, and it's what I breathe but it's not necessarily what they breathe and I think that to ask them the question can really, sometimes be, I mean, almost oppressive in and of itself. So, as much as possible sometimes, if I'm working with a teamer, I'll ask them, you know, what's your goal when you work with this person, if they have experience, what's your goal, ASL? Is ASL your goal or, you know, is contact variety more your goal, or um, if, if I'm working with a teamer and they have experience and they go, and they have experience with this person, they go first...just kind of seeing, you know, what their reaction is to what they're doing and then try to match, if it's working. Um, lots of different ways, um, talking to the person, um, uh, maybe starting out one way and then at the break kind of just asking, you know, is, is everything going okay with you. Again, not really wanting to put pressure on them because typically the Deaf person isn't there to give me feedback, right? <laughter> I mean that's not why they're there, they're there for other reasons..so, um, as much as possible involving them, being interactive, uh, getting feedback, looking for feedback, even while I'm interpreting, uh, and trying to just kind of match, match it that way.

SPEAKER #2

Uh, some of the work that I do is more of a contact variety and I base the decision on usually who the consumer is and what they're preferences are but I also find that some, uh, settings require a little bit more contact variety. No, I shouldn't, not necessarily contact variety but aspects of what might be considered contact variety and I'm thinking of the educational setting where you would be conveying the concept but then maybe needing to include the English vocabulary because it's gonna come up on exams or the Deaf person needs to know that English vocabulary because it's used in the field that they're going into.

SPEAKER #3

Depending on who the, who the client is..if they're grass roots ASL, you have to drop form. Um, um, and if they're, uh, I find that when I work with, uh, some ESL, uh, Deaf people, working contact is, is, is their preference. They want the English in there, they want, um, and they follow form and so, really, you have to match what their language preference is.

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2. Consecutive/Simultaneous Mode:

SPEAKER #1

The setting often has some impact on, on what I'll choose to do although I find in short, uh, instances where the, the dialog is back and forth that I will often automatically switch into consecutive, uh, and I find that my, uh, output in my target language is usually much cleaner when I do it that way, into both English and ASL.

SPEAKER #2

Um, anytime I can I will. I prefer to work in the consecutive interpretation, um, I find that I can do a better interpretation when I'm able to, to hear an utterance, um, to completion, then spend all my energy just on, okay, what does it mean, why are they saying this, where are we, who are we, what's the context, what is their, the, uh, regi..or the affect that goes with it when I'm able to do the analyzing of it, then find out the true meaning, and then spend all my energy on it..okay, now how can I get the same thing across, um, and build it that way, and then to do it, um, I produce better ASL and, likewise, I produce better English, um, when I'm able to see the Deaf person's message in completeness and then spend all my energy just on, um, analyzing, getting the meaning and then producing it in English...I do a better job of it and, and, I think, um, it may take a bit more time but the, the results are that they, they get to the place that they need to get quicker, I think. So times that I don't do it are, are if I'm standing on the stage. I don't think that I have the luxury of doing it, uh, consecutively but anywhere else where it's a smaller group where I can, I will do it consecutively...and I also do it simultaneously, if I have to, um, but then at points I will do it consecutively because I'll do it simultaneously, get to a point where I can't start, um, because I need more information, so at that point I, I switch into a consecutive interpretation. I wait until I get all the information that I need, the message now makes sense, I can produce it or analyze it, then produce it. So...yeah.

SPEAKER #3

Consecutive interpretation? You bet, I use it all the time, um, all the time. Some interpreting programs use consecutive as a way to get to simultaneous and their graduates come out assuming that simultaneous is what they should be doing all the time. Um, I do not agree with that approach. I believe that consecutive interpretation is the foundational skill for working as an interpreter. In the programs where I teach interpretation, um, we spend one and a half to two full semesters on consecutive interpretation. You cannot do good simultaneous if you haven't learned how to do good consecutive work. Do I use consecutive all the time, no. There are times, particularly platform interpreting, where it's not usually, uh, possible to do; however, Betty Colonomus has referred to good processed simultaneous interpretation as, um, as a form of, uh, consecutive interpretation. I've forgotten now what her phrase was but basically, a good, somebody's who's doing simultaneously, who's holding out, who's waiting until they get enough of the message that they really can comprehend a whole unit of meaning, including the, uh, speaker's intent and goal and then beginning the interpretation...that person is doing a kind of simultaneous consecutive interpretation, I believe is how Betty Colonomus refers to it. So, um, I use consecutive interpretation almost everywhere that I practice. I practice in counseling, uh, situations, I do medical, I do legal, uh, the place in legal where I'm not able to do consecutive is when the lawyers and the judges are talking among themselves and, at that point, I sometimes shift into a different type of interpretation, which is a, a narration of what's going on..these lawyers and judges are talking because he doesn't like the way that one asked the question. So, what I see myself doing in that situation is, um, interpreting the context for an individual

