

Sign Linguistics Training: An Alternative Approach to Deaf Education

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Flow of Presentation

1. Sign linguistics research at CUHK
2. Characteristics of deaf training & programs
3. Support from the Nippon Foundation and Pen-International

Sign Linguistics Training at CUHK: Current Developments

- Topics:
 - Sign Language Studies, Sign Linguistics, Sign Language Acquisition, Spoken Language Development of Deaf Children
- Programs:
 - Undergraduate electives
 - MA in Linguistics ('Sign Linguistics' concentration starting 2010, some students with NF scholarships)
 - MPhil/PhD in Linguistics (with studentships)

CSLDS's research activities in China

- **Postgraduate Training:**

- He Jia, a graduate of Tianjin Normal University, studying MPhil in Linguistics -- Tianjian Sign Language.
- Zhang Li (張麗) a deaf graduate from Technical College for the Deaf of Tianjin University of Technology

CSLDS's research activities in China

- **Academic Exchanges:**
 - Lu Hui Hua, Special Education College, Beijing Union University
 - Relative Clauses in Chinese Sign Language, MA Thesis
 - Gong Qun Hu, Chinese Department, Fudan University
 - Lexical variation in Chinese Sign Language
 - Deaf Education

Conference Organization

2010 Jan at CUHK “International Conference on Sign Linguistics and Deaf Education.” Hosted by CSLDS

2010 Oct at Tongji University, Shanghai, biannual “Symposium on Contemporary Linguistics” (當代語言學) -- Sign Linguistics

Supported by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Institute of Linguistics. Co-hosted by Tongji University and Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages, CUHK.

Sign Linguistics Research at CUHK: Guiding Principles

- Deaf-Hearing collaboration is highly valued
- Research on the local sign language variety is important, to pave the way for support in deaf education

Sign Linguistics Research in the Asia-Pacific Region

- Lack of expertise in Sign Linguistics based on contemporary linguistic theories
- Misconceptions about deafness and sign language abound -- negative impact on deaf education
- Deaf people seldom take up professional jobs because of low education attainment

Deaf Advancement

- What if deaf people want to become sign language instructors, sign language materials developers, sign interpreters, teachers for the deaf, or university professors researching on sign linguistics?
- How can they realize their dreams?



- The **Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies** at CUHK was set up in 2003, in response to the Nippon Foundation's initiative of sponsoring sign linguistics training for deaf people in the Asia Pacific region.

Characteristics:

- A Regional Program to train talented Asian Deaf individuals in Sign Linguistics.

Multi-phase and Multi-country

Languages”

- Phase II (2006-2012)

“The Asia Pacific Sign Linguistics Research and Training Program”

Alternative model of Deaf Education



- To offer an alternative model of deaf education -- academic and professional training in Sign Linguistics
- To build an educational infrastructure for this academic discipline from post-secondary education to university education
 - Diploma programs --> Higher program --> Bachelor program --> MA program --> PhD program



Deaf Training Programs



Year 1

1. Diploma Programme in Basic Sign Language Lexicography for the Deaf
2. Diploma Programme in English Literacy and IT Applications for the Deaf

Year 2

1. Diploma Programme in Sign Language Studies for the Deaf
2. Diploma Programme in General Studies for the Deaf
3. Diploma Programme in English Literacy Skills for the Deaf

Years 3, 4, & 5

Higher Diploma in Sign Linguistics and Sign Language Teaching

The above programs are jointly offered by the School of Professional and Continuing Studies, CUHK and CSLDS.



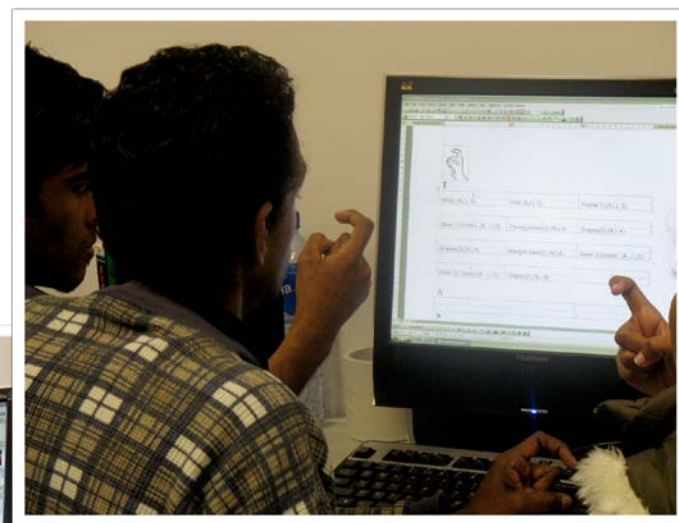
Current Developments



- **Current Sites:**
 - HK (Chinese University of Hong Kong)
 - Vietnam (Dong Nai College of Education)
 - Sri Lanka (University of Kelanya)
 - Indonesia (University of Indonesia)
 - Cambodia (Deaf Development Project)
 - The Philippines (??)
- **Next two sites:**
 - Japan (??)
 - Fiji (University of South Pacific)

