

Interpreting between English pet owners and veterinary services in the South of Spain

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British people in the Costa del Sol

- Spain is the most popular destination after Australia (“Lifestyle migration”- Krit, 2012)
- Málaga: 72, 852 (60%: 55-70)
- Why?: Gibraltar, after Southafrica, International state agents, cheaper.
- O’Reilly (2002): not interested in language and culture
- They need services: web: angloinfo
- Rescued battered animals (dogs, cats, donkeys and horses)

Who does the interpreting in the vet clinic? And what they interpret?

- English vets in English clinics: Diva Dogs
- The vets
- Non professional interpreters
- Female interpreters

Cases:

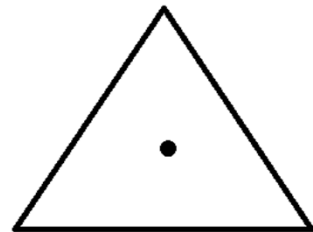
Vaccinations, surgery, illnesses (endemic in the area, specific to rescued animals), death, pet passport documentation

Similar to the health sector?

Difficult terminology and heartbreaking stories

The context

Child health cases:



The study of psychological issues regarding interpreters

Stress: Conference interpreting: Kurz (2003)

Moser Mercer (1998)

80s: VT: SLI

VT: The cumulative exposure to traumatic testimony

90s: war refugees, asylum seekers in medical and court interpreting. After 2000

Psychology journals

Blogs: remedies

<https://traduciresdescubrir.wordpress.com/2015/11/11/la-gestion-de-las-emociones-en-la-interpretacion-biosanitaria-2/>

Literature on vicarious trauma and interpreting

- Harvey (2003): “interpreters are in danger of empathically drowning”
- Granger & Baker (2003): Traditional models of interpreting require the interpreter to be neutral, invisible: non feeling, non thinking.
- Elaine Hsieb (2010): “it makes everybody in the room uncomfortable when a human being is acting like a computer”
- Nothing on vet interpreters. Temple Grandin (2006) *Animals in Translation*.

Trauma suffered by pet owners

- Wrobel & Dye (2003); Meyers (2002); Coules (1985)

“Frequently transcends the emotional attachment which we form for humans”

“Disenfranchised grief”  isolation

Living alone

Why VT?

- No training for VT and Selfcare
- Code of ethics: Confidentiality
- Interpreters hear it twice
- Use of the first person

Must remain invisible

VT can be unnoticed and untreated

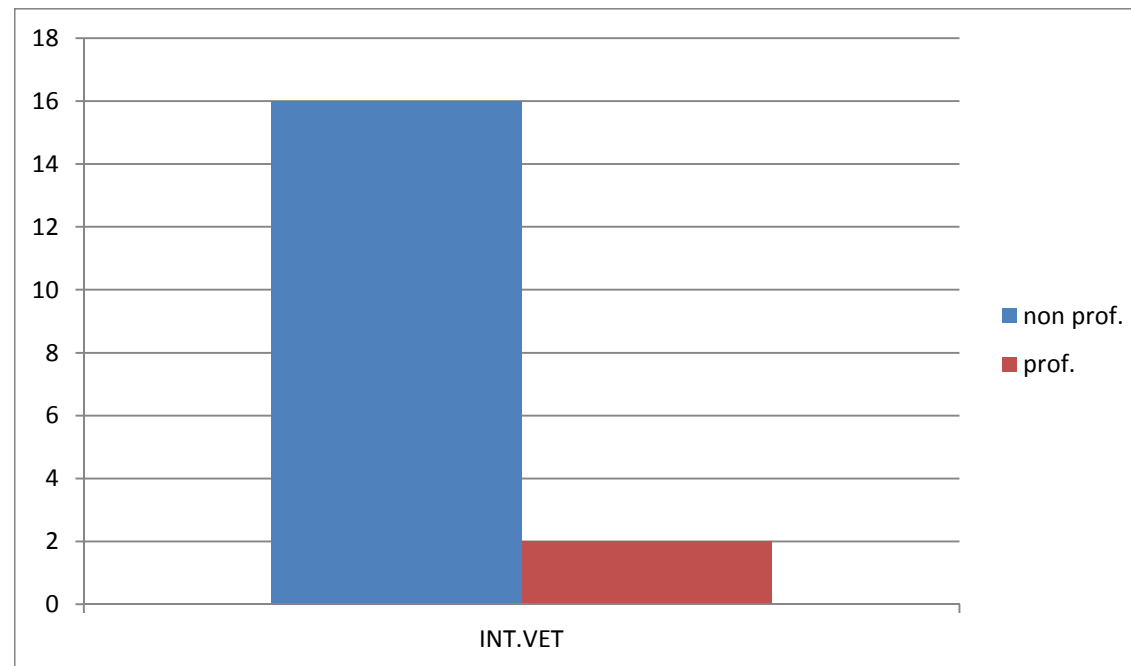
Is the interpreter in the vet sector affected by VT?