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who may not understand what the system is. Um, even when I'm doing simultaneous in a classroom...I'm working, they're talking, I'm signing, I'm not understanding, I'm waiting, I'm indicating – this is a reciprocal signal – I'm working, I'm getting it, but, um..I'm not sure, I'm gonna have to ask...excuse me, when you say such and such, such and such, what do you mean..and I'm giving these clues to the client that I'm still working...okay, thank you. Now that I've got the whole idea, I'm gonna convey it. So, there's actually consecutive embedded into simultaneous work at a number of places. In Canada, we have this wonderful thing that lets us actually do consecutive on the platform sometimes and that is because we're a bi-lingual country. So, there's many public, um, situations where somebody says an entire utterance in English, you know a paragraph, and then everybody waits while that is, uh, conveyed in French...and then the English speaker conveys the next bit and then the French interpreter conveys the next bit. Well, if I am thinking clearly about what I'm going to do and who my audience is, I'm just gonna listen through the English piece and then I'm gonna do my interpretation through the, uh, the time that the, uh, French translation is being made...um, so if, if you have that opportunity I would encourage you to give it a shot.

SPEAKER #4

Consecutive interpreting, I find, um, I like it because it's, it's, it's between two people and, um, that's what I like most about it. It's, um, you're comfortable...you're in a setting where there's, there's just three of you...and, um, typically they're, the Deaf and hearing person always sit across from each other so you're almost invisible, which I like...and, and the fact that you can actually listen, 'cause their utterance, it's not a lecture thing, so their utterance will always be one or sentences and that's something that you can always hold. And, um, and if there's in their utterance that you don't understand, you can interrupt them right away before you can put it on your hands or before you speak it. So, it's um, it's that much more accurate, I think, and I wish that all settings were consecutive, but hey, that's not the, that's not real life.

SPEAKER #5

I do try to work consecutively. It's not always possible. I find it mostly, more possible, in one on one settings and that would be things like, um, medical appointments or consultations between two individuals...and then it's pretty straightforward, pretty, pretty simple for the interpreter to just wait and take in, uh, the whole message or, or large chunk of it and, uh, before you produce your interpretation and then the other two individuals will usually just fall into step and, and it's not a big issue.

3. Deaf Interpreters:

SPEAKER #1

I have worked with a DI and I really enjoyed it. I found that it changed; it changed the way I did the work because I had a whole other connection that needed to be made. Uh, but when that connection was working well, it was wonderful...and I, I learned that incorporating ways of signing a concept in the middle of an assignment was not a good thing to do because I, when I saw how the DI signed it, then next time it came up, I signed it that way and it totally threw the Deaf interpreter because then she wasn't clear that we were still talking about the same thing because I was signing it so completely differently. So, so I realized that I had to incorporate that kind of feedback into my work later, not in the middle of an assignment.

SPEAKER #2-#5: signed

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4. Experiences Interpreters:

