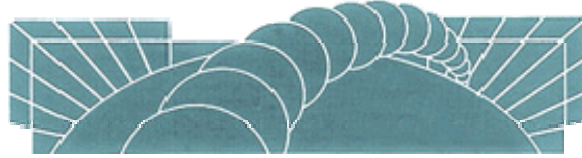


# Instructional Technology and Education of the Deaf



Supporting Learners, K – College  
An International Symposium

Sponsored by National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology  
The Nippon Foundation of Japan and PEN-International  
June 27-30, 2005

## Seminar on Development of Sign Language Materials

### Evaluation Summary

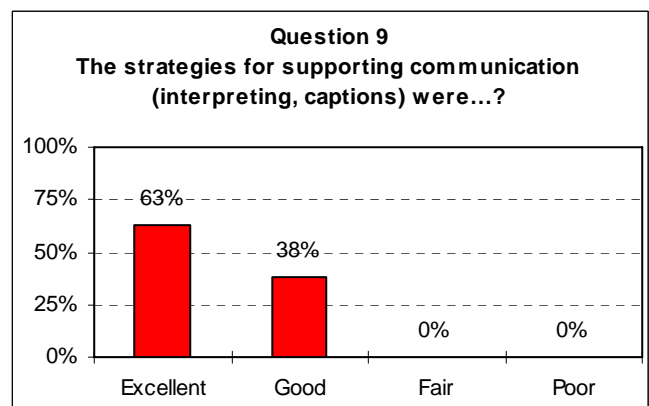
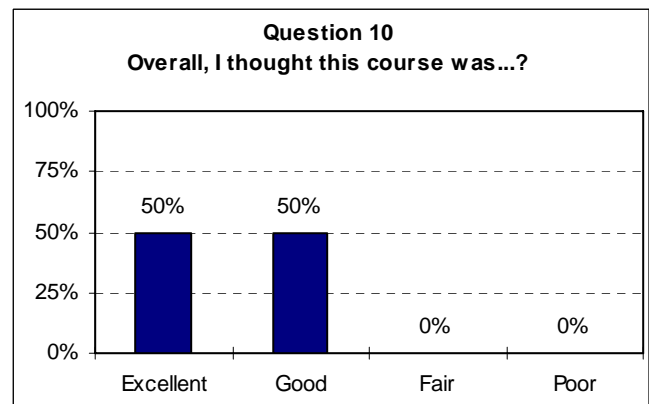
Prior to the Technology Symposium, a one-day seminar titled, “Development of Sign Language Materials” was conducted with PEN partners from Japan, China, Hong Kong, and Vietnam. A total of eight partners were in attendance.

Developed by Rico Peterson, Chairperson, ASL & Interpreter Education Department at NTID/RIT, this workshop was designed to provide an overview of the processes that can be used to create curricular materials and products related to sign language instruction and reference. There was an emphasis on the intended use and technical aspects of such development, not on linguistic issues. Key individuals from NTID joined Rico Peterson in presenting this information. Stacy Bick, Alan Cutcliffe, Cea Dorn, Sam Holcomb, Jason Pitoniak, Geoffrey Poor, Jorge Samper, and Richard Smith, all of whom have extensive experience in the design and production of sign language materials, provided participants with both theoretical approaches and practical production ideas for designing, producing and disseminating print and non-print sign language materials. The following report summarizes the participants’ experiences. All of the participants (n=8) completed a workshop evaluation form.

All (100%) of the respondents felt the overall workshop was either excellent (50%) or good (50%).

*“It’s been a wonderful experience. The presenters are highly efficient and helpful.”*

Sixty-three percent (63%) of respondents agreed the strategies for supporting communication (interpreting, captioning) for this workshop were excellent and 38% rated it as good.



Respondents were asked, in open-ended format, what they liked most about the workshop. The responses varied. A few (25%) of the respondents said they felt the presentation and demonstrations were clear, and the different presenting styles advantageous. Similarly, 25% mentioned positive comments about the presenters. These respondents appreciated the many experts sharing their works and experiences, and the comfortable environment that was provided. Others said they liked the resources that they made and that were provided (25%), and the opportunity to interact with NTID staff (25%).