- A survey distributed in vet clinics
- 18 collected,
- Content survey:

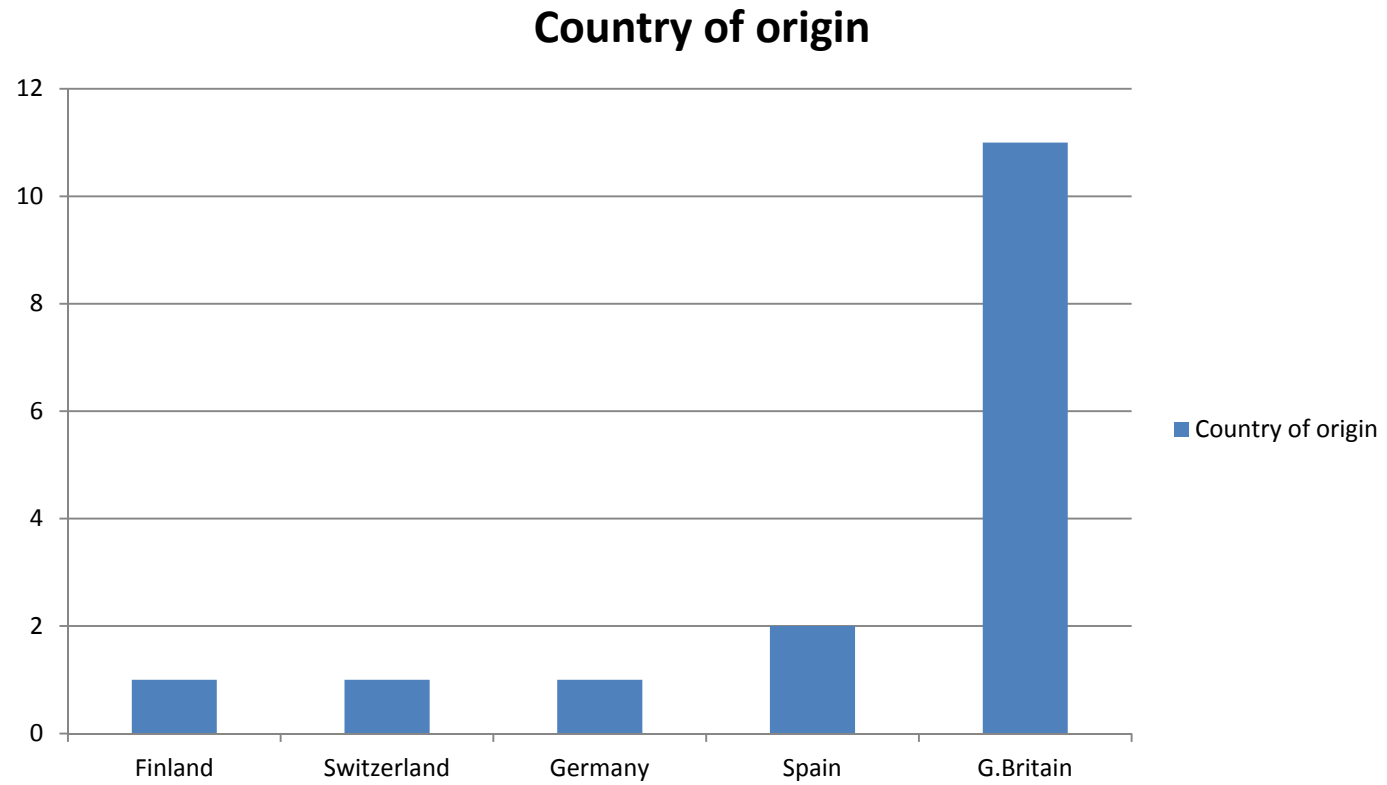
Nationality, gender, training as an interpreter, affected when interpreting difficult cases, how do you recover, use of the first person, follow a code of ethics.

