The Importance of Intercultural Communication Competence to Interpreting

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This study aims to explore how interpretation majors can effectively acquire intercultural communication competence through interpreter training courses or extracurricular learning from the viewpoints of professional interpreters and interpreting instructors. A qualitative approach is adopted in this study. A total of three interpreters and three interpreting instructors participated in this study. The data was collected through individual face-to-face interviews with the participants. All the interviews were recorded and later transferred into text format. The transcripts were further analyzed with the coding method. The results show that intercultural awareness and intercultural communication competence are important to interpreting from the viewpoints of interpreters and interpreting instructors. However, when it comes to including intercultural communication competence in interpreter training, a particular course on intercultural communication competence is not needed. Most interpreting instructors have already discussed intercultural communication competence in interpreting practice courses. The combination of intercultural communication competence with interpreting skill teaching is an effective way to introduce intercultural communication competence to students. The participants offered teaching techniques to teach intercultural communication competence in interpreting practice courses. They also provided some methods for students to cultivate intercultural communication competence outside the classroom. The researcher also proposes some possible methods to either teach or learn intercultural communication competence. At the end of the study, some modifications and recommendations for future research are suggested.
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Faculty members of GPTI in National Taiwan University. (n.d.). Retrieved from http://gpti.ntu.edu.tw/members/teacher.php


