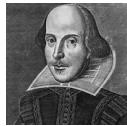


You Know that English is Interesting too, Right?

Alek Lev (NIC-Master, CI, CT)



An interpreter working from English to ASL:

1. Should appear to be a native signer.
2. Should appear to be expressing original thoughts.

An interpreter working from ASL to English:

1. Should appear to be a native speaker.
2. Should appear to be expressing original thoughts.

Al's Theory
We shouldn't know you are interpreting.

Al's Other Theory:

Interpreting is difficult

ASL

Why learn the history of ASL?

- History informs the language
- History impacts cultural norms
- History of ASL variation helps understand today's language
- Shows respect for the community
- Prepares you for questions
- It's interesting!
- We are language experts - it's our job

ENGLISH

Why learn the history of English?

- History informs the language
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- Shows respect for the community
- Prepares you for questions
- It's interesting!
- We are language experts - it's our job

Al's Other Other Theory:

ASL and English are different

Workshop Goal

We will study the history of English in order to better understand the differences between ASL and English, the challenges that those differences present for interpreters, and what interpreters should keep in mind in order to improve their interpretation.

What is language?

It's NOT animal communication
Not just "I go to the store."
"We might as well do it even though your sister-in-law said she didn't want to."
"It's been like 10 years or so, but it feels like just last week. Memory be cray-zay."

What is language?

Language is speaking/signing, not writing.
6000 languages today.
200 are written
96% of people speak one of top 20 languages.

History of Language Change

Language Change

Bad
Bad shit
Silly
Name
Random
Aaa
Gossip

THE BIG BOARD

English: Where to begin?

Humans have been speaking for 80,000 - 150,000 years.

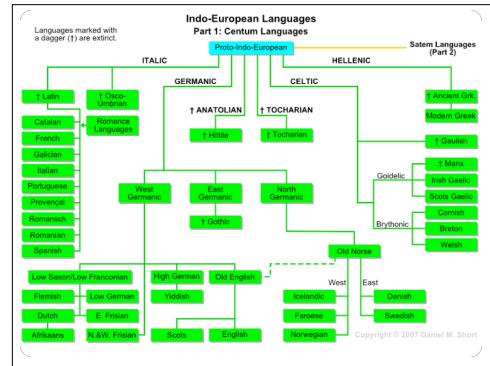
Proto-Indo-European

pitar (Sanskrit)
pater (Latin)
pater (Greek)
padre (Spanish)
pere (French)
father (English)
fadár (Gothic)
faðir (Old Norse)
vader (German)
athir (Old Irish)

- raja (Sanskrit)
rex (Latin)
- reich (German, "empire")
roi (French)
rey (Spanish)
- rich (English, "wealthy, powerful")



Indo-European



Old English

c. 600-1066



Timeline

1st Century: Romans bring Christianity (and latin) to Germanic Europe

5th Century: Roman Empire dissolves, Romans leave

6th Century: Angles and Saxons move from Continent to Britain

9th Century: Reign of King Alfred

Texts translated from Latin to ENGLISH

Nu τειλον λειπεαν ουτοπικες πειραδ
μεσοτερη μελτε οντη λη μοδζελαν
γεοργ πιλδοφαδεη, τηα ήε ρυπωνα δεηραετ
εε δηιλτεν, οη ομητεαλε
Ιη ερετη τεορ εορδαν βεαρνιμ
κεοφ το ληορε, haliz τερρενδ
խ middanzeaρδ moncynneη πειραδ,
εε δηιλτεν, αετερ τεοδε
բլաս πօլձան, բլեա մեմինէտ.

Caedmon's Hymn

Nu scyln hergan hefaenricaes uard
metudæs maecti end his modgidanc
uerc uuldfurfadur sue he uundra gihuæs
eci dryctin or anstelidæ.....

Caedmon's Hymn

Now let me praise the keeper of Heaven's kingdom,
the might of the Creator, and his thought,
the work of the Father of glory, how each of wonders
the Eternal Lord established in the beginning.