Results: women, third person, non profesional, Uk.

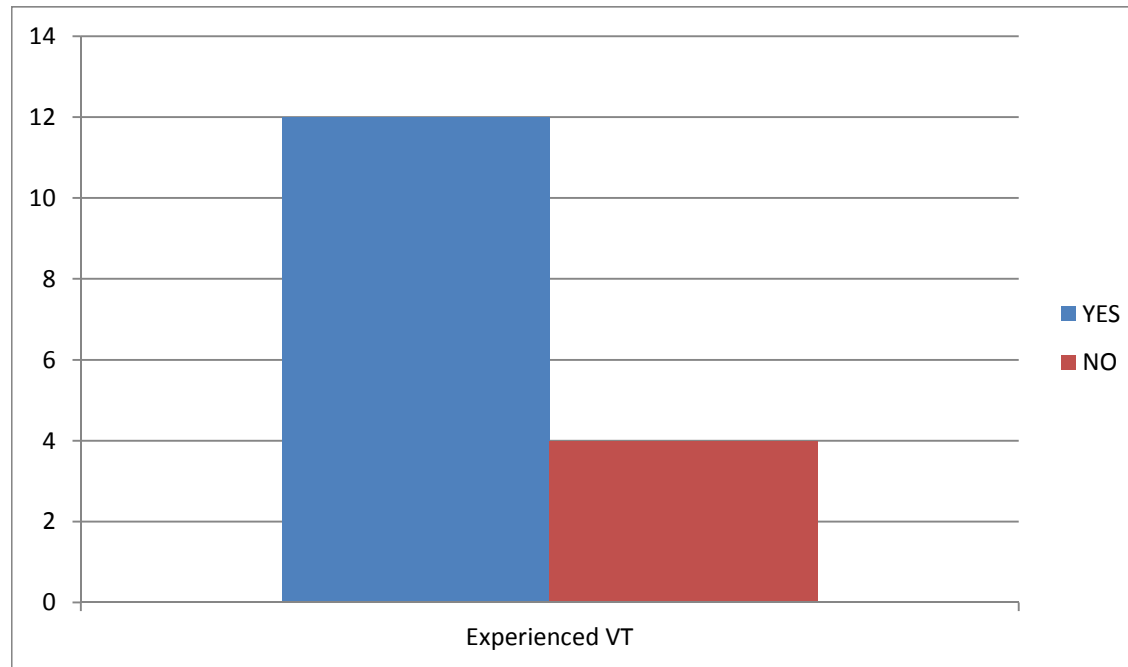
Results 1



Results 2



Results 3



Conclusion

- To include VT in Interpreting training programmes
- Further studies of VT with non professional interpreters
- Further studies:
compare strategies used by veterinary staff and interpreters regarding VT in Spain. + Compare veterinary practices in Spain and UK (VT)

- Final anecdote:

When there is no interpreter for the patient: veterinary medicine:

www.centerforhealthjournalism.org/resources/lessons/lost-translation

THANK YOU!

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