

DIS-1402: AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE LINGUISTICS

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: DIS-1402 : American Sign Language Linguistics

Board of Trustees:

2015-05-28

Academic Term:

2015-08-24

Subject Code

DIS - Deaf Interpretive Services

Course Number:

1402

Title:

American Sign Language Linguistics

Catalog Description:

Study of linguistic principles of American Sign Language (ASL) by comparing lexicon and syntax of ASL to other sign systems and English. Analysis of current research in the areas of phonology, morphology, semantics, syntax and sociolinguistic structure of ASL. Comparison of two major systems for describing signs and how they are used in the language, the Stokoe System and the Liddell/Johnson Model. Study sociolinguistic aspects of ASL as it is used among Deaf individuals. Analysis of linguistic structures within ASL.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

Departmental approval: admission to program.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Apply grammatical and non-grammatical features of English and ASL to all writing assignments.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Distinguish between the components of language and those of communication systems.
 2. Identify linguistic structures within ASL.
 3. Explain the syntactic differences between ASL and English.
 4. Discuss the variation and historical change that occurs in ASL.
 5. Distinguish between phonology and morphology.
 6. Identify phonological processes in ASL.
 7. Explain the grammatical features that cause semantic differences in ASL signs.
 8. Compare and contrast the Stokoe System and the Liddell/Johnson Model for the description of signs.
 9. Convey how new units in ASL are created from existing units.
 10. Discuss the sociolinguistic nature of ASL and its use within Deaf Culture.
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Methods of Evaluation:

1. Objective and subjective written tests
2. Quizzes
3. Observation of students' signed and written assignments

Course Content Outline:

1. Basic concepts of language
 - a. Symbols used in English and ASL
 - b. Difference between language and communication systems
2. Morphology of location
 - a. Using three dimensional space
 - b. Location has meaning
3. Classifier predicates and locative verbs
 - a. Using classifiers with location, movement and orientation to form a predicate
 - b. Location has meaning
4. Classifier predicates and signer perspective
 - a. Perceived motion
 - b. Levels of signer perspective
5. Subject object agreement
 - a. Orientation
 - b. Location
 - c. Orientation and location
 - d. Object information
 - e. Reciprocals
 - f. Object only
6. Pronouns and determiners
 - a. Use of index finger
 - b. Articulatory nature of location
7. Variation and historical change
 - a. Social
 - b. Ethnic
 - c. Gender
 - d. Age
 - e. Change over time
8. Signs have parts
 - a. Parameters of a sign
 - b. Phonology of signs
9. Phonological processes
 - a. Movement epenthesis
 - b. Hold deletion
 - c. Metathesis
 - d. Assimilation
10. Phonology vs. morphology
 - a. Smallest contrastive part of a language
 - b. smallest meaningful contrastive part
11. Deriving nouns from verbs
 - a. Syllable accents in English
 - b. Reduplication in ASL
12. Temporal aspect
 - a. Continuous time
 - b. Regular time
 - c. Prolonged time
 - d. Hurried time
13. Derivational and inflectional morphology
 - a. Creation of new units
 - b. Added grammatical information
14. The Stokoe system

- a. Formal written description of signs
- b. Problems with detail
- c. Lack of sequence
- 15. Concept of sequentiality
 - a. Sequence as a function of movement
 - b. Articulatory features
- 16. Movement hold model
 - a. Liddel/Johnson's Model
 - b. Hold and movement segments
- 17. Compounds
 - a. Patterns of compounding in ASL and English
 - b. Variation in signs for compounds according to the movement-hold structure
- 18. Representation of English symbols using ASL handshapes blended together to look like ASL signs (lexicalized fingerspelling and loan signs)
 - a. Changes made during Lexicalization
 - b. Borrowing signs from other cultures
- 19. Numerical incorporation
 - a. Numbers as a separate morpheme
 - b. Free and bound morphemes
- 20. Bilingualism and language contact
 - a. Reasons for bilingualism
 - b. Pidgins
 - c. Creoles
 - d. Mixed systems
- 21. Expression of tense and habitual time (i.e. every week) in ASL
 - a. Time line perpendicular to signer's body in ASL
 - b. Additional movement to create habitual time

Resources

Valli, Clayton and Ceil Lucas. *Linguistics of American Sign Language*. 3rd ed. Washington D.C. Gallaudet University Press, 2000.

Wilcox, Sherman and Phyllis Perrin Wilcox. *Learning to See: Teaching American Sign Language as a Second Language*. Washington D.C. Gallaudet University Press, 1997.

Cokely, Dennis and Charlotte Baker-Shenk. *American Sign Language - Green Books*. Washington D.C. Gallaudet University Press, 1981.

Lentz, Ella Mae, Ken Mikos and Cheri Smith. *Signing Naturally*. San Diego, CA: DawnSign Press, 2008.

Maher, Jane. *Seeing Language in Sign: The Work of William C. Stokoe*. Washington D.C.: Gallaudet University Press, 1996.

Madsen, Willard. *Intermediate Conversational Sign Language: American Sign Language with English Translations*. Washington D.C. Gallaudet University Press, 1982.

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