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Sign Language

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2022.A.D

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Dedication

Dedication This research paper is lovingly dedicated to our respective parents who have been our constant sources of inspiration. They have given us the drive and discipline to tackle any task with enthusiasm and determination . Without their love and support, this research would not have been made possible . We also dedicated this research paper to our subject instructor who never failed to teach and guide us , to our families who supports us in everything, to our friends who helped us finished this research, and most of all to the Almighty Allah who gives us .strength and good health while doing this research paper

Acknowledgments

First of all we thank God for all the mercy to enable us to deliver this project in the best way we wanted and we

would like to thank our supervisor for this project, ASST REHAMABDULKAREEMMOHAMMED for his valuable

help and advice to come up with this project. We thank the faculty and clinicians who have given us all the

knowledge. Most of all we are all grateful to our families for their endless love, help, support and

encouragement. And to our friends for their understanding and support for us to complete this project

Abstract

Sign language is a type of language that uses hand gestures, facial expressions, and body language to communicate. It is used mostly by deaf people and people who can hear but cannot speak. But it is also used by some hearing people, most often families and relatives of deaf people, and by interpreters who enable deaf people and broader communities to communicate with each other. Most people who hear think that the signature is just a manual representation of the spoken language and this is not true. In fact, the spoken language and the language of the deaf have little in common. Sign language has the complexity of spoken language but is independent of the latter. The best clue is British Sign Language (BSL) and American Sign Language (ASL) which are incomprehensible despite the fact that people who hear from the US and Britain understand each other perfectly. Another common misconception about sign language is that it is universally understood which of course is not correct. As mentioned earlier, the sign languages used by deaf people in the United States and Britain are completely different. But a deaf person from Britain and a deaf person from the United States cannot communicate as fluently as people who hear from the two countries. Since sign language is its own language, finger spelling or the hand-alphabet cannot be used as a substitute for a signature.

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Sign Language

sign languages also known as signed languages) are languages that use the visual-manual modality to convey meaning. Sign languages are expressed through manual articulations in combination with non-manual elements. Sign languages are full-fledged natural languages with their own grammar and lexicon.

[1] Sign languages are not universal and are usually not mutually intelligible with each other,

[2] although there are also similarities among different sign languages

Linguists consider both spoken and signed communication to be types of natural language, meaning that both emerged through an abstract, protracted aging process and evolved over time without meticulous planning

.[3] Sign language should not be confused with body language, a type of .nonverbal communication

Wherever communities of deaf people exist, sign languages have developed as useful means of communication, and they form the core of

local Deaf cultures. Although it is used primarily by the deaf and hard of hearing, it is also used by hearing individuals, such as those unable to physically speak, those who have trouble with spoken language due to a disability or condition (augmentative and alternative communication), or those with deaf family members, such as children of deaf adults

The number of sign languages worldwide is not exactly known. Each country generally has its own native sign language, and some have more than one. The 2021 edition of Ethnologue lists 150 sign languages, [4] while the SIGN-HUB Atlas of Sign Language Structures lists over 200 and notes that there are more which have not been documented or discovered yet.

[5] As of 2021, Indo Sign Language is the most used sign language in the world, and Ethnologue ranks it as the 151st most "spoken" language in the world.

(6) Some sign languages have obtained some form of legal recognition.

(7) Linguists distinguish natural sign languages from other systems that are precursors to them or obtained from them, such as invented manual codes for spoken languages, home sign, "baby sign", and signs learned by non-human primates

1.1 What is the sign languages?

Sign language is a way of communicating using hand gestures and movements, body language and facial expressions, instead of spoken words

Like any spoken language,
such as Italian or Spanish, there are lots of different sign languages
across the
word

Sign language :any means of communication through bodily
movements, especially of the hands and arms, used when spoken
communication is impossible or not desirable. The practice is probably
older than speech. Sign language may be as coarsely expressed as mere
grimaces, shrugs, or pointings; or it may employ a delicately nuanced
combination of coded manual signals reinforced by facial expression and
perhaps augmented by words spelled out in a manual alphabet.
Wherever vocal communication is impossible, as between speakers of
mutually unintelligible languages or when one or more would-be
.communicators is deaf, sign language can be used to bridge the gap

Sign language : is a term given to the non-verbal means of
communication used by people with special needs, either aurally (deaf)
or acoustically (dumb)[1], although there are other practices that can be
classified within the levels of sign communication, such as the signals of
divers and some special signs of some police forces or The military or
even between members of secret organizations, criminal gangs, etc. It is
used

Hand movements: like fingers to illustrate numbers and letters.

