



The Multilingual Voice

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

We are so excited to share all things languages with you. Our newsletter is meant to give insights on the latest language trends, new technologies and most importantly, an opportunity to network with others. Let us start by saying thank you. Thank you for allowing us to share with you. In this first issue of our updated newsletter, you will find information about language access, some humor, and some ways to connect. We hope you enjoy it!

LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR ALL

The pandemic taught us all to communicate in ways we never truly imagined. From virtual platforms to signs in our front lawns, people realized the true need of language to engage and feel the most basic of human connections. Language has become much broader than before and more easily accessible as well. There are applications that can do voice translation on the spot if you're traveling in a foreign country and don't speak or understand the native language; there are Artificial Intelligence (AIs) that will translate documents, fairly well, in seconds. We have found so many ways to connect to each other, regardless of the language barrier. Language access has changed in recent times and so has gender in languages, modern vocabulary, social media language and many others. We are now racing to catch up to the fast developments in language access, for without it, we are no longer communicating effectively.

Some topics we will cover in *The Multilingual Voice* will include:

1. A featured story or event
2. A list of upcoming events, networks and workshops
3. Shared best practices
4. Tips for interpreters and translators in education
5. Information regarding common educational terminology

We look forward to continuing this adventure with you as we move forward into becoming *The Multilingual Voice* of all school districts!

Welcome,
 Bienvenidos,
 bem-vindo, ترحيب
 歡迎,
 willkommen
 Accueil
 maligayang pag-
 dating
 स्वागत
 Benvenuto
 환영

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Interpreters and Translators Conference (ITC)**
September 22-24, 2022 (hybrid)
- **Basic Interpreter's Training**
November 3, 2022
- **Multilingual Consortium**
November 8, 2022
- **What Every Interpreter Should Know About Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) Training**
November 18, 2022



OCDE MULTILINGUAL CONSORTIUM

In an interview with *ATA Chronicle*, Natalia Abarca, the creator of OCDE's multilingual consortium, shared how this idea of connecting all school bilingual staff and allowing them the opportunity

to share, network, and build on their skills through monthly networking meetings. She shares that, "when the consortium was first created, there was an apparent need for such support. As an organization, we were responsive to the needs of our stakeholders and consequently forged a meaningful partnership with paraprofessionals, community liaisons, and other bilingual support staff who were asked to translate, interpret, and provide language access to students and families." ("The ATA Chronicle", 2022, p.22). It has now become even more clear that the need for bilingual staff to feel supported and have a solid foundation of the skills required is greater than predicted. The Consortium provides staff with all the tools to acquire these skills and give them the confidence of performing to their best abilities.

As the pandemic took over any and all ideas of a smooth transition, the consortium continued to persevere, this time in a virtual platform. Natalia continues sharing that "serving some of the largest school districts in California, it was a natural transition for the Consortium to become a clearinghouse for bilingual staff challenged by the uncertainty of the pandemic." ("The ATA Chronicle", 2022, p.23). The Consortium has now peaked the interest of school staff around the state, country and even the world with guest speakers sharing their experiences and challenges of working as interpreters and translators in education.

Our next meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, November 8th, 2022 from 10 a.m.—11:30 a.m. PST

We encourage you to invite your district's lead translator/interpreter to attend the meetings on a monthly basis as they are a great way to network and share best practices!

"Serving some of the largest school districts in California, it was a natural transition for the Consortium to become a clearinghouse for bilingual staff..."

Remote Simultaneous Interpreting (RSI)

Technology has certainly come a long way. The pandemic showed us that the use of technology, and all that it offers, is the future; and the future is now. For interpreters especially, technology has allowed us to bridge the common language gap and provide our services with clarity, consistency, and most importantly, accuracy.

So, what does RSI actually mean? The short response is interpreting from a remote location, not in person. How does RSI work? Thanks to the development of many software/applications by companies such as Zoom, WEBEX, Google Meet and many others, interpreters and organizations have been able to communicate efficiently throughout the pandemic. One of the most used applications in education has been Zoom, and we as interpreters have to give kudos to the developers as they successfully launched one of the first, and most user friendly, interpretation feature. The feature allows for simultaneous interpretation and is available for many languages. Remote simultaneous interpretation is the future and as such, it can be of great benefit to those who master it.

