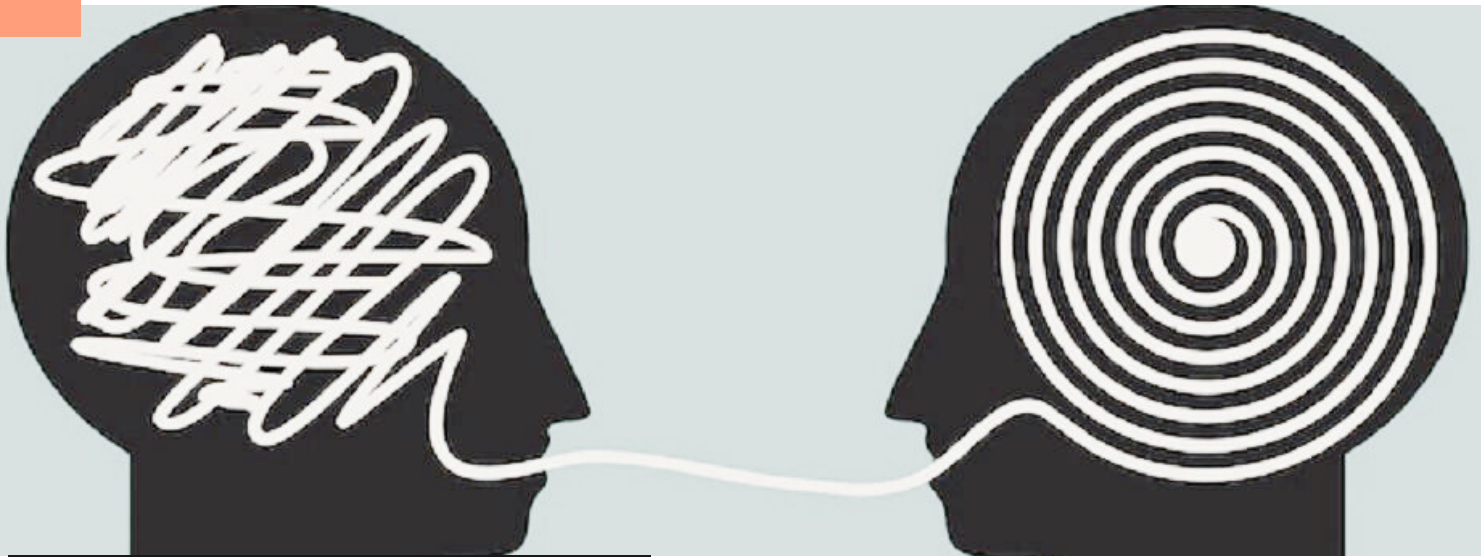




THE MULTILINGUAL VOICE



What's Inside ?

A Code of Ethics for Educational Interpreters & Translators - What's Changed and Why it Matters

On December 12, 2023, the American Association of Interpreters and Translators in Education (AAITE) announced a new code of ethics for interpreters and translators working in education. We explain what they mean and how it impacts the work we do...

The Importance of Knowledge

Knowledge, continuous learning, and recognizing the value and importance of the role of professional interpreters and translators is probably the *second* most important thing professional interpreters and translators should do, the *first* being acknowledging that your work is valuable, important, and necessary.

Interpreting in Adverse Situations

Have you experienced trauma from an interpreting encounter that impacted you for a long period? This article explores proactive self-care approaches to build resilience and overcome adversity.

WELCOME TO THE MULTILINGUAL VOICE

ALL YOUR LANGUAGE NEWS IN ONE PLACE

Happy New Year! It is hard to believe we are now in the year 2024. We hope that this new (leap) year brings you new learning opportunities, the best of success in your career, and all the happiness to you and your loved ones!

As a new year begins, new resolutions are set, and new opportunities are coming; we are here to provide you with news, updates, resources, and hopefully some smiles. We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we enjoyed creating it.

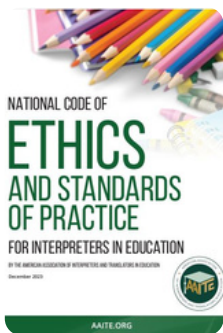
The Language Services Team



Code of Ethics for Interpreters and Translators Working in Education

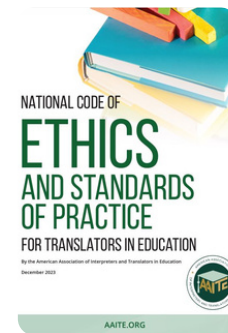
Interpreters and translators working in education have followed the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for medical interpreters for years. Medical interpreting has been a professionalized career in recent decades, with healthcare interpreting falling under the Community Interpreting umbrella. Interpreters and translators in education have followed the Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for healthcare as a necessary tool when working with students, families, and the community. As a category that falls under the umbrella of community interpreting, interpreters and translators in education can now refer to a document that was created by professionals in the same field of work, years of data collection, and backed by experienced stakeholders. The American Association of Interpreters and Translators in Education has developed two separate documents each containing its own Code of Ethics and Standard of Practice; one for Interpreters and one for Translators. Why two separate documents? Read below to find out!