Caedmon's Hymn

WORDS ADDED BY CREATION: COMPOUNDS

Compounding of existing words
body = bonloca (bone locker)
sea = hron rod (road of the whale)
Now: bullfrog, eggplant, shoebox
Chinese: "electricity ladder" = elevator
ASL?

WORDS ADDED BY CREATION: AFFIXATION

Latin: spirare = to breathe

inspire (breathe life into)
respire (breathe again)
perspire (breathe through)
expire (stop breathing)

WORDS ADDED BY CREATION: AFFIXATION

antidenationalization

Does ASL have affixation?

Are English affixes challenging for interpreters?

Affixation

English didn't always have affixation.
Many languages don't have as many affixes as English
Don't interpret/translate the affixes.
Translate the meaning.

THE BIG BOARD

English has affixation

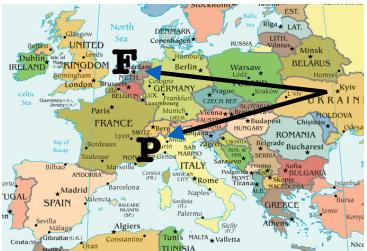
WORDS ADDED BY SOUND CHANGE

GRIMM'S LAW

F → P



WORDS ADDED BY SOUND CHANGE



WORDS ADDED BY SOUND CHANGE

GRIMM'S LAW

- F → P ... Foot → Pedal
- T → D ... Tooth → Dental
- H → C (K) ... Heart → Cardiac
- KN → G ... Knee → Genuflect

FOR THE INTERPRETER: OLD ENGLISH



English is old

Lexicon has grown over time in many ways
Some growth leads to interpreting challenges
Language cannot be controlled

Middle
English
c. 1066-1450



Canterbury Tales

Timeline

1066: Norman (French) Conquest

A tri-lingual Britain

English: Language of the people

Latin: Language of the church and school

French: Language of the court

Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote
The drouthe of March hath perced to the roote,
And bathed every veyne in swich licour
Of which vertu engendred is the flour...

Than longen folk to goon on pilgrymages...

Canterbury Tales

When it happens that April, with his sweet showers
Has pierced the drouthe of March to the root,
And Bathed every vein in the fluid
From whose power the flower is given birth...

Then people desire to go on pilgrimages...

Canterbury Tales

WORDS ADDED BY ERROR: ASSIMILATION

The principal of least effort.

OLD ENGLISH
hlud
hwaet
hring

MIDDLE ENGLISH
loud
what
ring

WORDS ADDED BY ERROR: ASSIMILATION

What does someone who protects bread have to do with God?

hlaf = loaf

weard = warden

hlafweard = protector of the bread

Protector of the Bread
(head of the manor/land)

hlafweard

lafweard

lavord

lord

lord = protector of the bread

"God" is the metaphorical "lord"

What ASL signs have gone through assimilation?

WORDS ADDED BY ERROR: METATHESIS

Transposing two sounds

(Pisghetti = Spaghetti)

OE = brid, ME = bird

OE = thrid, ME = third

OE = axion, ME = ask

WORDS ADDED BY ERROR: BACKFORMATION

What's wrong with the word:

Cheeseburger

Hamburger ≠ Burger with ham

Original noun phrase: hamburger patty
(from city of Hamburg, Germany)

WORDS ADDED BY ERROR: BACKFORMATION

What's wrong with the word:

Mentee

Mentor ≠ One who ments
The word is "mentOR" not "mentER"

"Mentor" is a character from The Odyssey

WORDS ADDED BY ADOPTION: BORROWING

Incorporating vocabulary from other languages

WORDS ADDED BY ADOPTION: BORROWING

Why does one language "borrow" words from another?

Modern English is only 25% from Germanic roots.

English borrows from more than 350 other languages.