INTERPRETERS SHINING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

March 2020. The exact day is up for debate, but many would agree that Friday, March 13 was the day the world stopped; including the educational world. Students went home that day without any clue as to what was to come. Teachers, administrators, support staff, students and parents were not at all prepared for the changes they were about to face. It was a frenzy of what if's and what now's. No one could have predicted the impact a virus would have on the entire world. On that Friday, after students were sent home, teachers were receiving news that there would be no in person instruction on Monday until further notice. News spread far and wide and parents were left struggling to find answers. It was a time of uncertainty. While administrators, school districts, and county staff scrambled to figure out a plan of action, interpreters and translators, bilingual staff, community liaisons as well as others who had experience working remotely were ready. They knew the need for their skills would be called upon and it was now their time to shine. Although the first weeks were faced with a very difficult transition for schools and their districts to develop an online, remote learning system as fast as the shutdown occurred, quick-thinking minds came together and handled the situation to the best of their abilities.

Many steps were taken to ensure access to education for each and every student in the county. Students and their families without internet or a computer were provided with the tools they needed. Breakfast and lunches were also provided to those students and families that depended on these meals during school and many sites offered these services to make sure no child or their family were left behind. This was humanity at its best; it was a demonstration of how people came to the aid of others in their time of need.

There were so many different moving parts involved to make education accessible for everyone, including those in need of interpretation services, those in need of meeting deadlines for (Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings, and those in need of sign language interpreters for every day learning and academic access. Thanks to the quick development of interpretation-enabled software such as Zoom, WebEx and Google Meet, language access was provided to all in need by the incredible and flexible talents of interpreters. So, what's next? The sky's the limit! Many organizations have realized the importance and high need for educational interpreters and translators; it is now a race to the finish line when it comes to the development of standards of practice, a code of ethics (most have been following the healthcare code of ethics), and most importantly, a certification track for educational interpreters and translators. If you are one of the many talented interpreters and translators working in education, we want to say thank you and welcome to a new, in-demand, highly rewarding, and fast-paced career; so strap on and enjoy the ride!



Spread the knowledge! There IS a difference between translation and interpretation...

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT LANGUAGE

Did you know that...

The English word “alphabet” comes from the two letters of the Greek alphabet– alpha and beta.

Chinese is the most commonly used language, followed by Spanish.

There is a language only 8 people speak.

Cambodia has the longest alphabet with 74 characters.

The Bible is the most translated book, followed by Pinocchio.

There is no official language in the United States.

Spoken languages become extinct...

Over 300 languages are spoken in the United States.

Employment of interpreters and translators is projected to grow by 24% from 2020 to 2030 or by 20% from 2019 to 2029 according to the U.S.

Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Who makes more money? The average salary of an interpreter is \$45,816 per year, whereas the average salary of a translator is \$46,145 per year.

The languages of the future, according to Forbes, between 2022 and 2050 are Mandarin, English and French... ready to learn a new language?

Klingon is one of 200 fake languages that were made up of books, film, or TV. Others include Elvish and Dothraki.

Trending words to translate in English:

- * **Cryptocurrency**
- * **Gender fluid**
- * **GOAT** (Greatest Of All Time)
- * **Gucci** (good, cool or going well)
- * **Infodemic** (fake news)
- * **Lit** (amazing, cool or exciting)
- * **Metaverse**
- * **NFT** (non-fungible tokens)
- * **Non-binary**
- * **Salty** (bitter, angry, agitated)
- * **Snatched** (looks good, perfect, fashionable; the new ‘on fleek’)
- * **Supply Chain Crisis**
- * **Sus** or **Sussy** (suspicious)
- * **Woke** (being alert to racial prejudice and discrimination)
- * **Wowzas**
- * **Zennials** (micro-generation born between 1992 and 1998)

Educational Acronyms

AAE—Association of American Educators

ACA—Affordable Care Act

DHH—Deaf and Hard of Hearing

GED—General Educational Development (test)

IEP—Individualized Education Program

LCAP—Local Control and Accountability Plan

LEA—Local Education Agency

MADD—Mothers Against Drunk Driving

NAD—National Association of the Deaf

AGENCIES, NETWORKS & WORKSHOPS



If interpretation and/or translation is your passion, the following associations and groups could be an excellent way for you to get information and learn about the latest trends in the field...