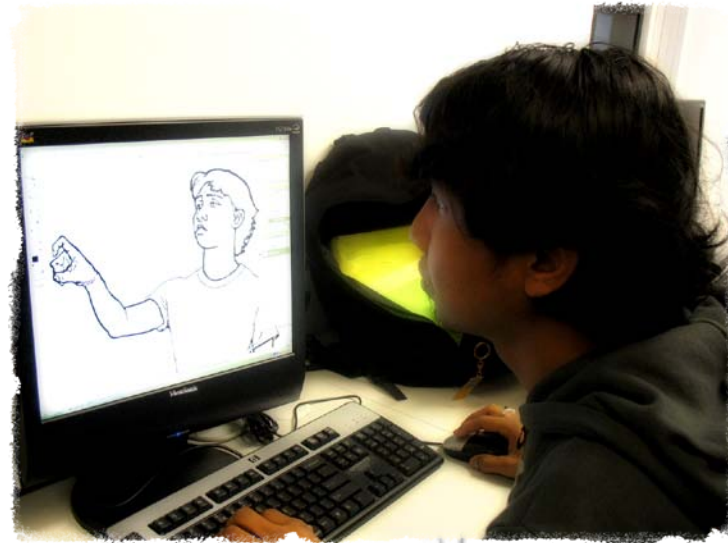
Compiling Sign Language Dictionary and Teaching Materials:

Sri Lankan Sign Language



Compiling Sign Language Dictionary and Teaching Materials:

Jakarta Sign Language
Yogyakarta Sign Language



PEN-International & CSLDS

Throughout these years, PEN-International has been giving **valuable technological support** to the implementation of this program!!

History of collaboration

1. Participation in Conferences at NTID

- International Symposium on Instructional Technology & Education of the Deaf: Supporting Learners, K-College, June 27-30, 2005
- International Symposium on Technology and Deaf Education: Exploring Instructional and Access Technologies, June 23-25, 2008

2. Site visits to CSLDS by NTID's representatives - Jim DeCaro and Bill Clymer - since December 2005, conducting seminars on materials development and instructional technologies

3. Site visits to NTID by CSLDS's staff of the APSL program to learn instructional technologies

Technology in Deaf Training

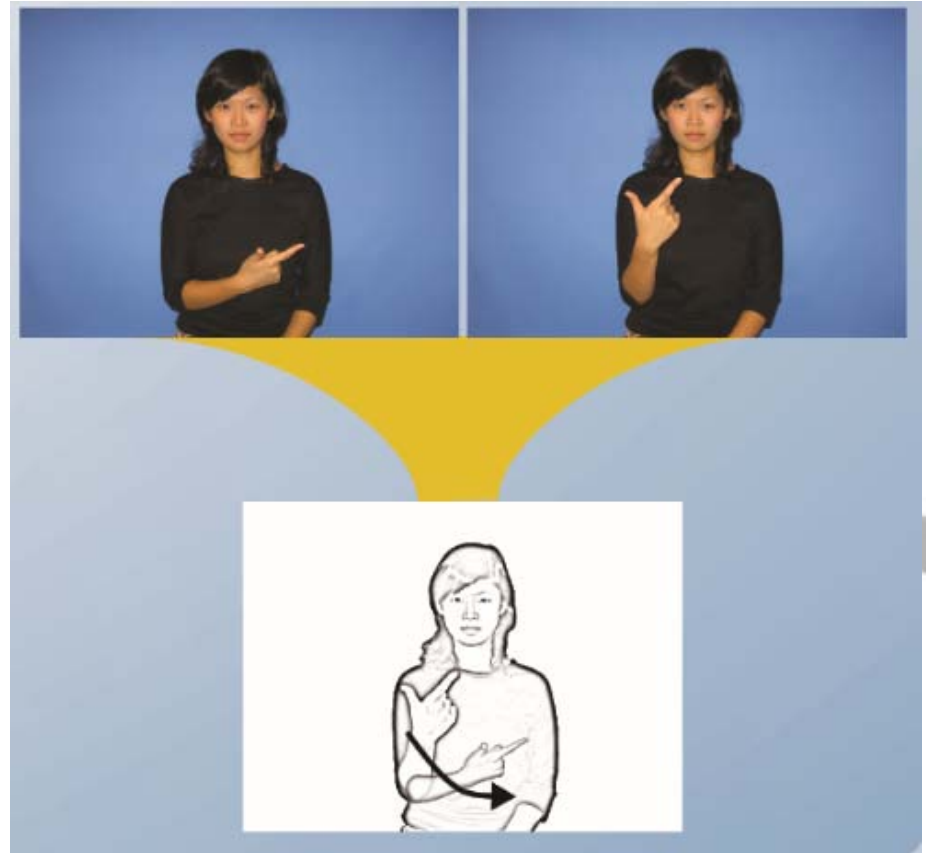
- How to develop sign language resources in printable and digital formats.
 - PEN-International's Seminar on Desktop Publishing Skills



- Deaf students learn how to design and produce sign language dictionaries and teaching materials using Adobe Photoshop C52 and Adobe Premiere Pro.2.0.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Technology in deaf training



Line drawings from
original photo images

Technology in deaf training

- How to use **SynchronEyes** in the training of computer skills:
 - With this software, the instructor can point out the errors and give specific comments directly to individual students.
 - He can share, monitor, lock computer screens in order to effectively monitor the procedures used by the students.

Significant contributions of PEN- International

- Assisting CSLDS in setting up an effective, technological infrastructure for post-secondary training in sign linguistics and sign language teaching for the Deaf in the Asia-Pacific region
- CSLDS is proud of its advanced technology in developing multimedia resources for sign language research and training

Way Forward

- To explore more advanced instructional technologies as the Deaf researchers are moving to more advanced levels of training
- To explore the possibility of sign interpretation training for hearing people to support deaf training