LOVE
HONOR
CHERISH

ENGLISH
LATIN
FRENCH



AMERICAN
SIGN
LANGAUGE

ITALIAN
FRENCH
FRENCH



Ballet, chaise longue,
champagne, faux pas,
armada, tortilla, soprano,
opera, stanza, sauerkraut,
schnitzel, Chanukkah,
chutzpah, borscht, yoga, ,
jujitsu, kamikaze, karaoke

evidence, sacrament,
courage, tragedy, shampoo
(Hindi), avocado, tobacco
(Native American),

anger, cake, call, egg, get,
give, kill, take, they, them,
their, want, state, religion,
army, art, history, orange,
sugar, zero, coffee, noodle,
ski, giraffe

abandon	ablation	abstention	access
abandonment	ablative	abstinence	accessible
abase	able	abstinent	accession
abash	ablation	absurd	accident
abate	abnormal	absurdity	acclamation
abatement	aboard	abundance	acclimate
abatis	abolish	abundant	accolade
abattoir	abolition	abuse	accommodation
abatial	abominable	abusive	accompaniment
abbe	abomination	abut	accompany
abbess	abound	abyssmal	
abbey	abrasion	academy	
abbreviation	abrasive	Acadia	
abduction	abridge	acceleration	
abet	abrogation	accent	
abeyance	abrupt	accept	
abhor	absence	acceptable	
ability	absent	acceptability	
abject	absinthe	acceptance	
abjection	absolute		
abjuration	absorb		
abjure	abstain		

accomplice
accomplish
accord
accordance
accost
accoucheur
account
accountant
accoutre or accouter
accoutrements
accredit
accreditation
accrue
accumulation
accusation
accusative
accuse
accustom
ace
acephalous
acerbity
acetic
acetone
acquit
Acrimonious
acrimony
acrobat
acrobatic
acromegaly
across
act
action
activity
actual
acute
adage
adapt
adaptation

acid
aconite
acoustic
acquaint
acquaintance
acquiesce
acquiescence
acquire
acquisition
acquit
Acrimonious
acrimony
acrobatic
acromegaly
across
act
action
activity
actual
acute
adage
adapt
adaptation

addition
address
adhere
adherence
adhesion
adhesive
adieujoin
adjourn
adjudge
adjust
administer
administration
admirable
admiral
admiration
admire
admissible
admission
admonish
admonition
adolescence
adolescent
adopt

adoption	advocate	affirm
adorable	aerobic	affirmative
adoration	aerodynamics	affix
adore	aeronautics	afflict
adorn	aeroplane	affliction
adornment	affability	affluence
adroit	affable	affluent
adulation	affair	affuent
adultery	affection	affront
advance	affiance	affraid
advancement	affiliation	affate
advantage	affinity	affé
adventurous		agent provocateur
adventure		aggrandisement
adventurous		aggravation
adversary		
adverse		
adversity		
advertisement		
advice		
advise		
advocacy		

aggression	alas	allowance
aggrieve	alchemist	ally
agile	alchemy	allude
agility	alcove	allure
à gogo	alembic	ally
agnostic	alert	almond
agrees	algorithm	almoner
agreeable	alien	alter
agreement	alienation	alteration
agreement	allego	altruism
agronomy	allegement	altruistic
ague	allegation	alum
aid	allege	amass
aide-de-camp	allegiance	amateur
aide-mémoire	allegorical	ambassador
alleron	allegory	amber
aim	allemande	ambergris
air	alley compare allée	ambiance
aisle	alliance	ambience
à la	allocation	ambiguity
amboster	allot	ambiguous
à la carte	allotment	ambition
à la mode	allow	amble
alamode	allowable	ambulance

ambuscade	ampoule	anise
ambush	ampull	anisette
amelioration	amulet	annals
amenable	amuse	annelid
amend	amusement	Annex
amendment	anagram	annihilation
amends	analogue	announce
amenity	analyse	announcement
amerce	analyst	annoy
amethyst	anatomy	annoyance
ami	ancestor	annual
amiable	ancestral	annuity
amity	ancestry	annul
ammonite	ancien régime	annunciation
ammunition	ancient	anooint
amnesty	andiron	anomly
amorous	andouille	anonym
amortise	anedocde	antecedent
amount	angel	antecumber
amour	angelic	antelope
amour propre	angle	anther
ampere	anguish	antibiotic
ample	anime Fr. animé	antigen
amplify	anomosity	antique
amplitude	animosity	antiquity