Facial expressions: to convey feelings and inclinations. Movements of the hands are combined to give structures of many meanings.

Lips movements: a developed stage of the power of observation as the deaf reads words directly from the lips.

Movement of the body: such as placing some signs on the shoulders or the top and sides of the head or chest and abdomen in a suggestive use to clarify desires and meanings, in general For self-expression, it varies from country to country

1.2 Does sign language differ between countries?

As we said above, around 300 sign languages are used worldwide today, and most of them vary significantly

Along with BSL, there are several sign languages used by English-speaking countries, including the US (ASL), Auslan and NZSL. Ireland also has its own sign language (ISL), which is derived from French Sign Language but shares similarities with BSL

One of the most widely used sign languages around the world is Chinese Sign Language (CSL or ZGS), which has up to 20 million users worldwide. Brazilian Sign Language has around three million users worldwide, while Indo-Pakistani Sign Language has about 1.8 million users across South Asia.

Back in the UK, Sign Support English (SSE) and Macaton are both used alongside BSL to support Deaf and Hard of Hearing people with additional learning needs.

1.3 What is American Sign Language?

American Sign Language (ASL) is a complete natural language that has the same linguistic characteristics as spoken languages, with grammar different from English. ASL is expressed by the movements of the hands and face. It is the primary language of many North Americans who are deaf and hard of hearing and is also used by some hearing people.

1.4 Is sign language the same in other countries ?

There is no universal sign language. Different sign languages are used in different countries or regions. For example, British Sign Language (BSL) is a different language than ASL, and Americans who know ASL may not understand BSL. Some countries adopt ASL features in their sign languages.

1.5 Where did American Sign Language originate ?

No person or commission invented sign language. The exact beginnings of sign language are not clear, but some suggest that it arose more than 200 years from the mixing of local sign languages and French Sign Language (LSF, or Langue des Signes Française). Today's ASL includes some elements of LSF in addition to the original local sign languages; Over time, these languages mixed and turned into a rich, complex and mature language. Modern ASL and modern LSF are two distinct languages. While they still have some similar tags, they can no longer be understood by each other's users

1.6 How does ASL compare with spoken language ?

ASL is a language completely separate and distinct from English. It contains all the fundamental features of language, with its own rules for pronunciation, word formation, and word order. While every language has ways of signaling different functions, such as asking a question rather than making a statement,

languages differ in how this is done. For example, English speakers may ask a question by raising the pitch of their voices and by adjusting word order; ASL users ask a question by raising their eyebrows, widening their eyes, and tilting their bodies forward

Just as with other languages, specific ways of expressing ideas in ASL vary as much as ASL users themselves. In addition to individual differences in expression, ASL has regional accents and dialects; Just as certain English words are spoken differently in different parts of the country, ASL has regional variations in the rhythm of signing, pronunciation, slang, and signs used. Other sociological factors, including age and gender, can affect ASL usage and contribute to its variety, just as with spoken languages

Fingerspelling is part of ASL and is used to spell out English words. In the fingerspelled alphabet, each letter corresponds to a distinct handshape. Fingerspelling is often used for proper names or to indicate the English word for something

1.7 Unique Sign Languages

In the US and parts of Canada, the Deaf community uses American Sign Language (ASL). In México, the Deaf community uses Lengua de Señas Mexicana (LSM). There's also Chinese Sign Language (CSL), French Sign Language (LSF), Japanese Sign Language (日本手話 Nihon Shuwa), Arabic Sign Languages that vary across the Arab Middle East, British Sign Language (BSL), and Ukrainian Sign Language (USL), just to name a few.

