

Title – Public perspectives and their impacting views on ASL/English interpreting

Program of Study – American Sign Language and Interpreting

Presentation Type – PowerPoint

Mentor(s) and Mentor Email – Nicole D. Thorn (ndthorn@liberty.edu)

Student name(s) and email(s) – Jordan Washington (jcwashington@liberty.edu)

Category – Textual or Investigative

Abstract Proposal

This project will be researching correlations between public viewpoints of ASL/English interpreting, the difference of the profession's duties, and the impacts on the profession. It was not until 1997 that American Sign Language (ASL) was recognized as a “natural” language by the Modern Language Association (MLA), 32 years after American linguist, William Stokoe, proved its properties as a real, natural language. Despite this recognition, discovering whether the general public shares this belief is key to learn how it will carry into views of interpreters as true professionals. Often, issues within the profession include unqualified interpreters and/or hearing clients misinterpreting the duties or complexities of interpreting. To assess how public viewpoints can impact the interpreting profession, surveying a normal population aids to identify a variety of stereotypes and/or misconceptions. Thus, after analyzing and breaking the interpreting process into comprehensible steps, correlations among those and the viewpoints them can be addressed. Fluency in both English and ASL is key for interpreters, and the survey incorporates two components: the understandings of ASL as a language and complexity of interpreting. Participant responses will be split into the views of ASL and interpreters, and how those can be negatively impactful. This project will show the (mostly) negative impacts on interpreting from common misconceptions. Whether the data demonstrates more than or less

than 50 percent of participants possessing popular misconceptions, the major impacts of such will still be discussed. This study can potentially include the deaf and interpreters to develop increased knowledge of ASL interpreting perspectives and misconceptions. Therefore, aiming to create better interpreter and client (hearing and/or deaf) interactions by increasing access to knowledge.