

Translation: Deaf Realities

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores the development, through personal and professional experiences, of the beliefs underpinning identity in Deaf translators from their localized perspectives. The constructs of critical event narratives (Mertova & Webster, 2009) and narrative inquiry (Clandinin & Connelly, 2000; Moen, 2006) illustrate the evolution of their identities as translators. I apply the frameworks of social constructionism, feminism, and Deaf Studies to data drawn from interviews with six Deaf translators, categorizing seminal events in their lives into four key societal elements – social, educational, political and cultural – that reveal the power structure within which their identities as Deaf translators developed. I argue that the identity of Deaf translators – like all other identities – is constructed through deep, personal experiences of truth. My analysis of interview data explores the experience of Deaf translators, providing new insight into why Deaf translation matters, through inquiry into the critical events that made them translators.

KEYWORDS: translation studies; narrative inquiry; critical events; identity; Deaf Studies; social constructionism; feminism