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Reflective Paper 9

Currently in class, we have been discussing more about film. The camera is a very popular thing in today's society, but it also changed the lives of many back then. It had a big impact on the preservation of sign. Other things we have looked at are films that include deaf people and deaf characters. Films with deaf characters that are played by hearing people can create mixed feelings for deaf audiences.

In the early 20th century, film allowed for ASL and other forms of signed languages to be recorded and preserved for future use. Krentz compared this invention to the invention of the printing press. Preserving and recording sign allows for the culture to be preserved as well, which is an important value in the Deaf community. Krentz also mentions that the ability to record signs and text will make it static. Freezing these texts allowed for them to be further analyzed.

Hollywood is thought to represent society as a whole which can create many issues. When looking at films with deaf characters in them, not all of these characters are played by deaf people. Not only does this create a loss of opportunities for deaf actors but it is also a conflict of interest. This conflict is that while signing is being spread and gaining acceptance and understanding, it is not culturally appropriate for hearing people to portray deaf individuals.

I thought it was interesting to think about the idea of ASL videos being marketed more towards hearing learners rather than deaf people. This makes sense now, but it did not cross my mind before. I think this is important though because it allows hearing learners to obtain their signs through credible deaf individuals. In our early ASL classes, our program through TWA (True-Way ASL) is very much marketed to hearing second language learners of ASL. It includes many different videos of signs and conversations.

In class we specifically talked about the newer movie CODA. Overall, I thought this was a good movie, but it is clear that it is marketed towards hearing audiences. While it does include a lot of signs, the background of the movie is about the daughter's music career. This is not something that deaf people are often able to relate to. Hearing directors often this this is a way to incorporate both deaf and hearing audiences, but this can cause mixed emotions for deaf people.

Another more recent movie that was discussed was 'A Quiet Place'. McCullough's article review and the topics covered were interesting. Some of the main critiques of this were ASL being a last resort, deaf people being vulnerable, dependent and dumb, and also cochlear implants being a quick solution. Since the creature in this movie was reactive to sounds, the people were "forced to communicate in sign language". This was this was written, to me sounds like using sign is a bad thing and it was only being used as a way to stay alive. The idea of the cochlear implant being a life saver might not be seen immediately but it makes sense. When the cochlear implant made a high-pitched noise and scared the creature away, it basically saved the peoples lives. This can be seen as a way that cochleae's can save a deaf person's life by giving them the ability to hear.

Works Cited

IMDb.com. (2018, April 6). *A quiet place*. IMDb. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt6644200/>