

Finding My Place: Reflection and Reflexivity in Research with Deaf Participants

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Abstract:

This research is an examination of a Black female hearing researcher's experience while conducting research with culturally Deaf participants who were enrolled as students in a community college. This paper explores the complexities of the author's positionality on the insider/outsider continuum. Linguistic insider researchers make important decisions regarding translation and interpretation when conducting cross language research. Interpreters make similar linguistic decisions during the translation process. These linguistic decisions can impact the quality of the data. I recount some of the challenges that occurred during the research process and how I negotiated them, including the use of Deaf interpreters to assist in the interpretation process. I also analyze the experience of being an interpreter with knowledge of the interpreter code of professional conduct while simultaneously serving as both researcher and translator. Additionally, this paper explores issues of power and privilege and the issues that arise as a result of translating from a language with no written form.