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**A case study of Mandarin-English medical interpretation:  
the importance of clients being correctly informed**

This study aims to enhance health care providers' and medical interpreters' understanding of how to 'interpret' their clients' attitudes and evaluations. To meet their Code of Ethics, medical interpreters must convey all utterances of both patients and physicians. However, getting the nuances just right in the target language is a substantial challenge for medical interpreters. This applies especially to the interpretation of the interpersonal metafunction (e.g. Tebble, 2005). There has been minimal research on how different social relations (e.g. physician-patient relationship) are realised through the interlocutors' attitudes (e.g. emotional expressions and feelings) and judgements as they talk. The linguistic framework of Appraisal analysis (e.g. Martin & White, 2005) will be used to analyse the interpersonal and intercultural communication in four interpreted (English-Mandarin) medical consultations. This study will explore the way that Mandarin speaking patients express their attitudes to their illness and they judge and grade their evaluations of themselves and others. The Mandarin speaking patient hears the interpreted nuances of the English speaking physician's interpersonal style. This helps the Mandarin patient to accept or reject what is said and to comply with the plan of action for his or her health care. This study aims to ultimately contribute to the development of the physician-patient communication and medical interpreting skills.