

# Implicit & Explicit Meaning: Implications for Sign Language Interpreters

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# Semantics: the study of meaning of words and sentences

*Linguistics of American Sign Language, Valli, Lucas and Mulrooney*

# Levels of Meaning

**Lexical Level** = words

**Phrase Level** = combination of two or three words

**Sentence Level** = combination of words in a sentence

**Text/Discourse Level** - a “paragraph” or more

# Mayor Menino's speech on April 18, 2013

*“Good morning. And it is a good morning because we are together. We are one Boston. No adversity, no challenge - nothing - can tear down the resilience of this city and its people.”*

# Mayor Menino's speech on April 18, 2013

**Lexical Level:** “Boston”

**Phrase Level:** “one Boston”  
“Boston Strong”

**Sentence Level:** “We are one Boston.”

**Text/Discourse Level:** “Good morning. And it is a good morning because we are together. We are one Boston. No adversity, no challenge - nothing - can tear down the resilience of this city and its people.”

# Responsibilities for Translators

**1st Priority** - meaning as close as possible

**2nd Priority** - message fits linguistic needs of audience.



If interpreters fulfill these responsibilities, they will gain genuine confidence.

Do not do it alone.  
Teamwork is effective.