*“Clear presentation and demonstration.”*

*“The presentation on captioning and ways of presenting in different ways.”*

*“People were friendly and comfortable to learn.”*

*“ASL CD, Web sites, invitation of many experts to share their works and experiences.”*

*“Making a video for sign language teaching and dictionary.”*

*“The ability to interact with NTID staff and to see current efforts.”*

Respondents were also asked, in open-ended format, suggestions on how to improve the workshop. Only 3 out of the 8 respondents commented and their suggestions varied. Two respondents (25%) suggested either having a separate training session or breaking participants into smaller groups based on experience and knowledge of the subject matter. One respondent expressed his/her opinion of being overqualified for the workshop, while the other respondent said he/she did not have any experience with the topic whatsoever. Another respondent suggested including more specific information relating to the software used in the development of sign language materials including training. This same respondent suggested incorporating more visuals into the presentation because he/she explained that English is the first language for most participants.

*“I’m not sure the course could be improved for someone with my specific background. However, it might be useful to have separate training for people with more or less specific background knowledge.”*

*“Divide into small group, because I myself don’t have any experience or knowledge of what you call web design, PowerPoints, etc., so hard for me to understand clearly.”*

#### What did you like most about this course?

- Positive comments about presentation/demonstrations – 25%
- Positive comments about presenters – 25%
- Resources – 25%
- Interaction with NTID staff – 25%



#### Any suggestions for improvement?

- Separate training/Small groups based on knowledge – 25%
- More specifics relating to use of software/training – 13%
- Presentation more visual – 13%



*“It was good to learn how to develop and what we should take care, but I wanted to learn more specific issues like how to use software, or what kind of software is more useful to make each products. I also feel the presentation should be more visual because English is not our first language.”*

Thirty-eight percent (38%) of respondents said they liked the opportunity to see and compare sign language materials when asked, in open-ended format, what part of the course they found most helpful as they begin to develop their own sign language materials. Twenty-five percent (25%) of respondents said they found the information relating to software suggestions and functions most helpful. One respondent said he/she felt it was most beneficial to learn how to make CDs.

What part of the course do you feel was most helpful as you begin to develop your own sign language materials?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to see/compare materials – 38%</li> <li>• Software suggestions/functions – 25%</li> <li>• Making CDs – 13%</li> </ul>

*“The opportunity to see materials developed by NTID for comparison with our own materials and the opportunity to ask about alternatives to what we are doing.”*

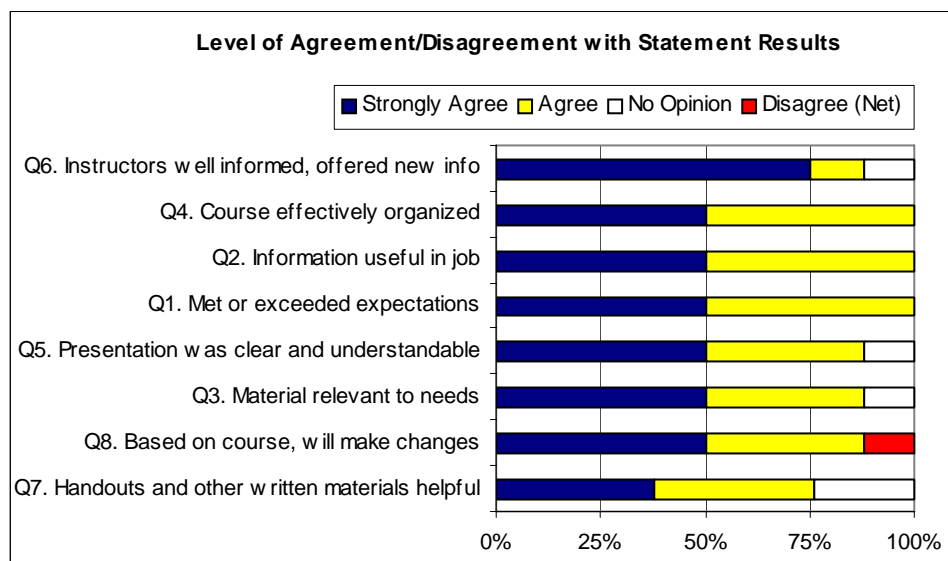
*“The software suggested during the discussion sessions, their functions and constraints.”*

*“Making CDs.”*

Respondents were also asked to rate their level of agreement/disagreement to a series of statements.

Three-quarters (75%) of all respondents strongly agreed that the instructors were well informed on the topic and offered new and interesting information. All (100%) of the respondents either strongly agreed or agreed that the instructors effectively organized the workshop, the information provided will be useful in their job, and the course met or exceeded expectations. The one respondent that said he/she would not be making any changes at his/her worksite based on this workshop, mentioned already being very knowledgeable in the subject manner.

The following graph outlines the responses by question in descending order.