Keep in mind...

The California Department of Education does not currently have a specific requirement for educational interpreters and translators, although there is interest in certification programs, the best way would be to network, join associations, and/or complete a 40-hour training.

Get Started!...

If you don't have any type of training in educational interpreting and would like to know more, here are some ideas to get you started!

* THE COMMUNITY INTERPRETER

40-hour certification training

* WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT IEPs (Training)

Orange County Department of Education

* MULTILINGUAL CONSORTIUMS

OCDE Language Services

* American Translators Association (ATA)

* The American Association of Interpreters and Translators in Education (AAITE)

* The National Association of Interpreters in Education (NAIE)

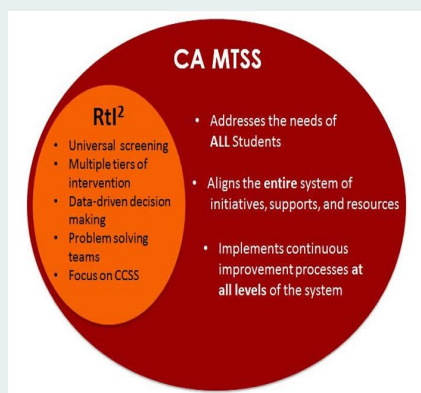
* National Association of Educational Translators and Interpreters of Spoken Languages (NAETISL)

Multi-Tiered System of Support

The California Department of Education's (CDE) definition of Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) provides a basis for understanding how California educators can work together to ensure equitable access and opportunity for all students to achieve the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). MTSS includes Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtI2) as well as additional, distinct philosophies and concepts.

In California, MTSS is an integrated, comprehensive framework that focuses on CCSS, core instruction, differentiated learning, student-centered learning, individualized student needs, and the alignment of systems necessary for all students' academic, behavioral, and social success.

Comparing MTSS to RtI2



(Venn Diagram)

Source: cde.ca.gov

GENDERS IN LANGUAGE

Language was developed as a means for effective and direct communication. It has not changed much since the alphabet and grammatical rules were implemented as general guidelines for proper language usage. However, in today's day and age, most people are unsure about what is appropriate and socially correct to not offend or leave anyone out linguistically. Our entire lives we were taught the male and female constructs of language when talking about people, but today not every person identifies with society's two-gender ideals. It is important, as multilingual educational community interpreters and translators, staff, community members, parents, etc. to stay up to date with the language rules and changes that are constantly occurring in the academic community. As many scholars try to find a common ground, the struggle to develop one coherent and gender appropriate language is real. Language is all-inclusive and it should be represented as such in writing. We will be discussing more in detail the latest changes in gender language in our next issue, stay tuned!

THE SIMULTANEOUS VS CONSECUTIVE DEBATE

Whether you are a seasoned interpreter or just starting, your preferred style of interpreting is probably the first thing you will come to realize. Depending on which one is your preference, you will often find yourself hoping your next assignment will allow you that. However, the real world of interpreting involves a coin toss of expectations; never think you know what is expected. Interpreting involves many moving parts and a large variety of personalities each with their own particular preference.

