

EALL TALK SERIES

UH Summer Intensive Interpreter Training: Program Overview and Survey Results

by Dr. Yumiko Tateyama (EALL) and Dr. Suzanne Zeng (CITS)

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

3:00-4:00 PM

Moore 258



Katherine Porrás, our 2011 SIIT student, interpreting for the First Lady of Peru with Michelle Obama during APEC last year.



Group picture of last year's students

The Summer Intensive Interpreter Training (SIIT) Program is a six-week program offered every other summer by the UH Center for Interpretation and Translation Studies (CITS). Since it was first started in 1999, the program has offered training in consecutive and simultaneous interpreting in English and Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. In 2011, Spanish was added for the first time, and that summer had a total of 27 participants who passed the entrance screening exam in those four languages. The program consists of a daily three-hour instruction which includes the principles and skills of consecutive interpreting (CI) and simultaneous interpreting (SI), as well as numerous topics of discussion from science and business to diplomatic relations and the United Nations.

In this talk, we will first describe the SIIT program. This will be followed by a report on the survey results administered to the participants enrolled in the 2011 program. The survey, conducted at the beginning and the end of the program, asked about the participants' background, future goals, expectations for the program, and final outcomes. We will discuss some of the findings, including participants' strong interest in community and court interpreting, their struggles and challenges, and their areas of improvement. Interestingly, some participants found CI more challenging than SI, while others found vice versa. Pedagogical implications in interpreter training will be discussed.

Light refreshments will be served. For further information, please contact Mee-Jeong Park (meejeong@hawaii.edu) or Saeko Shibayama (sshiba@hawaii.edu). The talk is open to the public and co-sponsored by EALL and CITS.