

# Acknowledgements

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**Topics in Signed Language Interpreting: Theory and practice**

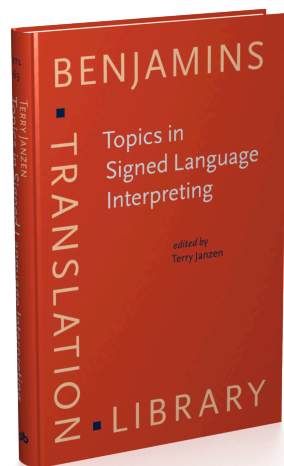
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## Acknowledgements

In July 2004 the Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada, the Canadian association of ASL-English interpreters, celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in Vancouver, British Columbia. Many of the organization's founders were there, reflecting on the exuberant beginnings and steady growth of the profession of signed language interpreting in Canada. In this officially bilingual country of French and English speakers, we also have two signed languages widely used in our Deaf communities, American Sign Language (ASL) and *Langue des Signes Québécoise* (LSQ). It is common at national level conferences and meetings to see all of these languages in use by a company of participants and interpreters. In twenty-five years the field of signed language interpreting in Canada has grown dramatically, largely through the efforts of many dedicated and hard working practitioners.

So too have educational programs to train interpreters evolved. In the mid-1970s almost the only opportunity to receive formalized training in Canada was a four-week summer program at Red River College in Winnipeg. While the number of educational programs is still small, training has advanced to programs two to four years in length, nation wide. To the students in these programs, and to the many hard-working interpreters across the country, this book is for you.

I recall that in the early days of full-time training offered at Red River College, when feeling the enormous challenges facing this developing profession and bringing my frustrations to my director, I was inevitably told 'but look how far the field has come!' It was always a reassuring reminder: in the thick of it, progress is sometimes difficult to see. For this encouragement, and many other such words of wisdom, I will always be grateful. I wish to acknowledge the hard work of my training colleagues at Red River College past and present, Janice Hawkins, David Still, Bonnie Dubiensi, Marie Magirescu, Bruce Jack, David Burke, Cheryl Broszeit, Kyra Zimmer and many others, and especially Judy McGuirk, Hubert Demers, and Rick Zimmer. Your vision and dedication have opened many doors and led us to where we find ourselves today.

This volume is very much a collaboration. I would like to thank each author for their contribution, in believing so firmly in what they do, in continually guiding both interpreting students and practitioners, and in so graciously agreeing to commit their work to paper. This volume represents these contributors' numerous forward-thinking innovations and accounts of practices in the field; each will undoubtedly play a part in further moving the field forward. Without question we gratefully acknowledge the Deaf communities with whom we work. These communities have given us the gift of