antler	appear	approbation
anus	appearance	appropre
apart	appesee	approvance
apartement	appesement	approve
apathy	appellant	appurtenance
apercu	appellation	appurtenant
aperitif	appelles	apronicot
aphorism	apperception	apron
aplomb	appertain	après-ski
apologetic	appetencoe	aprosos
apologist	appetite	quarelle
apologue	application	aquatic
apoplectic	applique	aqueous
aporetic	apply appoint	arabesque
apostille	appointee	arable
apostle	appointment	arachnid
apostrophe	apportion	arbalest
apotheaney	apose	arbitrage
appall	appraise	arbitration
appanage	appreciable	arbitrator
apparel,	appreciation	arbiter
apparent	apprehend	arbor
apparition	apprise	arbour
appeal	approach	arc

arcade	arithmetic	arrogance
arch	arm	arrogant
archaic	armagnac	arrondissement
archduke	armament	arsenal
archeology	armature	arsenic
archer	armistice	arson
archery	armoire	art
archetype	armorer	art brut
architect	armour	art deco
architecture	army	arterial
archives	aromatherapy	artery
arctic	ardent	artesian
ardent	aromatic	article
ardour	arraign	articulation
are	arraignment	artifice
arête	arrange	artificial
argent	arrangement	artillery
argot	arras	artisan
argue	array	artist
argument	arrearage	artiste
argumentation	arrears	artistic
arity	arrest	asbestos
aristocracy	arrive	ascendant
aristocrat	arriviste	ascertain

ashlar	assignee	attainment	auditor
asine	assigment	attempt	au fait
askance	assist	attend	augment
asp	assistance	attendance	augmentation
aspic	assistant	attendant	au naturel
aspirant	assize	attentive	aura
aspire	assonance	attendant	auvole
assail	assuage	attest	auspices
assassin	assume	attire	autherity
assault	assurance	attitude	auter
assassin	assure	attorn	authentic
assault	astonish	attorney	author
assay	astray	attraction	authorise
assemblage	astrolabe	attractive	autoclavy
assemble	astronomy	attribution	autocracy
assembly	atavism	aubade	autocrat
assent	atelier	aubain	autocratic
assertion	atheism	aubergine	automobile
assess	attach	auburn	autumn
assessor	attaché	au courant	aval
assets	attachment	audible	avalanche
assign	attack	audience	avant
assignation	attain	audition	avarice

avaricious	avidity
avaunt	avocet
avenge	avoid
avenue	avordupois
aver	avouch
average	avow
averment	await
avert	award
aviation	axiom
aviator	aye-aye
avid	azimuth
	azure

Does ASL borrow?

English has “borrowed” many words from many languages.
How does this make interpreting difficult?

Fine Distinctions

Kingly
Regal
Royal

(much more on this later)

THE BIG BOARD

English has affixation
English has many loan words

English moves from
INFLECTED to **UNINFLECTED**

Inflection

A modification of a word to express a different grammatical category
Tense, gender, number, person, case
English:
Dog + s = Dogs
Jump + ed = Jumped

LATIN

Nominative case: Subject
THE FARMER is going to the store.
agricola

Accusative case: Direct object
I help THE FARMER.
agricolam

Genitive case: Possession, measurement, or source ("of")
That is the house of THE FARMER. (Or, the FARMER's house.)
agricolae

Dative case: Indirect object ("to")
I give it to THE FARMER.
agricolae

"The woman wove a toga"
femina togam texui
texui togam femina
togam texui femina

INFLECTED vs. UNINFLECTED

WORD TYPE MARKED	VS.	WORD TYPE UNMARKED
LESS WORD ORDER	VS.	MORE WORD ORDER
FEWER PREPOSITIONS	VS.	MORE PREPOSITIONS

PROTO-INDOEUROPEAN
OLD ENGLISH
ASL

MIDDLE ENGLISH

Spoken vs. Signed Inflection

Spoken: Addition to original word
Signed: Change in structure

ASL Inflection

Verbs - Aspect (time)
SIT vs. SIT-FOR-A-LONG-TIME
Verbs - Subject/object agreement
ASK, GIVE, TELL (object only),
SAY-NO
Topic marker

ASL is highly inflected.
English is relatively uninflected.