SPEAKERS #1-2: signed

SPEAKER #3

Yeah, um, I had a situation where, you know, it was a bad interpreting experience, um, in terms of using an interpreter. Um, I had to book an interpreter for, um, as I said, I come from a long lineage of, of family members who are Deaf and my, my parents are both deaf, um, and my father was hospitalized and, uh, with a stroke, and had some life support machines and they needed to be disconnected...and I had gone with my aunt to see him and my aunt is deaf...and the two of us, um, you know, had talked to the doctors and the doctors had said to me that, you know, the following morning would be the time to disconnect the equipment, um, if we were going to do it, otherwise he may live in a, a comatose state for quite a long time. So, the timing was quite crucial, he said we didn't have a real, you know, we only had this little window of opportunity and that was it. So, the night before I had called to arrange for an interpreter to come and, uh, because my aunt and I had talked about it, and I said I'd really like to, to be his daughter and not an interpreter...and be able to um, make these decisions in English...be able to speak to the physician...ask the questions that I think need to be asked and allow my aunt to participate equally as well with an interpreter, um so she could ask what she needed to ask. So, we arranged for the interpreter and told them to come at 9:45 the following morning, oh, 9:30 the following morning because we were gonna disconnect at 9:45. So, the interpreter, you know, knew that everything was there, that it was all arranged and the next morning, you know, we waited around 9:15 thinking interpreters arrive 15 minutes early and we waited, and we waited, and waited, and um, you know, eventually they didn't show up...and the doctor kept pressuring me while we were waiting that, you know, Ava, we have to make this decision now, we cannot wait...if we wait, um, it's gonna be crucial to, you know, your father's health...and I kind of looked to my aunt and said, you know what, I'm not sure what we're gonna do here. The interpreter hasn't shown up, I'm not sure what we're gonna do...and, uh, she said, you know, Ava, I trust you...you do what you need to do and I said, you know, do you mind if I talk in sign and she said fine...and so I talked in sign through that whole process and it was really difficult because I couldn't separate my emotions of losing my father and then interpreting...because I was an interpreter, I didn't have those emotions any more...I didn't have that moment to grieve when people should have a moment to grieve. I was not allowed to express my emotion while my father was dying; instead I ended up interpreting and not having somebody there to take that load off, to take that pressure off, when it was crucial for me to be a daughter and not to be an interpreter. Um, you know, the interpreter apologized and things like that but it meant nothing at the time because timing is everything. When people book interpreters, we don't just book you because we want you to, you know, come whenever you want. When we say a specific time, you come 15 minutes earlier. You make sure in case it starts early.

SPEAKERS #3-#7: signed

SPEAKER #8

Well, in Douglas College, we use interpreters quite a bit especially in our department. Um, every time we have a full faculty meeting we need interpreters, two interpreters, to interpret for our deaf, um, members...and as a staff supervisor, I do have one Deaf person under me who, if I'm doing an evaluation or, even in interviewing, when I'm first hiring

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them, I need interpreters, uh, just to go through the hiring process...and then most of the time we do communicate just, just ourselves but if it's something, you know, important or serious or a little bit complicated, if it's gonna be complicated, I think it's better, and so I do get an interpreter for that...and if there's staff days where they're, the college is running different seminars, we get interpreters for that too, also for our, for our staff person...and if the Dean is having a meeting, a one on one with, um, one of our Deaf employee's, then we get interpreter's for that too...and when I was booking the interpreter's myself I did, I just found it so frustrating trying to get someone because you put in a call and then have to wait for the interpreter to call you back and they're all so busy. Sometimes I would go through 15 interpreters before I got someone that would say yes and of course the clock is ticking, that, the meeting is approaching...and you don't have days and days and days to try and get an interpreter. So I did find that very frustrating...and also the interpreters were good about getting back to us, it wasn't like they left us sitting for two or three days, I don't, I, you know, I don't want to imply that, they didn't. They got back to us as soon as they got the message but, you know, if they're out on a job, on an assignment, and they don't check their messages for a few hours, you're waiting that few hours and then have to start all over again. Well, at meetings I probably wouldn't know that, I wouldn't be able to judge that, unless the Deaf people are taking part in feedback or, or whatever...but certainly on a one to one with my staff person, I would know from the answers that she's giving me whether or not she was getting the right message. *INTERVIEWER: And what do you do? What do you do when it's not working? I haven't had that happen* <laughter> *INTERVIEWER: Well, that's good to hear.* <laughter> *That's good to hear.* At least not that I've been aware of, you know...um, well, a couple of times the interpreters have, have interrupted and said, interpreter needs clarification...I don't have a problem with that. I'd rather they did that. I think that's good and I think that shows a certain amount of confidence on the part of the interpreter that they feel, um, good enough that they can do that, you know...confident enough that they can do that, I think, I think that's a really good sign. It shows that they want to make sure they're getting it clear and, um, you know, I would certainly second that.

SPEAKER #9: signed

SPEAKER #10

But I actually had a friend at, uh, uh, church who was Deaf and she regularly used an interpreter...that was a very interesting experience. Um, when I would communicate with her, she would absolutely stare, dead-on, and look at me...and for a little while I was very intimidated when we were getting to know each other and I thought, why are you looking at me like this...but she was reading my lips and she could do that very easily. I had to learn how to slow down and speak very clearly and then, communication from her end of things, seemed to be just fine. For me, however, I didn't know who to look at when she was speaking back to me because she was using an interpreter...and so I didn't know whether to look at her or whether to look at the interpreter or who to communicate with...so, that was a bit of a challenge until I finally got up my nerve and I asked her and she told me...so then it was fine.