If you're interested in various sign languages, visit Spread The Sign to learn signs from over 30 different sign languages around the world

While sign languages have similarities to each other, it's the differences that make them unique. Let's focus on two sign languages that exist in .English-speaking countries – ASL and BSL

1.8 American Sign Language – ASL

American Sign Language, commonly referred to as ASL, is a visual language used by the Deaf community primarily in the US and parts of Canada. ASL has its own syntax and rules of grammar, and, like other languages, changes over time and has common linguistic properties. ASL consists of facial expressions, signals, body movements, use of physical space, one-handed fingerspelling, and signing, which vary .based on handshape, palm orientation, location, and movement

Just as with spoken languages, there are regional dialects and “accents” within the ASL community. Just as with spoken languages, age, race, location, and gender contributions to variations in ASL. For example, Black American Sign Language, or BASL, is a variation of ASL used by the Black Deaf community, stemming from segregation. To learn more about BASL, watch Black ASL and Signing Black in America, or read the recent New York Times post Black, Deaf and Extremely Online

1.9 British Sign Language – BSL

Just like ASL, British Sign Language, or BSL, is a visual language used by the Deaf community. BSL is used by nearly 90,000 deaf individuals in the UK (i.e., England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), and in over 150,000 homes when you include hearing users (e.g., relatives, interpreters). As with ASL, BSL also has regional dialects and variations, but unlike ASL, BSL uses two-handed fingerspelling. BSL is considered to be a dialect of BANZSL, or British, Australian, and New Zealand Sign Language. While Australian Sign Language (Auslan) and New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) are different from BSL, they do share the same manual alphabet, grammar, and the majority of their lexicons. For more information on BSL, including a chart of the manual alphabet, visit the British

Deaf Association

1.10 ASL and BSL are Different Languages

ASL and BSL both have fundamental features of sign languages (e.g., use of classifiers, topic-comment syntax), but they are different languages. Their list of differences is long, with one obvious difference being the use of a one-handed manual alphabet in ASL and a two-handed manual alphabet in BSL. While there is significant overlap in vocabulary and similarity in signs, ASL and BSL are unrelated sign languages, completely separate and distinct, and cannot be understood by each other's users. Even when languages adopt features or vocabulary from one another, they remain quite unique, as is the case with ASL and BSL.

If you're interested in learning more about sign language, reach out to a TakeLessons ASL instructor

1.11 Basics of Alphabets and Fingerspelling

Most people start their sign language journey by learning the A-Z or alphabet equivalent in sign form

The use of the hands to represent individual letters of a written alphabet is called 'fingerspelling'. It's an important tool that helps signers manually spell out names of people, places and things that don't have an established sign

For example, most sign languages have a specific sign for the word tree, but may not have a specific sign for oak, so o-a-k would

2.1 what are the different types of sign languages ?

Many people are surprised or even shocked to learn that [American Sign Language](#) is not universal. However, when you think about how many spoken languages there are across the globe, it makes sense that sign language would be the same. After all, American Sign language is its own language with its own grammar, idioms, and everything else needed to be a language completely separate from English. Different types of sign language are developed in different regions around the globe, just like spoken languages.

2.2 what does it mean that American Sign Language is not universal ?

There are so many types of sign language across the world! Just a few examples are British Sign Language—used in the UK—French Sign Language—from France and also used in parts of Canada—Indian Sign Language—signed in India. And there are so many more

Think of how many spoken languages and cultures there are in the world, there are deaf people all around the globe. Doesn't it just make sense that there would be just as many signed languages? After all, types of sign languages originated from different places just like spoken languages. In fact, many developed in even more isolated areas, due to the fact that there were, and are, less deaf people than there are hearing people

2.3 What is American Sign Language

American Sign Language (ASL) is the sign language used in the United States and parts of Canada. It actually originated from a mixture of French sign language and home signs for the first students at the First American School for the Deaf. The first deaf teacher at that school in the United States, a man named Laurent Clerc, was from France and brought with him much of that country's influence

Now when you see American Sign Language, it's clearly a lot different than the sign language you might see in France. ASL, just like spoken languages, continues to evolve. In spoken English you don't hear the same slang used in the 20th century, the language has changed over time, as well as with ASL

Within ASL, there are also language differences. PSE (Pidgin Signed Language) and SEE (Exact Signed English) are methods of signing as well. However, it is based on the English language. It is not their own language, but it is still used throughout the United States

2.4 What are the differences between Different Types of Sign Languages ?

Well, they are actually completely different languages, as different as spoken languages are from one another. If you are hearing, and know only English, you wouldn't be able to suddenly travel to Spain or Japan and speak to anyone in their language. The same is true of the types of sign language across the globe. Each is a unique language that has a unique culture and history attached