How does that make interpreting difficult?

Inflection

English uses prepositions.

We need to find spacial markers to represent the same concept

ASL uses repeated movements

We need to find equivalent words (and not just "calling and calling and calling")

THE BIG BOARD

English has affixation

English has many loan words

English is uninflected

Get ready to buckle down and work. Make sure you take time to prepare - do you think it will be a cake walk? It is not easy come up with answers out of the blue. I am wondering, do you catch my drift? Now come on, it's raining cats and dogs.

IDIOM

A group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words.

Conventional or agreed-upon.

I can't wait until you get here.

Get ready to buckle down and work. Make sure you take time to prepare - do you think it will be a cake walk? It is not easy come up with answers out of the blue. I am wondering, do you catch my drift? Now come on, it's raining cats and dogs.

Get ready to buckle down and work. **Make sure** you **take time** to prepare - **do you think** it will be a **cake walk**? **It** is not easy to **come up with** answers **out of the blue**. **I am wondering**, do you **catch my drift**? Now **come on**, it's **raining cats and dogs**.

Get ready
buckle down
Make sure
take time
do you think
cake walk
It is not easy
come up with
out of the blue
I am wondering *
do you catch
catch my drift
come on
it's raining cats and dogs

-ing

What is the present tense of TO EAT?

I eat!

I am eating.

I AM (??) eating

I AM (??) wondering

I AM a father.

Get ready
buckle down
Make sure
take time
do you think
cake walk
It is not easy
come up with
out of the blue
I am wondering
do you catch *
catch my drift
come on
it's raining cats and dogs

do

I DO the laundry.
I DO want to go with you (?)
I DO not employ robots (?)
DO you think it's a lovely day (?)
Think you it's a lovely day

Get ready
buckle down
Make sure
take time
do you think
cake walk
It is not easy
come up with
out of the blue
I am wondering
do you catch *
catch my drift
come on
it's raining cats and dogs

ASL idioms?

ASL Idioms

FUNNY-ZERO
THINK FROZEN
THINK SELF
TOUCH HEART
TRAIN ZOOM SORRY
VOMIT
RED FACE
TOUCH FINISH

ASL Idioms?

OOPS / MY BAD
UNSILLED / DON'T-KNOW-HOW
OVERHEAD

English is filled with idioms.
How does that make interpreting more difficult?

English idioms

Do we keep the idiom?
What does the idiom mean? (Pre-translation from idiom to literal)

THE BIG BOARD

English has affixation
English has many loan words
English is uninflected
English is idiomatic

FOR THE INTERPRETER: MIDDLE ENGLISH



Language change is natural

English offers related words, sometimes synonymous, sometimes offering shades of meaning

English has become uninflected, while ASL is highly inflected

English has become highly idiomatic while ASL is not.

Modern
English
c. 1450 - present



To be, or not to be, that is the question:
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,
Or to take arms against a sea of troubles
And by opposing end them. To die—to sleep,
No more; and by a sleep to say we end
The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks
That flesh is heir to: 'tis a consummation
Devoutly to be wish'd.

Hamlet

WORDS ADDED BY CREATION: LITERATURE

Shakespeare

bedroom, critical, leapfrog, obscene, radiance, countless, excellent, hint, hurry, deafening

MEANING CREATED BY: FUNCTIONAL SHIFT

Words move from literal meaning to metaphorical meaning

floor	fire	smolder
wall	bake	torch
table	burn	flash
pencil	cook	kindle
chair	flicker	roast
cup	heat	smoke
paper	light	toast

Functional shift has turned countless nouns into verbs.

