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# Index

- Affixation, *see* Morphological processes
- Alphabet: international phonetic, 9;  
American manual (and fingerspelling), 38
- American School for the Deaf (Hartford, Connecticut), 68, 69
- American Sign Language (ASL): as an autonomous language, 2–3, 39, 91, 99, 193, 197, 224; compared to spoken language, 3–4, 10, 41, 50, 63, 66, 77, 147–149, 163, 164–173, 181–194, 216, 224, 226–242 (*passim*), 266, 271–281 (*passim*), 295–300 (*passim*), 307, 308, 314–315; pantomime/mimetic representation compared to, distinguished from, 11–21 (*passim*), 33–34, 51, 71, 242; core vocabulary of, 13, 15, 43, 224, 298; compared to Danish Sign Language, 21; compared to Chinese Sign Language, 21, 28, 147–163; historical change in, 30, 33, 67–83; compared to fingerspelling, 38–39; 1918-ASL, M-ASL, 70–79 (*passim*); memory experiments using, 91–124; lexical gaps in, 151, 230, 242; linguistic studies (Fixed and Variable Primes) of, 165–180; compared to Sign English (S.E.E.), 193; compounding process in, 204–216; category levels in, 225, 226–242; modulations in, 245; derivational processes in, 295–299; inflectional structure of, 299–314; wit and plays on signs in, 319–339; poetry and song in, 343–374. *See also* DASL (*Dictionary of American Sign Language*); Formational parameters; Grammar and grammatical processes; Iconicity; Lexical signs; Modulations of meaning
- Anticipations (in language): and slips of the hands, 125–126, 132–136, 142; in forming compounds, 217
- Arbitrary signs: iconic vs., 4, 13, 26–30, 32–34, 67–83, 198. *See also* Iconicity; Invention of signs; Lexical signs
- Articulation: rate of, 15, 95, 182–188, 193–194, 213–215, 221, 270, 300, 301, 305; limited to hands, 70–72; symmetry in, 77; rigidity of, 163; cyclicity of, 301–302, 305, 306; double, 326, 329–330, 339; simultaneous, 328–330. *See also* Hand Configuration (HC); Movement (MOV); Place of Articulation (PA); Time
- Art sign, 343–350, 357, 363, 366–371
- Aspects (grammatical): defined, 247; aspectual modulations (susceptative, continuative, incessant, frequentative, intensive, approximative, resultative), 247–271; distributional and temporal, 273, 276, 284–295, 299, 300, 303; facilitative, inceptive, augmentative, 294. *See also* Modulations of meaning
- Atkinson, R. C., 94
- Attneave, F., 170
- Baddeley, A. D., 98, 112
- Baker, C., 3
- Basic level signs, 228–229, 236, 303; conjuncts of, with mimetic description, 240–242. *See also* Category levels

- Battison, R., 12, 35, 41, 63, 76, 77, 175  
 Bellugi, U., 9, 27, 88, 104, 125, 164, 181, 202, 225, 331, 340  
 Bisegmental signs, 58, 60. *See also* Compound (multipart) signs  
 Blake, W., 341  
 Bloomfield, L., 81  
 Boyes-Braem, P., 64, 164, 165, 175, 225, 226-227  
 Bragg, B.: demonstration by, of pantomime vs. ASL, 18-20; rendition by, of Cummings poem, 344-350, 358, 359, 360, 362  
 Brown, R., 81, 149, 315
- California State University (Northridge), 112, 116  
 Cassirer, E., 274  
 Casterline, D., 12  
 Category levels: basic, 225-227, 228-232, 235-237, 240, 242, 303; superordinate/coordinate, 225-228, 230-236, 242; subordinate, 225-228, 235-241, 242; restriction to best instance of, 235, 236  
 Cheremes, 40  
 Children: deaf, of deaf parents, 2, 12, 18, 36, 64, 89, 91, 112, 116, 158, 175; invention by, of signs, 11, 12; signing errors of, 77; and "coding" of symbols, 90; hearing, of deaf parents, 182, 343  
 Chinese language, 37, 272  
 Chinese Sign Language (CSL): compared to ASL, 21, 28, 147-163  
 Chomsky, N., 35, 36  
 Cicourcel, A. V., 2  
