

To my esteemed mentor, Prof. Dr. Aymil Doğan, with enduring gratitude for her inspiration and lasting influence on my academic journey.

Preface

The publication of *Discourse Analysis in Dialogue Interpreting* (Özsöz, 2025a) was motivated by a simple observation: dialogue interpreting cannot be adequately understood if it is treated merely as the transfer of linguistic content between languages. Rather, it is a form of discourse-mediated social interaction in which interpreters participate in the co-construction of meaning, the support of interactional management, and the accomplishment of institutional activities. That volume sought to introduce readers to the principal discourse-analytic traditions that have informed dialogue interpreting research, particularly pragmatics, multimodality, and conversation analysis, while demonstrating how these approaches can illuminate the interpreter's role beyond questions of linguistic equivalence.

Although the response to that work has been highly encouraging, writing it also made me increasingly aware of another gap in the literature. While discourse-oriented approaches have significantly enriched our understanding of interpreter-mediated interaction, much less attention has been paid to the critical dimensions of discourse. Questions concerning power, ideology, institutional authority, legitimacy, symbolic domination, identity construction, and the reproduction of social inequalities remain comparatively underexplored within dialogue interpreting studies. Existing research has undoubtedly addressed many of these issues individually, yet there is still no comprehensive volume that systematically brings together critical approaches to interpreter-mediated discourse or demonstrates how they can be applied to authentic interpreting data.

This book is an attempt to address that gap.

Rather than treating interpreters solely as linguistic mediators or interactional coordinators, this volume examines interpreters as participants in the production, negotiation, and circulation of institutional discourse. Interpreter-mediated encounters do not simply transmit pre-existing meanings; they actively shape how institutional realities are constructed, how authority is exercised, how knowledge is legitimized, and how interlocutors position themselves and others within particular social and institutional contexts. Consequently, interpreter interventions cannot always be understood merely in terms of accuracy or fidelity. They must also be examined as discourse practices embedded within broader structures of power and ideology.

The objective of this volume is therefore twofold. First, it introduces the principal critical traditions that have influenced discourse studies and discusses their relevance for dialogue interpreting research. Second, and perhaps more importantly, it demonstrates how these perspectives can be operationalized in the analysis of authentic interpreter-mediated interaction.

In the final chapter of the book, theoretical discussion is accompanied by practical analytical applications. Rather than presenting critical theories as abstract intellectual traditions, the chapter illustrates how their concepts can be employed to investigate real interpreter-mediated encounters, enabling readers to move from theoretical understanding to empirical analysis. In doing so, the book is intended not only as an introduction to critical perspectives but also as a methodological resource for researchers seeking to examine interpreter-mediated discourse through different analytical lenses.

Although each theoretical perspective offers a distinct way of understanding discourse, they share a common assumption: discourse is never neutral. If discourse is socially situated, institutionally organized, and ideologically shaped, interpreter-mediated discourse cannot be exempt from these dynamics. Interpreters inevitably participate in the production of institutional realities, whether by managing interaction, negotiating participation frameworks, shaping knowledge, or mediating competing discourses. Recognizing this does not diminish the professionalism or ethical responsibilities of interpreters; rather, it provides a richer and more realistic understanding of the complexity of their work.

It is my hope that this volume will contribute to the continued development of what may be regarded as a critical turn in dialogue interpreting studies. More importantly, I hope it will encourage researchers to explore interpreter-mediated discourse not only as interaction, but also as a site where language, power, institutions, ideology, and social practice intersect.

If the previous volume invited readers to ask *how* interpreters participate in discourse, this book invites them to ask *why* that participation matters.

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