How does this present a challenge for interpreters?

Functional Shift

"I was floored."

We are tempted to use the original noun.

When it is metaphorical, we have to pre-translate from metaphor to literal.

THE BIG BOARD

English has affixation
English has many loan words
English is uninflated
English is idiomatic
English has functional shift

FOR THE INTERPRETER: MODERN ENGLISH



English has undergone complete sound change

Errors become language

Literature spreads language

Words are used as different parts of speech

American
English
c. 1776 - Present



American (Linguistic) Exceptionalism

We understand each other across 3000 miles.

History of movement across the continent

Social mobility

Intermingling

Differences based on migration patterns.

He ain't gonna tell ya nothin'

He ain't gonna tell ya nothin'
Brooklyn, Southern America, AAVE

He nylle the naht ascegen
Old English

He wina tell thee onything

Scots

Aw bain't gwine for tee ee nawthen
Cornwall

He's noah going to tell you nowt
North British

He's not going to tell you anything
Standard English

Ain't

An't

But if your eyes then a'n't quick of motion, they'll play the rogue that gave the caution (1706)

Ain't

Those you are engaged to ain't half so near related to you as we are.

Ain't

I've worked so hard. Am I not ready for a promotion?

Ain't

I've worked so hard. Aren't I ready for a promotion?

Ain't

"Aren't I" ???

"Isn't he" is the question form of "He is not"

"Aren't I" is the question form of... "I are not"??

Ain't

It's just a word that means what it means.

Gonna

Going to.
We all say it.
We just might not write it in a homework assignment. But...

Gonna

We are adults.
We don't have homework assignments.
That's what's awesome about being adults.

Ya

You.
We all say it.
We just might not write it in a homework assignment.

Nothin'

Nothing.
We all say it.
We just might not write it in a homework assignment.

Double Negative

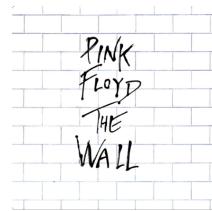
We say "it's positive" because two negatives make a positive in math.
Do you know how we know that English isn't math?

Double Negative

Because English isn't math.

Double Negative

Not confused for a positive.
NEVER confused for a positive.
"I ain't goin' nowhere."
"Oh great, so you're coming?"



Double Negative

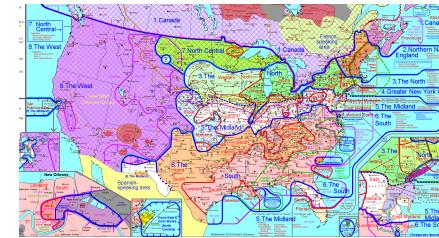
NEVER used for a purely positive.
I don't not have money.
I don't not love you.
I don't not want to come.
Use for WEAK positive
The plan is not without risk.

Double Negative

Often CUMULATIVE.
How about a quadruple negative?

Double Negative

Robert Lowth's book A Short Introduction to English Grammar (1762)



Mary

Marry

Merry

Mary
Mayree
Marry
Maaree
Merry
Mehree

A standard is a dialect with
an army and a navy.

Code of Professional Conduct's clause 2.3:

"Interpreters... [R]ender the message faithfully by conveying the content and spirit of what is being communicated."



The DIALECT in which
a message is produced
is neither "content" nor "spirit."

American English has many dialects and accents.

How does this present a challenge for interpreters?

American Dialects

What does it mean?

Do we try to reproduce the dialogue or accent? (Alek says: No, no, please, no.)

Letting our preconceived notions or misunderstandings color our interpretations

THE BIG BOARD

English has affixation
English has many loan words
English is uninflected
English is idiomatic
English has functional shift
English has many dialects*

*So does ASL, but they do not correspond to each other

Humans aren't walking around making mistakes.

Rules

We get caught up with dialects because of our notion of rules

Language is SPEECH and not WRITING

Is ANYTHING a mistake?

Mistakes

I want pepperoni and mushrooms on my peperoni.

The boy he is studying chemistry.