SPEAKERS #11-#12: signed

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5. Interpreting Experiences:

SPEAKER #1

Um..it was a medical situation. I felt that, uh, I actually phoned the employer after, uh, and one of the interpreter's that works for them and said it just felt like...the interp...it was me but it could have been any interpreter in that situation, that the interpreter really made a difference. That everything just seemed to fit together and I had spent quite a bit of time, um, over the course of several days with this person and I could really, I could really just sense from, certainly from the hearing people involved as well as the deaf person that they really, it was really important that there was an interpreter there. That writing notes...just no way, in any shape or form could have, could have cut it..um, that was a really successful, really felt, uh, felt like what I had done was worthwhile. But I, I think most days I feel that, you know...it would be very rare for me not to feel like what I had done was worthwhile. Sometimes, I think the interpreting..well, almost always I think the interpreting could have been better, but for the most part, I like to think that, uh, me being there had actually..improved...made the situation better.

SPEAKER #2

A few years ago there was an international conference held here at UBC and, uh, and I was one of the interpreters who went to work at it and it was the first time I'd done anything on that scale..anything that was an international conference...and I had a lot of prep material, um, and, I was very satisfied with the work that I did there. Afterwards, uh, a deaf participant at the conference had approached me...sought me out because I was a new face to her...she hadn't seen me at any conferences in Canada before...and, uh, wanted to know who I was, where I was from and compliment me on the work. And that was a positive that happened that I, kind of, still draw on on those days when I have to think about something positive to keep my spirits up. I think it occurred the first year that I was in the field and I ended up at an assignment...I had been requested by another interpreter there who was going to be doing the assignment alone, um, so I think I ended up there for the wrong reasons because, my thinking at the time was, well, it will be better than no one else there...and it was an all day assignment and, uh, we were asked to leave at noon <laughter>. So, um, it kind of got around to me afterwards, via the grapevine, that the final outcome of that was what wonderful attitudes when we were asked to leave...that we didn't gripe or grumble and we didn't complain about it in the community...but, um, I mean, technically I was fired <laughter>. And, the other interpreter and I definitely bonded over it...I think it took about, uh, 3 hours of debriefing before we were actually able to go on our way. No, I think it was, uh, an appropriate decision by the people that were there. We had also approached them and suggested that they needed interpreters who were better qualified than us, uh, and then carried on. Um, when we were asked to go at noon, they didn't bring that up, really, so, it, it, it kind of felt like we instigated this and it wasn't recognized...but, it certainly didn't haunt me.

SPEAKER #3

Well, I, I have an example where I didn't, I didn't analyze the meaning enough. Um, these individuals had, uh, uh, an ongoing relationship and it was one pretty jovial, um...so when I came into the setting I was assuming that there would, it would be a jovial, very dry sarcasm – both in ASL and in English. So, I was assuming that their utterances were, were going that route and, on one occasion, it wasn't..it was quite a, a serious discussion but I, I was assuming that it was still the jovial kind of thing and was interpreting it that way. Um, so I had to stop the process at that point because people were starting <clears throat>, excuse

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me, to react to some of the things that were being said because, at that point, I began to realize their not being jovial and it's my interpretation that's now skewing it. So, I need to stop it and take responsibility and go back and explain what was happening.

SPEAKER #4

Got lots...once where I blew that one on...um, first I'll share you with one of my successes. I think that one of them might have been, um, uh, doing 'O Canada' at a..there were some interpreters out in the, in the audience, and came up to me and just raved about how I, I, uh, did 'O Canada'...so, but the thing is I practiced days and days and days in front of the mirror making sure that I looked patriotic and, and...so all that practice must have helped out. So, that's...those are little successes...and, uh, feeling like, uh...that I, uh...when I walk out of a situation where they are..yeah, they understood each other, that's when I feel that it's a success, even though I may not have chosen the exact sign that the deaf person may have chosen. The point is that they...they understood each other and that, to me, is a success. Um...and the opposite, if I walk out of there thinking, oh my god, I had to do a whole bunch of clarifications and, you know, which, you know, um, hinder their communication...that to me isn't, um, and it's, and it's sometimes because I'm fatigued or sometimes just because I wasn't on. You know, and we have those days. We can't always be perfect all the time.

