

Training interpreters using contextualised, immersive, interactive Virtual Reality technology

Monash University T&I Studies and Esolutions
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Purpose / Objectives:

- This project will develop an authentic, immersive, interactive learning activity for interpreters in dealing with work-based challenges using virtual reality (VR) technologies.
- The aim is to provide evidence-based, pedagogically motivated, authentic situational interpretations in a safe environment so that participants will be better prepared to deal with unexpected situations and the complexities of the role of an interpreter in contemporary transcultural societies.
- Interpreters will be immersed in a family violence scenario
- They will have to deal with the competing interests of other members of a multidisciplinary team (police, healthcare personnel).

This project adopts a multidisciplinary approach aimed to:

- ensure the development of best practice by teaching the skills needed for situation awareness;
- engage with interpreters using situational learning
- give emphasis to reflective practice to encourage critical thinking, reasoning and judgement;
- increase the capacity of interpreters to identify and manage the critical human factor elements of their role;
- provide learning techniques to mitigate risk; prepare them to deal with clients professionally while providing equitable service
- raise the profile of the interpreter, and the pivotal role they play in intercultural contexts

Non-Vr example (2015, Ryerson Uni, Canada)

- <https://h5p.org/branching-scenario>

Methodology

- Development of content (script) for the scenario, which will track the various stages of the journey undertaken by an interpreter within a family violence context. It will include interactions with the various players (e.g. victim, perpetrator, social worker, police, etc).
- Industry partners will be invited to participate in consultative meetings to gather resourceful information about the immersive scenario.
- Development of VR interface with Esolutions at Monash
- Pilot testing & QA assessment
- Development of Training Module

Outcomes

- For the language industry, a better prepared workforce, able to deal with a wide range of challenging scenarios
- Training interpreters living in remote areas. This is currently one of the biggest challenges in the industry and this project will provide an alternative to offer training using a non-traditional, cost-effective method.
- Benefit to the industry and their clients: the interpreter has traditionally been viewed as providing a service as an external provider. This project will provide a platform to reflect on the importance of the interpreter to successful mediated communication and to consider their role as an integral part of a professional team.
- Can also be used for training of interpreting students