So, what's the difference? "The main difference between these two methods lies in how the comprehension phase is separated from the message playback phase. Indeed, the time that the simultaneous interpreter has to reproduce and properly structure the speech in the target language is extremely limited, if not non-existent. With consecutive interpretation, the professional has more time. This means that he or she has the possibility of moving away from the original speech, avoid literal translation more easily and even summarize as well as cutting out any undesirable interferences." - Lola at Cultures Connection—culturesconnection.com

Simultaneous interpreting is the oral translation of a speech as it unfolds. The interpreter, installed in a soundproof booth, listens through headphones to a speech which they translate in real time. The listeners hear them through receiver headsets. This type of interpretation is one of the most frequently used in remote interpretation, as its benefits in terms of saving time are indisputable, however consecutive interpretation works best.

Consecutive interpreting, on the other hand, does not generally require any equipment, as a pen and notebook are sufficient. The principle is simple: as the speaker talks, the interpreter listens, takes notes and then reproduces the speech in the target language.

ZOOM FATIGUE IS REAL, ESPECIALLY FOR INTERPRETERS

The pandemic brought people together through Zoom and/or other videoconferencing platforms. It is thanks to these companies that work was able to continue, remotely, for over one year. But now many people are faced with the repercussions of the constant use of these platforms. The term *Zoom fatigue* quickly spread around the globe as a way to describe how a person feels when they 'leave the meeting.' "Researchers at Stanford University studied brain scans and found that video meetings require greater cognitive processing power than in-person meetings." These studies have given insight to what happens to our brains before, during, and after video meetings. Interpreters were faced with the constant use of these platforms and the mental demands of providing interpretation were impacting them and so zoom fatigue was real and it was taking a toll on their brain. It is not uncommon to feel tired after interpreting for one hour or more without breaks, whether it's consecutive or simultaneous; however, it is even more exhausting when doing it virtually, as studies have shown. Interpreters need a full visual of the speaker when interpreting, as our brains are trained to use body language, facial expressions, and tone, to fully understand the speaker and follow their style. Because video meetings do not provide all of that, the brain of an interpreter has to work extra hard to take in as much as possible from a computer screen, and therefore zoom fatigue comes sooner and lasts longer.

"Researchers at Stanford University studied brain scans and found that video meetings require greater cognitive processing power than in-person meetings."

ADVICE ON HOW TO COMBAT ZOOM FATIGUE

According to Steven G. Rogelberg, PhD, author of *The Surprising Science of Meetings: How You Can Lead Your Team to Peak Performance*, "A well-conducted meeting should give energy, not deplete it." It is common for employees to have multiple meetings in a day or week. Timing them becomes important.

Some ways to treat Zoom fatigue, according to Erin Eatough, PhD;

1. Avoid multitasking. It can be tempting to do something else during Zoom meetings, but it's best to resist the urge...
2. Reduce stimuli on the screen. It's easy to get distracted in Zoom meetings-there's so much happening on the screen. We see our own faces as well as those of our colleagues. We also see what's behind them and get a sneak peek into their environments. These details capture our attention, and we subconsciously take them in. This is an overload of information that stimulates our brains and uses up our mental energy.
3. Switch to phone or email. To avoid overloading your Zoom meeting

schedule, assess whether a video meeting is necessary. Perhaps you can resolve the issue via another communication channel, such as a phone call or an email.

4. Take short breaks. This is essential for your body and brain. Turn off your camera for a few moments so you can get up and move around. Exercise your eyes by looking at objects at different distances from you.
5. Hide self-view. It's not necessary for you to see yourself all the time, as it can make you feel self-conscious and lead to self-criticism. It is the best way to avoid looking at and analyzing your every movement or gesture.
6. Give yourself more space. Sitting in a tiny space in front of your computer all day can be exhausting. Give yourself more space by using wireless earphones, keyboard, and mouse. This will allow you to move away from the computer while still participating in the meeting.