Code of Ethics for Interpreters Working in Education



The Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Interpreters developed by AAITE provides an overview of the WHY, HOW, AND WHO these codes were created for. The document is a very easy read, detailed and educationally oriented with bilingual staff working in educational settings in mind.

Code of Ethics for Translators Working in Education



The Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Translators is an excellent tool and guide for translators working in educational settings. This document is specific to translation and aims to aid the translator when translating documents.

For more information visit: www.aaite.org

REMEMBERING DR. EVA P. STITT

Dr. Eva Stitt, State Refugee Behavioral Health Coordinator, Office of Behavioral Health Wellness.



"Eva was a passionate and tireless advocate for the needs of Virginia's refugee population, and she brought that dedication, as well as her kind and gentle spirit, to all projects she worked on during her time at DBHDS..." (excerpt from her obituary)

If you have ever attended a virtual presentation offered by the Virginia Refugee Healing Partnership (VRHP), you have heard of or have crossed paths with Dr. Eva Stitt. She was passionate and engaging in every aspect. Her passion radiated through the screen and it was felt by all. Her passing has left a hole in the hearts of all those who knew her and loved her, but her legacy and passion will continue to grow through the many lives she touched. The interpreting world has lost a great advocate.

She will be greatly missed.

The Importance of Knowledge

Technology has opened new possibilities in interpretation and translation. Machine translation and interpretation have greatly improved, providing near-instant translations and simulated interpreting. While we cannot deny that technological advances in recent years in machine translation and interpretation have become quite incredible, they are not yet at the level of human translators and interpreters. Let's take a look:

- 1. Artificial Intelligence is incapable of detecting or recognizing specialized voice signals and semantic meaning** – "The speech recognition module often makes mistakes when decoding the source language speech, and cannot accurately recognize the specialized voice signal and its corresponding semantic meaning." (iopscience.iop.org)
- 2. Unable to cope with common speech recognition errors** – "Particularly in verbal communication, there are often modal particles such as "um", "ha" and other words that indicate pause, repetition or self-correction, which results in incoherent sentences. In this situation, the current serial speech translation model cannot handle the task competently." (iopscience.iop.org)
- 3. Inability to convey cultural differences and emotions** – "Culture is closely related to translation, and translation is an important link in the exchange of different cultures. Due to the deficiencies in the AI translation database and the limitations of speech recognition and semantic comprehension, it is currently unable to identify various cultural differences, such as customs, arts, and religions. As a result, errors occur in the mode of thinking and expression of emotions during the translation process. Furthermore, the ability of AI speech translation to capture the speaker's emotions cannot reach the level of the human brain, thereby resulting in the loss of emotional meaning in the translation." (iopscience.iop.org)

The article published by the Journal of Physics: Conference Series in 2021 reflects on the technological advances of AI in translation and interpretation. Since the pandemic, the surge of available technology to perform in both fields has grown tremendously, but it is not yet at the level of human performance and capability. Staying informed on the latest trends and available technology will provide the translator and interpreter tools to enhance their skills, not replace them.

Interpreting In Adverse Situations

Interpreters choosing a career in the military or the government are often asked to interpret unthinkable situations, some of which can mean the difference between life and death. Interpreters have been needed in these fields for centuries, where they provide a bridge of communication in heated situations that may have led to revolutions, territorial control, or even total control of a country. But what do interpreters doing their job in adverse situations do after each encounter? The pandemic has taught us, as a best practice, that self-care should be part of any interpreting assignment, regardless of the field you are in. Are all interpreters practicing self-care? Most likely not. However, adverse situations can occur in any field, therefore, as healthcare, judicial, and community interpreters, we must also learn to practice self-care.

Interpreting in the medical field, you may be asked to interpret for a life-or-death situation, a life-changing diagnosis, or last-minute emergencies. You may have been prepared, or you were called in a rush. Those moments can never be predicted, and interpreting is already a taxing profession. Adding the element of emotion and tragedy can have a tremendous impact on you afterward. Knowing self-care after interpreting adverse situations is just as important as knowing the correct terminology.

Interpreting in the judicial field can be just as difficult as the medical field. You may be asked to interpret for the trial of a murderer, kidnapper, or sex offender. Interpreters in this field are often faced with harsh realities and can be impacted by the emotional and loaded content of the assignment. Self-care helps these individuals leave all of that "at the door" and not carry it on their shoulders as it can be a truly heavy load to bear.

