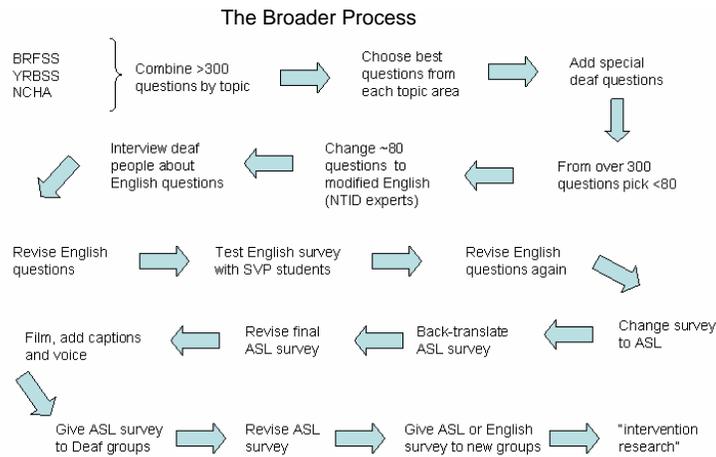


ASL Survey Translation Working Group: J. Aggas, R. Dean, E. Finigan, P. Graybill, R. Pollard, S. Postlethwait
Deaf Wellness Center DBT Films: S. Chapel, R. Dean, J. Gold Brunson, S. Haynes, A. O'Hearn, R. Pollard

Adapting Health Surveys



The Translation Working Group (TWG)

Role: Create an ASL "video script" for the survey, starting with the list of English questions and answers

Membership: TWG is three researchers with medical and/or translation experience and three members of the Deaf Health Community Committee. All TWG members are bilingual in ASL and English.

Collaboration: Together, we reach consensus on ASL translations that best match the meaning and medical/survey intent of the original English, while fitting the linguistic and cultural parameters of ASL.

Examples of Challenging Translations

Linguistic Challenge: English surveys use one word – "drink" to mean many different kinds of alcoholic beverages. ASL uses different signs for "drink" depending on the type of alcohol (e.g., beer vs. cocktail vs. shot).

Cultural Challenge: The researchers want to know how strongly the survey-taker feels connected to Deaf culture. This is hard to capture in one question. We recommended several questions that ask about self-identification, who you socialize with, and if you've attended a school for the deaf.

Medical Challenge: There is a new HIV test that uses saliva. What is the exact method used to collect the saliva (so it can be shown properly in ASL)? Answer: not by "swabbing" the cheek (as we thought at first) but by leaving the swab between the cheek and gum.

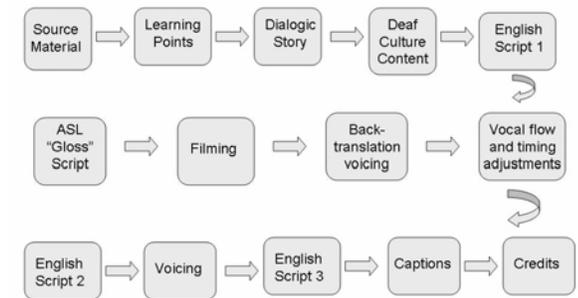
Survey Methodology Challenges: Questions in English surveys use the pronoun "I". In the ASL survey we use the pronoun "you." Another challenge is the specificity of ASL vs. the frequent lack of specificity in English. Examples: 1) "...use a birth control patch" – where should the patch be located in ASL? 2) "...has your partner ever hit you" – what type of hitting should be shown in ASL...where on the body...how hard?

TWG Adaptation Steps

- 1) Receive survey item lists from NCDHR Research Committee
 - 2) Review films of the first translations that were suggested by a native ASL user and researcher.
 - 3) Discuss and reach consensus on ASL translation for each item, considering linguistic, cultural, medical, and survey methodology factors
 - 4) Note terms and medical concepts needing further explanation for inclusion in "expansion dictionary"
 - 5) Film TWG deaf members signing translated ASL items, creating the initial video script
 - 6) A bilingual expert who has not seen the original English questions back-translates the ASL video script
 - 7) TWG compares the back-translations to the original English questions
 - 8) TWG modifies script items when original English vs. back-translated English are too different
 - 9) Research Committee defines terms in expansion dictionary and creates survey instructions and consent form
 - 10) TWG translates expansion dictionary, survey instructions, and consent
 - 11) TWG deaf members are filmed signing expansion dictionary, survey instructions, and consent
 - 12) Final video script items, dictionary, and instructions are collected on one DVD
 - 13) DHCC Outreach Committee selects several "sign models"
 - 14) Sign models are filmed following the TWG video scripts
 - 15) Video clips are inserted into survey interface
- Note: A similar process is being followed by an English-style sign communication translation working group

Adapting DBT Skills Training Films

The Project: Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) is a popular form of psychotherapy used with hearing people. DBT uses many written materials that are difficult for deaf patients to read and relate to. Hearing DBT clients also watch films that teach specific DBT skills but the films are not captioned and are only lectures being given by DBT developer, Marsha Linehan. Amanda O'Hearn and others at the Deaf Wellness Center (DWC) wanted to make DBT accessible and relevant to deaf consumers. For several years, they have been adapting DBT written materials for deaf users. Recently, the DWC received a grant to adapt two of the DBT skills training films for deaf audiences. The first film, *Opposite Action: An Adaptation from the Deaf Perspective* is complete and now available from Behavioral Tech Research, Inc. The second film, *Radical Acceptance: An Adaptation from the Deaf Perspective* will be completed in the Spring of 2007. Below is a diagram showing the process we used to adapt the original Linehan films for more effective use with deaf DBT clients.



Scenes from the Film *Opposite Action: An Adaptation from the Deaf Perspective*

DBT Therapists Sharon Haynes and Julianne Gold Brunson

All-Deaf DBT Therapy Group