

New Experiences that I have gained

In the beginning of the semester, already two weeks in, we learned a new skill set that would help us in any future career. In this course we learned how to translate and how to interpret. Originally the course was divided in three sections and later on it was converted into an interpreting class. The reason for the sudden change is that we found an opportunity to interpret at Old Dominion's Dental Clinic. It was a great experience which really helped us all and for some it was the first time interpreting for a patient. Most of the class had already translated some documents before. While others haven't, our professor helped us find new ways to translate those documents that we were assigned. One website that we were informed about, which changed the way I translate documents. Which is WordReference, it's a website where they provide many vocabularies in Spanish, it was very helpful.

I was very excited to join this course since it's the career path I want to pursue. It made me realize how much I want to give back to the Hispanic community. It was always intriguing to me how helping other Spanish speakers made me realize the hardship they must go through to be understood. So, I'm thankful to be in a course where I can help those to have their voices heard. This course has given me the skill set I would use after I graduate. In class, I appreciate it when we were translating documents, we were put into groups. Which is surprising to me because I have always done it without a group. The professor recommends more than one person to look over it, since other people have different ways of translating. It also surprised me that

someone else other than myself feels the strain of using two languages for a long period of time. The professor had stated in a lecture that it's normal to change interpreters because it can cause a huge toll on your brain. Especially if it's sign language. It was interesting that some think that interpreting/ translating from Spanish to English or English to Spanish is easier. No matter what your native language is, it's easier to translate that to another language. But in my case, I find it somewhat the same since I grew up speaking both languages simultaneously.

This course made me appreciate what an interpreter or translator goes through. At first, I thought translating would be way easier by just translating it word for word. But really, it's how well you can use that sentence, with the same meaning, in English to Spanish. As natural as possible. During the lecture it all depends on how you translate it to. For instance, there would be a saying in English that there's no true translation in Spanish and vice versa. I would really use this skill to remind myself that translating doesn't mean to translate word for word. But rather to sound like a native speaker. Really, it's how well you can translate it to the native language. Which surprised me because I would have translated it somewhat word by word. Looking back at it now it doesn't give the same meaning as others. This skill that I learned during our Translating section would help me interpret in medical settings or in others. Because I would have to find some phrases that are somewhat the same. One thing I wish we had done for class would be Audio Visual. I was very excited to do that like captions on videos. But thankfully for the opportunity that we had from the dental clinic it was a better experience than during captions. Interpreting in a dental clinic was a real life- situation which will happen to some of us in this course.

Overall, this course has helped me look at translating and interpreting way differently and how difficult it can be. Sometimes it can be overwhelming but overall, it goes away the moment you get a thank you from the patient's parents or the patient themselves. I was so glad to be given this opportunity to give back to my community. I'm excited for what the future has to offer, and I will continue to use this skill for many years to come.