SPEAKER #5

The interpreting jobs where I walk away feeling poorly, feeling that that was unsatisfying, unsatisfactory, I think are those jobs where the, the power imbalance that was present between the deaf individuals and the hearing people was so, so pronounced that I felt like, even though I did my best job as an interpreter, as an ally, as a facilitator, of communication between those people that I didn't make it right. And it just goes with the job, but, some, some assignments just remind you of the hugeness of what, of what we're up against when, when you think of, uh, deaf people just trying to, um, have fair access to information and opportunity. And so I, I'm reminded all too often that, um, we have a small role to play in, in leveling the playing field but we can't, we can't always do it all or do it successfully. Um, especially within the context of one short assignment...so, sometimes you walk away feeling like, oh, there was so much that didn't get talk about or that they don't know or that didn't, didn't get addressed...and...on the other hand the, the interpreting assignments that I leave feeling the most good about I would say are when I've been interpreting for a deaf person whose kind of running the show or when, when it's, it's been a deaf presenter or a deaf teacher. Um, when I was able to, to play my role and facilitate them, uh, impressing, impressing a group of hearing people and sort of, um, opening their eyes to seeing, uh, deaf people in a more positive light. I think, I guess that's pretty obvious that that would feel good but I do get those opportunities from time to time and those are my favorite jobs.

6. Sight Translation:

SPEAKER #1

Sure, sure...I get constantly, individuals who come to my home, knock on the door and say, got this letter, looks important, not sure what it means...and, um, if I have the time, I, you know, try to translate it for them and, if I don't, then, you know, we make a time when they can come. Um, I also interpret for, um, term papers. I get lots of university students who will do their presentation, will either do it in ASL, send me a videotape and I translate it into English, or they send me their presentation in English and ask me to interpret it into ASL so they can see if that's what they want it to say. Um...so, yeah, I do it a lot and usually with sight translations I'll, uh, interpret the document, you know, obviously, to the best of my

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ability, but if there's some clarification, I'll usually say, you know, I'm not sure about this. Then I end up phoning the individual who wrote, you know, the author of the letter, and clarifying, what is it that you're really trying to say here because this person doesn't really understand and, um, you know, make sure that they, that they do understand.

SPEAKER #2

Um...my experience has been with, uh, medical, uh, admission forms, things like that. Occasionally, uh, explaining documents in a lawyer's office.

SPEAKER #3

And, I'd like to say that again that I think it is my responsibility to do that whether I'm sitting somewhere having a coffee and a deaf person comes by...oh great, you know, I bumped into you, can you do this? Whether I'm at a social event and it's like, oh great, I got this letter, I'm not sure what it means, could you do this? It's my...I...it's my responsibility to be able to do that. Um, so, uh, yeah, I've done it with, uh, letters that they've received where it's like, I'm not sure what the English is, is here...I've done it, um, at doctor's offices where they've been given a pamphlet on whatever diagnosis they've been given that may talk a little bit about, um, whatever the treatment is...um, I've done it where they're applying for a job and it's an application that they need to go through...um, I've done it where, um, it's a notice of a meeting that's coming up and they're not sure if they're understanding is correct. Um, and a lot of, it's not just that I do the translation, sometimes I just confirm their comprehension of it too...so, whatever it is that they come with is, is...you work with it that way.

SPEAKER #4

I sometimes do sight translations of something in written English for a Deaf client. Um, it doesn't play a large role in my professional work. Quite honestly, those occasions are usually when, um, a Deaf friend or colleague is asking me to do that on a more casual basis. Um, so things like letters and documents...uh, sure, I'll be asked to have a look at them and, and sign them in ASL so the Deaf person doesn't have to struggle through, um, the nuances of the written English.