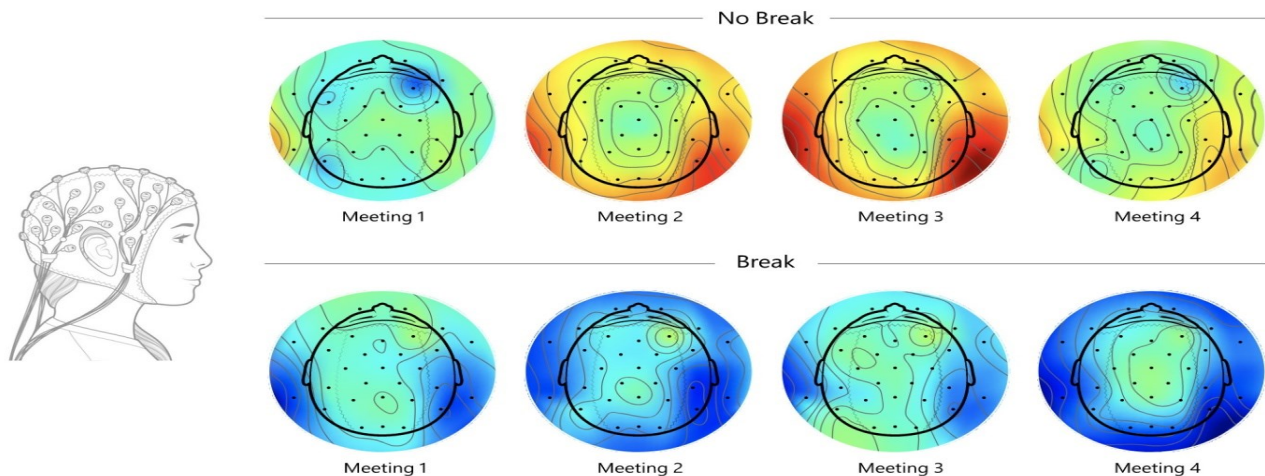


Image credits: Microsoft/Brown Bird design

FINAL THOUGHTS

We hope you enjoyed reading our newsletter as much as we enjoyed creating it!

Every single person has been impacted by the pandemic and so many have chosen to take this as a sign to make a change or be the voice of change so, if you have a story to share on how the pandemic impacted or inspired you to provide language access in your school or community, please contact us! We'd love to feature your story in our next issue. We believe in celebrating and recognizing all bilingual support staff, regardless of their role in their schools or communities!

We would love to hear from you! If you have ideas or interesting facts you'd like us to feature on our next newsletter, feel free to share them with us via email to language_services@ocde.us.

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INTRODUCING

THE ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S

LANGUAGE SERVICES TEAM

Natalia Abarca, Program Specialist—Natalia has been at OCDE for over 15 years and was the lead in developing the Language Services team as well as establishing the Orange County Department of Education as a major networking option for all schools in the county. Her ideas, ambition, and goal-achieving mindset sets her apart from the rest. Providing high-quality, united, and proficient language access to all is the main goal of this vision and she hopes this will only continue to blossom into a successful, nationwide point of contact for all things related to language access in education. She has a Masters Degree in Marine Biology and is also a certified medical interpreter and a certified trainer for "The Community Interpreter," a 40-hour training certificate program. Her many talents give her the many hats she wears to strive for the best quality services always!

Jorge Ibarra, Project Assistant— Jorge began his educational career as an interpreter and translator for Santa Ana Unified School District and worked with students and families for almost 20 years before accepting a position at OCDE as a Project Assistant in Language Services in August 2019. He is a legal interpreter as well as tech savvy and hard-working.

Stephanie Rock, Project Assistant— Stephanie worked as a bilingual instructional aide for Capistrano Unified School District while studying for her Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies with a minor in Natural Sciences. She is a community interpreter and has interpreted in IEPs and other community events for over 10 years. She started at OCDE as a part-time interpreter and translator and recently accepted a full-time position as a project assistant for the Language Services team.

Angela Del Rosario, Administrative Assistant III— Angela has been at OCDE for over 37 years and has provided her talents to many departments within the county. Angela has been a part of the Language Services team for over 6 years and her organizational skills have helped with the ongoing growth of the program. Her welcoming personality, exceptional work ethic and most importantly, dedication to her work have contributed to the success of all programs!

Registration is **now open** for OCDE's

6th Annual Interpreters and Translators Conference!

Click [HERE](#) for more information on registration!

