

Church Interpreting: Its Sociolinguistic Challenges in Some Vatsonga Charismatic Churches

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ABSTRACT Language is a human phenomenon that plays a significant role in one's day-to-day activities. It is a powerful tool used to facilitate communication between individuals and groups of different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. The main aim of this paper is to explore the problems surrounding the interpretation of church sermons. This paper presents observations and findings of the challenges faced by church interpreters in some charismatic churches in Vatsonga communities. With South Africa becoming increasingly multilingual and multicultural, church interpreting is essential in the churches. The descriptive design was used to collect the data in which both the participant observation and interview techniques were used. The study concluded that there are a number of challenges such as linguistic competence, tempo of the preachers, abandonment of messages, skipping and incomplete sentences facing church interpreters. This study will be important to the preachers, interpreters and the church congregation.