I didn't watch the U.S. Open because I'm totally uninterested in tennis.

The election of the first African American president was truly historic.

I don't mean to infer that no one ever makes mistakes.

MISTAKES

Who are you going with?

Billy and me are going to have chocolate ice cream with sprinkles.

To truly be fluent in a second language is difficult.

They was going to school.

FOR THE INTERPRETER: USA ENGLISH



Americans speak with different accents, and use different dialects

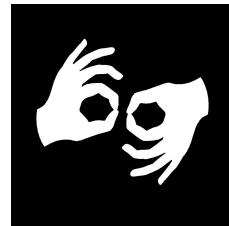
"Standard English" is just another dialect, neither "better" nor "worse" than any other

Non-standard dialects did not (d)evolve from standard English

"Mistakes" are rare in spoken language

The most mysterious dialect

Interpreter
English
Present - ?



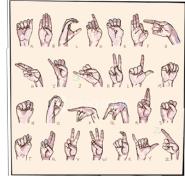
Lack of processing time

Lack of processing time

Why does a lack of processing time result in poor English?

Can you have short processing time and good English?

Can you have long processing time and poor English?



Lack of focus on English

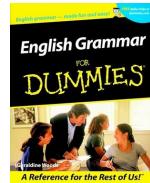
Lack of Focus on English

We focus on signs

Mentoring/feedback typically about ASL

No self-monitoring

We let the hearing people re-interpreter (with deaf too, sometimes)



Lack of knowledge about English

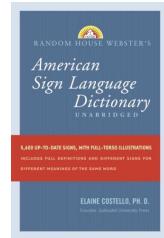
Lack of Knowledge about English

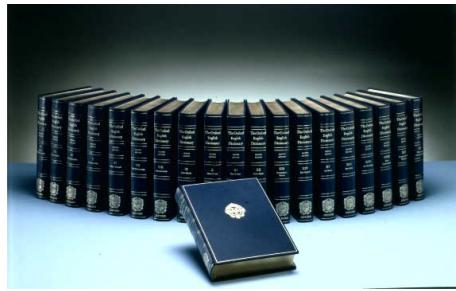
We are native users, so don't think we need to study English

You can run, but you can't run a marathon

Helps to know the differences between English and ASL

We don't realize how many words there are in English.





IF  (always) =

"book"

Then you are speaking "Interpreter English".

English's Huge Lexicon

If we restrict ourselves to the head words in an ASL dictionary ("book" "happy" "excited") then we are limiting ourselves to 5000 words.

If English has 500,000 words, then
5000 is 1%.

If we use 20-25,000 words regularly, then 5000 is 20-25%.

English's Huge Lexicon

We are limiting our language, which is not something that humans do

When interpreters do that, we know they are interpreting.

English has hundreds of thousands of words.

Maybe millions.
How does not thinking
about that affect our
interpretation?

THE BIG BOARD

- English has affixation
- English has many loan words
- English is uninflected
- English is idiomatic
- English has functional shift
- English has many dialects*
- English has many words

*So does ASL, but they do not correspond to each other.



Lack of revolutionary spirit

shocked	\$%#@&c!
just recently	chat
socialize	in the past
inform/let you know	communicate

EXPERIENCE

EXPERIENCE

YOU FINISH EXPERIENCE INTERPRETING?

"Have you experienced interpreting?"

BASEBALL? I EXPERIENCE PLAY

"I'm an experienced baseball player"

"I've had the experience of playing baseball"

EXPERIENCE

"I'm an experienced musician."

I SKILL (EXPERT) MUSICIAN

"I had an experience today."

SOMETHING HAPPEN INTERESTING TODAY

EXPERIENCE

"I'm sure that you've had this experience...."

I KNOW YOU FINISH EXPERIENCE...

CURIOS

CURIOS

I CURIOUS WHEN DO YOU CLOSE?

"I'm curious, when do you close?"

CURIOS

Curious (adj):

1. eager to know or learn something
2. prying or meddlesome

"curious" implies a desire to know what is not properly one's concern.
e.g. "curious about a neighbor's habits."