 Citation-form of signs, 43, 77, 80, 184; duration/rate of, 19, 30, 300; transparency of, 22; in signing space, 51, 53; history of, 67, 69, 71; movement in, 200, 216, 247, 256-257, 277; of compounds, 217-218, 221, 222, 234; aspectual modulations of, 247, 257, 258, 261; under inflectional processes, 311; in poetry, 367  
 Classifiers: pronominal-like, 13-15, 191-192  
 Clerc, L., 68, 69  
 Clusters (simultaneous, sequential, combination), *see* Movement (MOV)  
 Codes and coding: for recall, 27, 89-90, 95, 98-100, 104, 109, 111, 112, 116, 124, 179; pictorial vs. phonological, 89-90, 98-100; independent, 128-129; as planning process, 188; of abstract grammatical concepts, 271; of distinctions of meaning, 273  
 Communication, total, 322-324  
 Compound (multipart) signs: size-and-shape specifiers (SASSes) in, 13, 237-240, 242; rhythmic properties of, 17, 211-216, 224, 230-234, 237; reduction of, 17, 216-221, 232-234; merging process in forming, 28-29, 78-80, 216-220, 221-224; bisegmental, 58, 60; slips of the hands in, 139-140; two-part signs, 139-140, 141, 196, 202, 204, 207-209; and compounding process, 196, 202-210, 230-242; invention of, 198-202, 298; specialized meaning of, 204, 209-210, 230; submergence of iconicity in, 210, 224; recognition of, 210-216; ordering of items in, 235-236. *See also* Category levels  
 Conrad, R., 89, 90, 112, 124  
 Contacting region/focus: as minor parameter, 45-47, 48, 51, 60, 113, 114, 128; change in, 65, 73-74, 247; and slips of the hands, 144, 145; in CSL vs. ASL, 150-151, 156, 157, 162  
 Conversational (narrative) signing, 77, 80, 217, 326; mimetic representation in, 9, 15; slips of the hands in, 127  
 Coulter, G., 33, 240  
 Craig, E., 30  
 Croneberg, C., 12  
 Crowder, R. G., 95  
 Crystal, D., 30  
 Cummings, E. E.: poem of, 344-350, 360, 362  
 Cyclicity, *see* Movement (MOV)
- D'Andrade, R. G., 170  
 Danish Sign Language, 21  
 DASL (*Dictionary of American Sign Language*), 12, 40, 45, 48, 51-60 (passim), 70, 71, 167, 175, 203, 274, 311; used in experimental memory studies, 91, 93, 116, 119, 180  
 Deixis, 276-277. *See also* Indexical inflections; Indexical signs  
 Delattre, P. C., 148  
 Derivation: and derivative signs, 200-202; and derivational morphology, 272;

- Derivation (*Continued*)  
 and derivational processes in ASL,  
 295–299. *See also* Semantics
- Dictionary of American Sign Language*  
 (Stokoe, Casterline, and Croneberg),  
*see* DASL (*Dictionary of American Sign*  
*Language*)
- Dominance Constraint, *see* Hand Config-  
 uration (HC)
- Dyan, I., 203
- Edge, V. L., 277
- Encoding, *see* Codes and coding
- English language, *see* Speech
- Errors, 86; “mispronunciation,” 18; of  
 children, 77; intrusion, 89–90, 92, 96,  
 97–111, 112, 116, 120, 124, 125, 145,  
 178–180; visually-manually based,  
 104; and confusion of signs during  
 visual noise, 167, 172, 173, 177–178,  
 179. *See also* Slips of the hands
- Erting, C., 3, 77
- Eulenberg, J. B., 274
- Extrasystemic forms, *see* Gestures and  
 gesturing
- Eye gaze, *see* Facial expression
- Facial expression: and eye gaze, 19, 71,  
 277; neutral, 22, 91; use of, for gram-  
 matical purposes, 70, 191, 192–193,  
 194
- Fant, L., 335; rendition by, of Miles’s  
 poems, 356–357, 359–370
- Fingerspelling, 38–39, 169, 183, 230; in  
 initialized signs, 65, 199; in linguistic  
 play, 331, 338
- Fischer, S., 181, 256, 272, 277, 294
- Formational parameters, 11–13, 27–28,  
 43–66, 70, 86, 109, 160; constraints on,  
 45, 50, 54, 61–65, 67, 128, 146, 163;  
 values of, 81–83, 101, 111, 128, 149–  
 150, 245; coding by, 111, 112, 116, 121;  
 independence of, 128–136, 147; com-  
 pared to spoken language, 164; vs.  
