

Issues of Subtitling Faced by the Translator and the Audience

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Subtitling is a prevalent method used to translate foreign dialogues of a movie or television program to be usually displayed at the bottom of the screen. Viewers are generally well motivated to understand what is shown and said on television and cinema. Subtitled television programs seem to constitute a rich context for foreign language acquisition and it can raise awareness and provide motivation for language learning, in both formal and informal contexts, and consequently contributes to creating an environment that encourages multilingualism. However, language and culture are closely interrelated. In subtitling, as in all forms of interlingual transfer, this may cause problems in rendering culture-specific or language-specific elements. This research provides a descriptive analysis of the issues of subtitling based on three questions: What are the problematic circumstances faced by children, old viewers and the deaf? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this method? Which skills do viewers acquire by the use of this adaptation method? The information was collected by referring to web articles. The responses made to these questions are based on the results of this research on the issues of subtitling. The results listed down by former researches on these issues of subtitling are its fast pace of subtitles as complained by young and old viewers, continuous integration with regards to its limited processing capacity, and the issues related to the part of the screen of which the subtitles are placed. Moreover, further investigations have not been done to figure out the problems encountered by viewers, but this seems likely because they apparently do not grasp to the fullest from the information provided in the subtitles. There would be an increase in the number of co-productions of television programmes and the future introduction of digital television broadcasts with globalisation. Consequently, the use of language adaptation, specifically subtitling, will therefore undoubtedly improve gradually. Abundant opportunities would be provided for those engaged in the field as a result.

Key words: continuous integration, culture, language acquisition, subtitling, television programmes

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