CURIOS

"I'm just curious..."

THE BIG BOARD

English has affixation
English has many loan words
English is uninflected
English is idiomatic
English has functional shift
English has many dialects*
English has many words
ASL and English are different

*So does ASL, but they do not correspond to each other

How different can two languages really be?



RIAU INDONESIAN

No gender, no endings, no tone, no tense

"Ayam makan"
(chicken) (eat)

The chicken eats
I eat chicken
I ate chicken
When the chicken was eating
While eating the chicken
That chicken was eating

TSEZ

- Inflected (64 cases!)
- Gender (4 genders! marked on all words except the noun, and only when starts with consonant sound)
- Evidential markers
- Ergativity ("Girl washes" vs. "Girl knows")
- Tone
- Uvular sounds

to be afraid

the day warmed up

ENGLISH		ASL
Yes	LARGE VOCAB	No
Yes	IDIOMATIC	Rare
Yes	MULTI-FUNCTION	No
Yes	DIACRITICS	Yes
Yes	SVO	Flexible
No	TONE/CLICK	No
No	GENDER	No
No	INFLECTION	Yes
Yes	PRONOUNS	Gender neutral
No	USES OF SPACE/TIME	Yes
No	NON-LINEAR	Yes
No	FACIAL GRAMMAR	Yes
No	TOPIC-COMMENT	Yes
No	HEAD-FIRST	Yes
Yes	DUMMY PRONOUN	No
Yes	"DO"	No
Yes	WRITTEN FORM	No

With an understanding of the history of English, I hope you have a more profound appreciation for the differences between English and ASL.

With that appreciation, I hope that you understand the true difficulty in interpreting between the languages, and even more pride in the work you do.

You've understood that knowing the history of ASL can make you a better interpreter.

I hope you now see that knowing the history of English – how it has grown, how it has changed, what it is and how it is used – can make you a better interpreter still.

Workshop Goal

We have looked at the history of English, and now better understand the differences between ASL and English, the challenges that those differences present for interpreters, and what interpreters should keep in mind in order to improve their interpretation.



INVENTING ENGLISH
BY SETH LEHRER

The complete story of the English language told briskly, but in wonderful detail.

THE MOTHER TONGUE
BY BILL BRYSON

A more irreverent look at the history and eccentricities of English.

WORD ON THE STREET: DEBUNKING THE MYTH
OF A "PURE" STANDARD ENGLISH
BY JOHN MCWHORTER

Just what the title says. Funny, fascinating, and challenging.



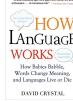
RIGHTING THE MOTHER TONGUE
BY DAVID WOLMAN

A tour through the history of spelling and spelling reform.



HOW WE TALK: AMERICAN REGIONAL
ENGLISH TODAY
BY ALLAN METCALF

"A talking tour of American English, region by region."



HOW LANGUAGE WORKS
BY DAVID CRYSTAL

"How babies babble, words change meaning, and languages live or die."



THE LANGUAGE INSTINCT
BY STEVEN PINKER

This classic looks at the way language is encoded in the brain, from deep structures to the effects of environment. More challenging than the rest of these books, it does answer the question: How do humans acquire language?

AUDIO SERIES: THE HISTORY OF THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PRODUCED BY THE GREAT COURSES

BY SETH LEHRER

36 audio lectures covering the vast scope of the history of the English language.

AUDIO SERIES: THE STORY OF HUMAN
LANGUAGE

PRODUCED BY THE GREAT COURSES

BY JOHN MCWHORTER

36 audio lectures that look at the history of English through the lens of how human languages function globally.

History of English Podcast



PODCAST: HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE
HOSTED BY KEVIN STROUD

An ongoing series of podcasts covering the history of the English language from every angle.



PODCAST: LEXICON VALLEY
HOSTED BY JOHN McWHORTER

An ongoing series of podcasts covering the English language from every angle.

You Know that English is Interesting too, Right?

Alek Lev (NIC-Master, CI, CT)

