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An Interpreting Model (Approaches) Continuum

<i>Helper</i>	<i>Conduit/Machine</i>	<i>Facilitator</i>	<i>Bi-bi</i>
“Let me do it for you.”	“I’ll give you everything that’s said so you can do it.”	“I am your advocate—I’ll help you do it.”	“I am your ally—what is it <i>you</i> want?”

“A continuum may not be the most accurate analogy, but we hope that it does allow us to see that each perspective on the relationship of interpreters with D/deaf people influences each of the others...Our view of the bi-bi model is that it allows us the latitude, for example, to behave [vis-à-vis recent training relating to interpreting in sensitive medical situations which calls to interpreters to “return” to a helper model in particular cases] in what may appear to be a helper mode. The critical difference for us is what lies behind the behavior: within the bi-bi model, the interpreter does not view the D/deaf consumer as incompetent....

We believe that the models reflect a great deal about power and how [it] is distributed...for example, the helper model withholds power from the D/deaf consumer....[In] the machine/conduit model, we rejected any responsibility for what happened to D/deaf people, withdrawing behind the skirts of the newly adopted Code of Ethics and refusing to ‘step out of role,’ ever.” (100–101)

McIntire, M. & Sanderson, G. (1993). “Bye-bye Bi-bi!: Questions of Empowerment and Role.” In *Proceedings of the 1993 RID Convention*. Alexandria, Virginia: Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., pp. 94–118.