SPEAKER #5

I will do a sign translation if I am comfortable with the material...um, if, if the material is more or less foreign to me, I'm gonna ask the hearing person to, pretty much, interpret the written word so that I can put it into Sign Language. I've done sight translations in the high school for tests where some of the students...their reading level might not be where it's at for that test and...the...it's in their right to have the test signed and then they write down their answer...and I've done that...and some Deaf-blind interpreting as well needs sight translation where the font might be...just be too small for the Deaf-blind person to read. So, I will, just basically, sign what's on the paper for the Deaf-blind people

7. Uninitiated Consumer Assumption:

SPEAKER #1

I think it would feel very uncomfortable for me because I wouldn't know what was actually happening. Am I really understanding, um, perhaps another experience is when you hear people on TV from a different culture and you see subtitles...and you hear them speaking but there seems to be more words that their saying and you only get a smaller sentence and you somehow have the feeling that you didn't get the whole story...and so its...you really

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wonder in the back of your mind, have I got all the message or just part of it? It would be very hard to know...you...it would be hard to know what education they had because usually you can tell by the way people speak and how they communicate...their level of education, the words that they use, the expressions that they use gives you a ballpark sense of what they're, what they're education level is. Their family life is hard to tell as well...you might look for a ring on a finger but other than that you wouldn't know. Uh, if they weren't you might assume that they're, they're single but they could still be married and, uh, I don't think that they'd wouldn't have it simply because they had a disability but I would be looking for some clue, perhaps. I would expect that Deaf people would marry Deaf people and, uh, simply because you would be comfortable with that situation in life. I would just...that would be a guess. As for children, that would just depend on the cause or the reason for Deafness, is it genetic or is it an injury or...I would think that they could be hearing or Deaf. It partly depends on how to define disability. Obviously, if you can't hear it, it impedes communication and so it is a disability in a world where most people can hear. So, it is a disability. In some ways, I would interpret that as speaking with someone who, who spoke French, which I don't speak, or Swahili...I would have just as much trouble communicating with them. It might be a little easier because we might use body language that would be a struggle for both of us because it wasn't our first language. A person who was hearing impaired might have sign language so body language would be different, maybe somewhat different there...but I could understand where they just have a different language that they speak, even if it isn't oral. I would make the assumption that a person who couldn't hear would want to hear. Just like a person who couldn't see would want to see or a person who couldn't walk would want to walk because that's the experience of most people and we all want to belong and do what everyone else does. So, I think I would make that assumption.

SPEAKER #2

In years ago, I, I, I actually, I did, yes, I did think it was a disability...until I started working with people who are Deaf and there's no disability whatsoever...and I did have occasion to out for lunch a few times with one of the Deaf staff member's and I was appalled that the waitress was looking at me when she was taking the Deaf, the Deaf person's, uh, order. I just sat there and looked back at her, so she did eventually get the message but, uh...no, I don't...but I do have to be honest, before I started working with Deaf people, yes, I would have said it was a disability. Well, it conjures up that, uh, that they're, they're in a different culture than I am as I'm hearing and, as any culture, they have their own, um, patterns of seeing things or doing things or communicating, you know. Uh, I mean when a hearing person is, uh, speaking to someone, you know, they don't make facial, uh...well they do make some facial expressions, of course, but not to the extent that the Deaf people do...I mean, that's a cultural thing...and...and it would be pretty boring without that type of facial expression, so that's a cultural thing. So, no, I can certainly see it being, being cultural.

SPEAKER #3

I would probably have the same assumptions about them as I would anybody else in the general population. Education can...is education and a, a Deaf person has the same opportunities to have an education as anybody else in the general population. So, there will be some people who will be university educated and there will be other people who won't be...um, I don't think that I would have any different assumptions. The thing that would be going through my head would be how do I communicate with this person and how do they communicate with me? Uh, I would probably feel just a little bit nervous because I would

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want to make sure that there was actual understanding happening rather than any miscommunication. The short, fast answer is yes. The longer, more thoughtful answer is it does not have to be a disability. I truly believe that every person has got a challenge and the Deaf person's challenge is, clearly, that they can't hear. That does not mean that they cannot communicate, that does not mean that life isn't full and exciting for them. It simply means that they've got a challenge that they need to be able to compensate for...and the compensation comes in being able to read lips, being able to sign...some of those kinds of things. When I'm communicating with a Deaf person, I think that the challenge is more for me than for them, actually, because I am constantly trying to second-guess what I'm not hearing and I don't know how to do that very well, so...yes, I would think that a Deaf person would want to hear; however, 'cause there's another side to this, I truly think that when a person doesn't know what they're missing, perhaps they have got some other things in life that they have that I don't have. I would imagine that a Deaf person, probably, has got a great visual capacity - constantly tuning in to what they're seeing rather than what they're hearing. Um, there are some other things that I think Deaf people get from life that I don't get as a hearing person. So, I think if, if you look at the, the advantages rather than always the disadvantages, perhaps things even out.