Sometimes, signs are similar across languages. The signs in American Sign Language that tell about passing another car in traffic are the same motions as the signs used in the sign language used in India. However, the hand shapes are very different

Every sign has 5 parameters, handshape, location, movement, palm orientation and non manual signals. Handshape, and movement of the handshape are fairly self explanatory. Location refers to where on the body or in space the hand is located. Palm orientation has to do with the direction your hand is facing. And finally, non manual signals are facial expressions, movement of the body, and anything that isn't the hand itself. These things can actually change the meaning of a whole sign, and if any of these are different in these between different signed languages the meaning completely changes

2.5 The different sign languages across the globe are each their own language

Each place that has a unique sign language is completely separate from both other types of sign languages, and the spoken language of that region. There are just as many sign languages as there are deaf communities, some are national and some are regional. Learning a language is so good for inclusion, just don't forget that you are only learning one language, not a universal language. Whether that's ASL, BSL, or the sign language of Brazil, Egypt, Russia, or any other region. They each have languages all their own

2.6 Basics of Alphabets and Fingerspelling

Most people start their sign language journey by learning the A-Z or .alphabet equivalent in sign form

The use of the hands to represent individual letters of a written alphabet is called 'fingerspelling'. It's an important tool that helps signers manually spell out names of people, places and things that don't .have an established sign

For example, most sign languages have a specific sign for the word tree, but may not have a specific sign for oak, so o-a-k would be finger spelled .to convey that specific meaning

Of course, not every language uses the Latin alphabet like English, so their sign language alphabet differs as well. Some manual alphabets are one-handed, such as in ASL and French Sign Language, and others use two-hands, like BSL or Auslan. Though there are similarities between some of the different manual alphabets, each sign language has its own .style and modifications, and remains unique

2.7 Sign Language Alphabets from Around the World American Sign Language (ASL)

Although ASL has the same alphabet as English, ASL is not a subset of the English language. American Sign Language was created independently and it has its own linguistic structure. (It is, in fact, descended from Old French Sign Language.)

Signs are also not expressed in the same order as words are in English. This is due to the unique grammar and visual nature of the sign language. ASL is used by roughly half a million people in the USA

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

A L P H A B E T



Aa



Bb



Cc



Dd



Ee



Ff



Gg



Hh



Ii



Jj



Kk



Ll



Mm



Nn



Oo



Pp



Qq



Rr



Ss



Tt



Uu



Vv



Ww



Xx



Yy



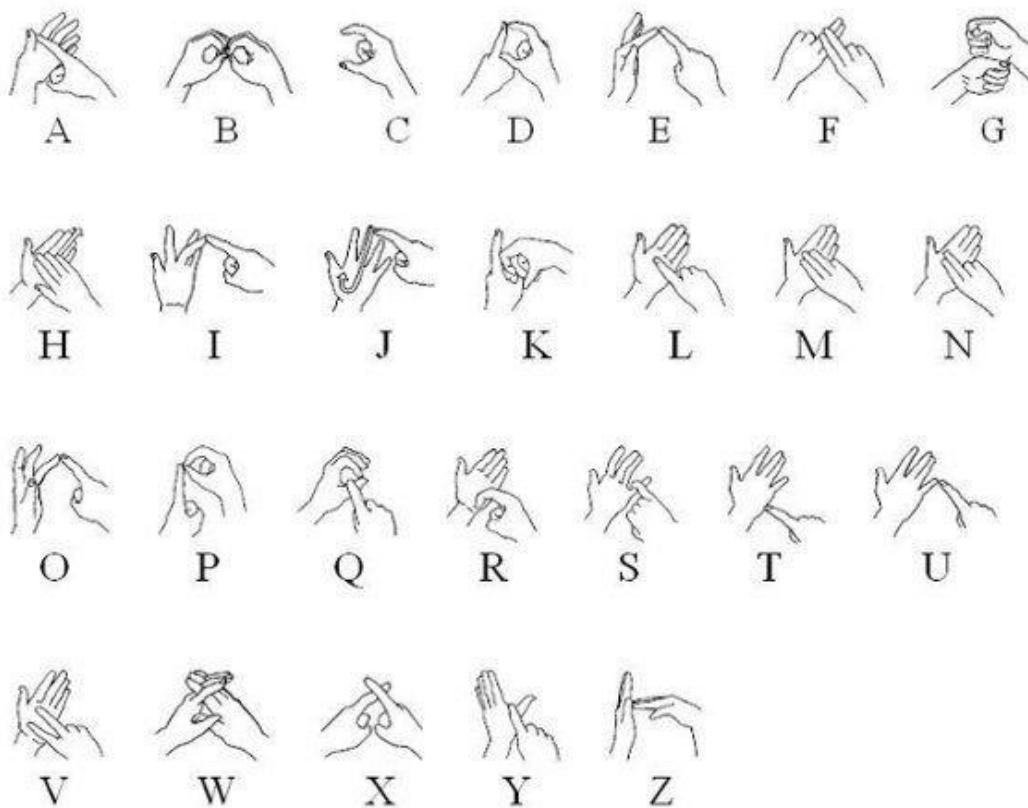
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2.8 British,Austrian and New Zealand Sign Language (BANZSL)

