

ABSTRACT

This theoretical-empirical thesis compares police interpreting theory with its practice. It has two aims: to establish to what degree court interpreters in the Czech Republic are aware of the theoretical principles and rules of court interpreting, and to determine how this theoretical knowledge is reflected in practice.

The theoretical part of the thesis reviews specialised literature and ethical codes that concern court interpreting. Aside from an analysis and a thorough comparison of Czech and foreign ethical codes, this part of the thesis also presents scholarly works and research conducted in the field of court interpreting. The main focus is the role of the interpreter, which is crucial for the work of court interpreters but its definition is not always clear.

The empirical part of the thesis takes the form of a qualitative-quantitative study. Two questionnaires were distributed to court interpreters and police officers in the Czech Republic. The questionnaire for interpreters aimed to verify whether, and to what degree, they are familiar with the theoretical principles of their profession and whether these principles apply in practice. This part of the questionnaire used mainly scenarios with open-ended questions, which were also accompanied by close-ended questions with responses based on a Likert scale. The questionnaire for police officers consisted of close-ended questions. Its aim was to contextualize the first questionnaire and also to find out what expectations police officers have of interpreters in different situations.

KEY WORDS

court interpreting, police interpreting, the role of the interpreter, interpreter impartiality, interpreter professionalism, code of ethics