

Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?

A Bibliometrical Analysis of Writings and Research on Sign Language Interpreting

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Abstract. *The fundamental differences between the relevant languages and communities have a profound influence on professional sign language interpreting situations. Interpretation serves to reflect and to create social and cultural values. Through a quantitative bibliometrical analysis of works on sign language interpreting published between 1970 and 2005, this article investigates the ways in which sign language interpreting has been addressed in print over time. The central question is this: to what extent has research into sign language interpreting influenced the broader map of knowledge? The analysis explores what topics have been addressed; which research questions have proven to be central; which methods have been considered to be helpful; and the way in which production as a whole has developed over time with reference to the relationship between research into sign language interpreting and translation and interpreting studies in general. A range of areas for future development are identified.*

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