Sixty-three percent (63%) of respondents said they feel they require more assistance and/or support before they would be comfortable developing their own sign language materials. The remaining 38% (3 respondents) did not answer the question.

Sixty percent (60%) of the respondents that said they are in need of more assistance and/or support from PEN-International mentioned more training with related software programs including PowerPoint, Photoshop, and Adobe Illustrator. These respondents also mentioned the need to learn software programs that would help prepare sign language materials and programs designed for CD production. One respondent said he/she is in need of more technical advice in general, and suggested implementing a technical assistance hotline. The remaining respondent said he/she seeks assistance in creating sign language instructors' manuals.

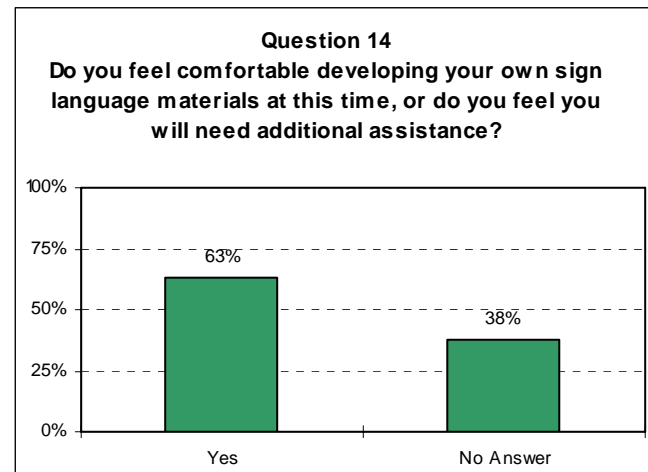
*"Training how to do, how to use some programs like PowerPoint, program for making CDs."*

*"At present, technical training for Vietnamese staff on Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. Possibly in future, training related to CD production."*

*"Assistance in the form of more workshops focused on difference softwares or technology that could help in preparing sign language materials."*

*"Technical advice. It would be nice if a hotline can be set up for laymen like me to seek assistance whenever necessary."*

*"Teachers' books, Chinese Sign Language with Chinese and English text, and ASL to English instructional materials."*



**Specifically, what kind of additional assistance/support do you need from PEN-International?**

- More training on software programs – 60%
- More technical advice/Implement hotline – 20%
- Assistance in creating instructors' manuals – 20%



## **Verbatim Comments**

### ***Question 11: What did you like most about this course?***

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Clear presentation and demonstration.

Making a video for sign language teaching and dictionary.

The ability to interact with NTID staff and to see current efforts.

ASL CD, Web sites, invitation of many experts to share their works and experiences.

The presentation on captioning and ways of presenting in different ways.

People were friendly and comfortable to learn.

### ***Question 12: What are your suggestions for improving this course?***

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It's been a wonderful experience. The presenters are highly efficient and helpful. No suggestions for further improvement.

Divide into small group, because I myself don't have any experience or knowledge of what you call web design, PowerPoints, etc., so hard for me to understand clearly.

I'm not sure the course could be improved for someone with my specific background. However, it might be useful to have separate training for people with more or less specific background knowledge.

It was good to learn how to develop and what we should take care, but I wanted to learn more specific issues like how to use software, or what kind of software is more useful to make each products. I also feel the presentation should be more visual because English is not our first language.

### ***Question 13: What part of the course do you feel was most helpful as you begin to develop your own sign language materials?***

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The software suggested during the discussion sessions, their functions and constraints.

Making CDs.

The opportunity to see materials developed by NTID for comparison with our own materials and the opportunity to ask about alternatives to what we are doing.

Explained the process of how the NTID faculty designed and discussed the ASL video dictionary and ASL curriculum materials/Web pages included videos.

Different alternatives of doing sign language materials.

Specific information of products: software, function, tools, etc.

**Question 14a: Specifically, what kind of additional assistance/support do you need from PEN-International?**

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Technical advice. It would be nice if a hotline can be set up for laymen like me to seek assistance whenever necessary.

Training how to do, how to use some programs like PowerPoint, program for making CDs.

At present, technical training for Vietnamese staff on Phototshop and Adobe Illustrator. Possibly in future, training related to CD production. Additional comment: I think my particular lengthy period in the field has given me more knowledge than other participants at the workshop and therefore would suggest that you judge the effectiveness by the comments of the others.

Teachers' books, Chinese Sign Language with Chinese and English text, and ASL to English instructional materials.

Assistance in the form of more workshops focused on different softwares or technology that could help in preparing sign language materials.

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