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EASY-READ SUMMARY

## **“What Sound Does a Cat Make in Cantonese?”: Advocating for Lingual Plurality in Music Therapy Settings**

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Do we need an interpreter in music therapy setting?

Do we need to ask a third person to come and help us translate our words to our clients?

I think that these are important questions to ask when the therapist and client do not share the same mother tongue. Can two people communicate when they do not speak the same language?

Can two people communicate when perhaps they were born in different parts of the world?

What do we gain if we choose to invite an interpreter to our therapy meeting?

What do we gain if we do not use an interpreter?

What do we lose if we choose to invite an interpreter to our therapy meeting?

What do we lose if we do not use an interpreter?

These are only some of the questions I will discuss in my paper.

I am an Israeli music therapist who worked in the United States for a few years.

My English is good, but it is not my mother tongue.

As a music therapist in the United States, I worked sometimes with families who did not speak English well.

Those families usually came from different countries like China, Japan & South Korea.

In this paper I will tell you the story of one little boy I used to meet with as a music therapist.

I met with the boy, his mother, father and grand- mother.

We used to play music together and sing songs.

The boy was 3 years old. The boy was Autistic.

The family had many challenges when taking care of the boy.

The music helped them a little to deal with all the challenges.

When I met with the family, I discovered I do not always need to use my English.

I also discovered that we could play and talk and manage the situation without an interpreter.

Was this good for the family?

How did I use the music with the family?

What did it make me understand about language and communication in therapy?

In this paper I discuss my thoughts about it, and what I learned from my experience of working with the little boy and his family.

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