

## **The Function of the Interpreter in Intercultural Business Communication**

Masato Takimoto

Australia has a nation-wide accreditation system for professional interpreters, and accredited interpreters are in theory bound by the professional code of ethics and code of practice. However, I report on a case study of seven professional interpreters, all of whom value such codes but who expressed the feeling that there are various occasions where some of the provisions in the codes come in conflict with effective and efficient communication between Australian and Japanese clients in business-related situations. Furthermore, it seems that interpreters actually are active participants in inter-cultural communicative situations as a whole, and that their function appears to be more dynamic and proactive than the traditional stereotype towards interpreters implies. The study is based on semi-structured interviews with accredited Japanese language interpreters.