When healthcare providers and patients do not speak the same language, medical interpreters are called in to help. In this book – the first ever ethnographic study of a bilingual hospital – Claudia V. Angelelli explores the role of medical interpreters, drawing on data from over 300 medical encounters and interviewing the interpreters themselves about the people for whom they interpret, their challenges, and how they characterize their role. Traditionally the interpreter has been viewed as a language conduit, with little power over the medical encounter or the relationship between patient and provider. This book presents an alternative view, considering the interpreter’s agency and contextualizing the practice within an institution that is part of a larger society. Bringing together literature from social theory, social psychology, and linguistic anthropology, this book will be welcomed by anyone who wants to discover the intricacies of medical interpreting firsthand; particularly researchers, communication specialists, policy makers, and practitioners.

Claudia V. Angelelli is Associate Professor of Spanish Linguistics at San Diego State University, where she teaches applied linguistics courses such as Spanish discourse analysis, English–Spanish translation and interpreting theory, and methods of teaching Spanish. Her research focuses on cross-linguistic and cross-cultural communication, and she has published articles in a variety of journals, such as The Annual Review of Applied Linguistics, META: Journal des Traducteurs and Critical Link: Interpreters in the Community.
Medical Interpreting and Cross-cultural Communication

Claudia V. Angelelli

San Diego State University
To my mother, Angela Rizzo, whose dedication to science and public health served as an inspiration

To my husband, Christian Degueldre, whose longtime interest and work in this topic and incredible support helped make this work a reality
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of figures</th>
<th>page ix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of tables</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>xi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of abbreviations</td>
<td>xiii</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prologue

1 Questioning invisibility
   Previous studies on interpreting in a medical setting  
   12

2 Communication in the medical encounter
   The essence of the doctor–patient relationship  
   15
   Communication issues in a bilingual medical encounter  
   18
   Navigating across languages and cultures: the need for interpreters  
   21

3 A different set of lenses
   Looking at the interpreter’s role through different lenses  
   26
   The lens of society and the institution  
   27
   The lens of the interaction  
   29
   The lens of discourse  
   33
   Monolingual and interpreted communicative events: differences and similarities  
   34

4 California Hope: a public hospital in changing times
   Finding a study site  
   44
   The pilot study  
   44
   Obtaining consent  
   45
   The in-depth study  
   46
   The town  
   46
   The hospital  
   46
   The study site  
   48
   The staff  
   48
   The workplace  
   52
   Working hours and interpreters’ responsibilities  
   53
   A typical day at Interpreting Services  
   55
## Contents

5 Putting it all together 58
- Data collection, coding, and analysis 59
  - Artifacts 59
  - Field notes 59
  - The interpreter interpersonal role inventory 61
  - Interviews 62
- Audio recordings of ICEs 63
- Categories and subcategories emerging from ICEs 69
  - Nature of the ICE 69
  - Intention of the ICE 70
  - Visibility of the interpreter 71

6 Finding visibility 73
- The nature of the ICE at California Hope 73
- The structure of the ICE at California Hope 74
- Interpreter visibility: an overview 75
- Manifestations of visibility in ICEs at California Hope 76
- Becoming visible: linguistic and communicative strategies 77
- Minor visibility: occasional involvement of interpreter as co-owner of text 79
- Typical openings of an ICE 79
- Typical closings of an ICE 82
- Major visibility: interpreters as owners of text 85

7 Interpreters’ voices 105
- Roberto, the manager 105
- Annette 108
- Consuelo 110
- Elda 112
- Joaquin 114
- Julio 118
- Marcos 120
- Mariana 121
- Mauro 123
- Rogelio 124
- Vicente 125

8 Emerging metaphors and final words 129
- Interpreters as detectives 129
- Interpreters as multi-purpose bridges 130
- Interpreters as diamond connoisseurs 131
- Interpreters as miners 131
- Pulling it all together 132
  - Theoretical implications 133
  - Practical implications 135
- Concerns and curiosities revisited 140

References 142
Index 147

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# Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The invisible interpreter</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The interpreter as co-constructor</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The visible interpreter</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Multiple lenses to look at the interpreter in an ICE</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Interpreting service floor plan</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Examples of an index entry of an ICE</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Example of visibility in an index entry</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The visibility continuum at California Hope</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Tables

1. Fundamental notions of monolingual and interpreted communicative events  
   Page 35
2. California Hope interpreters’ demographic data  
   50
3. Artifacts  
   60
4. Field notes  
   60
5. Interpreter interpersonal role inventory (IPRI)  
   62
6. Interviews  
   62
7. Audio recordings of interpreted communicative events (ICEs)  
   65
8. Inventory of ICEs  
   68
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## Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASL</td>
<td>American Sign Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH</td>
<td>California Hope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMT</td>
<td>emergency medical technician</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCP</td>
<td>healthcare provider</td>
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<tr>
<td>HI</td>
<td>hospital interpreter</td>
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<td>ICE</td>
<td>interpreted communicative event</td>
</tr>
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<td>IPRI</td>
<td>Interpreter interpersonal role inventory</td>
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<tr>
<td>IS</td>
<td>interpreting services</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAC</td>
<td>medical admitting clerk</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCE</td>
<td>monolingual communicative event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>patient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SES</td>
<td>socio-economic status</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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