

RECREATIONAL LINGUISTICS

Title of workshop: Recreational Linguistics

Instructor: Gregory Miller

Hours: Three

Learning objective: At the end of the workshop the participants will have learned at least ten “word games” that will help them improve the language skills and mental flexibility that are necessary for improvement of court interpreting skills. They will be able to use these exercises to improve vocabulary and language flexibility in all languages.

Languages: All

Overview:

Interpreting involves rearranging a message from one language into another. Recreational linguistics (“word games”) encompasses the same skills. If we look at court interpreting as a puzzle that needs to be solved then playing with words will increase the interpreter’s skill set. Children benefit from doing puzzles as a steppingstone to reading since it teaches the coordination that is needed for reading. Interpreting also requires a great deal of coordination.

This is a very fast-paced workshop for all languages. As an added benefit, the participants will increase their English vocabulary.

Here are some of the items that will be covered:

Lipograms, anagrams, rebuses, pangrams, puns, tongue twisters, crossword puzzles, doublets, palindromes, spoonerisms, and rhopalics.

We will also discuss and do exercises related to pleonasm, oxymoron, heteronym, tautonym and other figures of speech.

The course will include a short history of recreational linguistics. The class will then be divided into small groups and given tasks to complete. Each task will be preceded by complete instructions as well as its relevance to interpreting. After each exercise there will be a discussion with the entire group.

The wrap-up will include a review of resources (commercial word games, Internet sites, etc.) that the interpreter can use to improve his/her interpreter-related word skills.