Sharing a sign language alphabet is British Sign Language, Australian Sign Language (Auslan) and New Zealand Sign Language. Unlike ASL, .these alphabets use two hands, instead of one



2.9 Chinese Sign Language (CSL)

Probably the most-used sign language in the world (but there is currently no data to confirm this), Chinese Sign Language uses the hands to make visual representations of written Chinese characters. The language has been developing since the 1950s

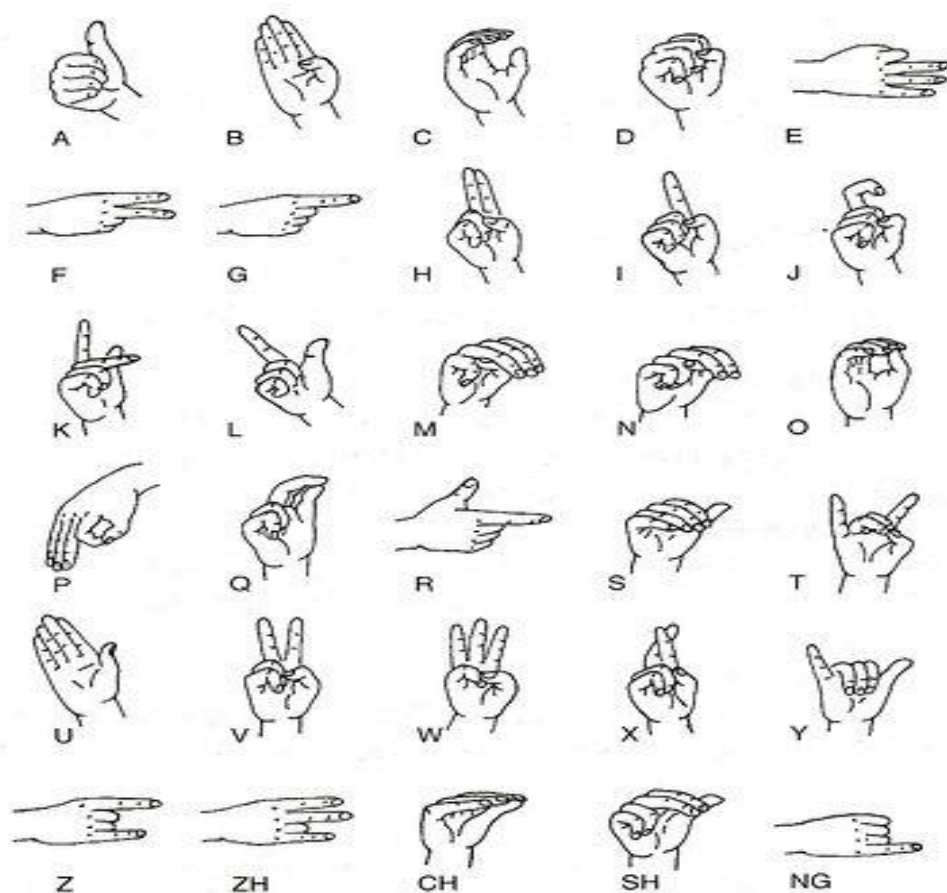


图8 汉语手指字母

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