**The Interpretation of Non-Native Speakers in U.S. Police Encounter**

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“Routine use of coercion sets policemen off from the rest of society.”

                                                             Brown 1988:37

This paper is a linguistic anthropological contribution to scholarship on the issue of police coercion and abuse of power. Three case studies from publicly-available third-party videos of police interactions with non-English speakers and bilingual speakers are analyzed in the tradition of video and interaction analysis, showing that in these instances officers’ corporeal schemas in combination with the lack of interpreters contribute to the escalation of force by the police as well as to the  disregard for civilian language rights and human rights.  I suggest a novel framework called *Linguistic Entrapment*(based on work by Núñez and Heyman 2010), which accounts for the ways in which civilian and police actions vis-à-vis each other are both constrained and overdetermined. I conclude with some practical suggestions for the creation of civilian language minority-oriented materials. [U.S. minorities, non-native speakers, police stops, language rights, police brutality]