Community, or interpreters in education, face a different, yet similar, situation. Every day brings a new and different challenge, and it is particularly heavy on emotion. Interpreters working in education may be asked to interpret expulsion hearings, board meetings that discuss gender in education, PTA meetings, etc., and can face adverse situations at any moment while interpreting. Most interpreters working in education are not or have not received professional training, therefore their skills are limited and self-care is almost never practiced. Below we share some things interpreters can do, regardless of their field of work, to decompress, process the interpreted encounter, and learn self-care in the profession:

1. **Debrief with someone who was present at the encounter** - chances are, if you are feeling a certain way about the encounter itself, someone in the team is feeling the same. Connect with that person after the encounter and discuss the way it went, how it made you feel, and most importantly, what you can do to walk away from it and not carry it with you.
2. **Find something that can help you relax** - some like essential oils while others like to listen to music. Finding that one thing that helps you relax will give you something to look forward to after the encounter.
3. **Go someplace that brings you a sense of relaxation** - although home is where the heart is, heading straight home after such an encounter is not recommended. Separating your work experiences from home will help you keep one separate from the other. Go to a park, your favorite restaurant, or to your favorite store. Having a stop before heading home after the encounter can help distract your mind for a little while and eventually provide you with a different energy and sense of relief.

And as a final thought, adverse situations can happen anywhere, at any time, to anyone. Having some self-care routines in place or strategies to help you cope can make a big impact on any person.

MANAGER'S CORNER

AAITE released its National Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice for Interpreters and Translators working in education on December 12, 2023. The two documents have been developed to inform, prepare, and ensure the professionalization of this profession in the educational field. These are important steps in taking our profession closer to the certification track. We hope you take some time to read both documents to further support your professionalism and the work you do. Make sure you follow all organizations supporting the growth and professionalization of interpreters and translators in education, such as AAITE, NAETISL, OCDE, and CDE on social media platforms like LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and join groups for interpreters and translators to help you learn, stay up to date to the latest trends around the world and network with others to grow in your profession!

Please share with your colleagues the great news! We are excited to see where this will lead us next! - Natalia Abarca

5 Questions in 5 minutes

What is your name and what do you do?

My name is Mireya Pérez. I am the creator and host of the Brand the Interpreter Podcast. It's a platform dedicated to sharing the stories and experiences of interpreters and translators from around the world. At this stage of my career, I am also an interpreter trainer but perhaps most importantly, I continue to be an advocate for language access policies and procedures in K-12 educational institutions.

How long have you been working in this field?

As a professional interpreter for nearly 15 years but specializing in public education, for about a decade.

What is your favorite thing about what you do?

I enjoy it all. I enjoy helping individuals feel that they are still a part of the communication process even though they are speaking through me (the interpreter). I enjoy sharing with others how to best leverage their bilingualism in a professional setting. I also enjoy being a part of the interpreting community. It's the networking that has really solidified the profession for me.

What advice can you give those who are starting in this field?

Do not ever believe that what you do is not connected to the bigger picture. We all have to start somewhere, so begin wherever you need to but always stay connected to your hopes and aspirations. Eventually, you'll be able to connect all of your experiences toward something bigger, if that is what you desire.

Do you have any tips for success?

Never stop learning. Our growth is directly related to the expansion of our minds. As Brian Tracy is quoted saying: Continuous learning is the minimum requirement for success in any field.

TRENDING WORDS TO TRANSLATE

- **Phubbing**

- Phubbing is a term used to describe the act of neglecting someone in your company or presence by focusing on your phone instead.

- **Tech Neck**

- Tech neck is a new term used to describe the neck pain that people may experience as a result of looking down at their electronic devices for extended periods of time.

- **JOMO**

- The term JOMO, or “Joy of Missing Out”, has become a popular new English word to describe the pleasure of not having to keep up with the latest trends or activities.

FUN FACTS

- **The word “queue”** is the only English word that maintains its pronunciation when the last four letters are removed - the extra letters are just waiting in line...
- **Tamil is the oldest language still in use today** - the Tamil language is part of the family of Dravidian languages, spoken primarily in India. It is over 5,000 years old and it is the only ancient language that has made it into modern times.
- **The Arabic language has influenced many other languages** - words like “algebra,” “alcohol,” and “lemon” are all derived from Arabic. Other languages like Portuguese, Spanish, and French also have many words with Arabic origins.
- **The oldest written language in the world is the Sumerian language** - the Sumerian language originated in Ancient Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq) around 3100 BC.
- **The most commonly used language for classical music is Italian** - in classical music and opera, the lyrics and libretto (text of an opera) are an important part of the overall musical experience. Italian was seen as a natural choice for this due to its musicality and rhythmic structure. (Source: <https://www.newinterestingfacts.com/facts-about-language/>)

DID YOU KNOW?

The Oscars have made the headlines in recent years for snubs on viewer-popular movies. This year, however, fans were in for a surprise after the nominees were announced. Non-English language films, such as Anatomy of a Fall, The Zone of Interest, Past Lives, and Society of Snow all received Oscar nominations - two of them for best picture. What do these movies all have in common? They are all foreign-language films. Why is this such a big deal? Well, in 2020, Parasite made Oscars history as the first non-English language film to win Best Picture. It is the first time in the Academy’s 96-year history that more than 4 foreign language films receive such nominations, particularly for best film. Parasite was considered the underdog in the category during the 2020 award and winning Best Film was an eye-opening event for movie critics to go beyond the language barrier and see the movie for what it was, a visual arts masterpiece expressed in a language other than English. Kudos to foreign languages!



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arigato

Terima Kasih

spasibo

Grazie

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THANK YOU!

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Gracias



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