 iconicity, 270; of modulations, 270–  
 271; substitution in (for play on signs,  
 poetry), 324–326, 333–335, 370–371.  
*See also* Hand arrangement; Hand  
 Configuration (HC); Movement (MOV);  
 Orientation (OR); Place of Articulation  
 (PA)
- French language, 147
- French Sign Language, 67–68; and Old  
 French Sign Language (O-FSL), 68, 69,  
 71, 72, 73, 74, 80
- Freud, S., 320
- Friedman, L., 2, 12, 41, 60, 65, 165, 211,  
 277, 311
- Frishberg, N., 28, 67, 81, 223
- Fromkin, V. A., 38, 126–127, 137, 141,  
 274
- Gallaudet, T. H., 68, 69
- Gallaudet College (Washington, D.C.),  
 91, 116
- Garrett, M. F., 126, 140
- German language, 23, 147, 148
- Gestures and gesturing, 15; extrasys-  
 temic, 144, 145, 150, 151, 155, 159;  
 SASS as conventionalized, 240; with  
 speech, 242. *See also* Pantomime; Slips  
 of the hands
- Gleitman, L. R. and H., 210
- Goldman-Eisler, F., 181, 182, 188
- Goodstadt, R. Y.-C., 150
- Gough, B., 81, 256
- Grammar and grammatical processes: of  
 ASL compared to speech, 3–4, 193,  
 203, 271, 314; and organization/struc-  
 ture of spoken language, 3, 36, 38, 41,  
 63, 149, 193, 272–273; and suppression  
 of iconicity, 30–32, 34, 61, 210; syntac-  
 tic organization of ASL, 38, 193, 227–  
 228, 230–231, 236–237; effects of, on  
 lexical items, 61, 272–276; and me-  
 thodical signs, 67–69, 193; indigenous  
 to ASL, 69, 193, 197, 224, 225, 253,  
 270–271. *See also* Inflectional pattern-  
 ing; Morpheme(s); Morphological pro-  
 cesses
- Gray, W., 225
- Greek language, 272, 276
- Greenberg, J. H., 149
- Grosjean, F., 185, 186
- Gustason, G., 193
- Hand arrangement: one- vs. two-handed,  
 38–39, 48–50, 55, 63–65, 73–78, 79,  
 100, 107, 109, 132, 134–136, 217, 279,  
 287, 290, 309, 346–372; as minor pa-  
 rameter, 45, 48, 128; in errors of recall,  
 100; and slips of the hands, 129, 132,  
 142, 144; unification of, 217–218; dou-  
 bling of hands, 279, 287, 301, 302, 303,

- Hand arrangement (*Continued*)  
 305, 307; double articulation, 326, 329–330, 339; in poetry, 346–372; patterned alternation of, 359–360, 362, 366, 368, 371. *See also* Hand Configuration (HC)
- Hand Configuration (HC); conventionality/limitation of, 11, 15, 54; duration of, 19, 45; symmetry/Symmetry Constraints in, 21, 63–65, 70, 73–78, 132, 136, 144; similarity of, 27, 41, 45–48, 61, 101–103, 107, 109, 111, 113–114, 117–119, 121–123, 229; in fingerspelling, 38–39, 65; as major parameter, 40–42, 43–44, 66, 109, 128, 165, 229; in bisegmental sign, 60; signs identical in, 61; Dominance Constraints in, 63–65, 73–74; most frequently occurring, 64, 81; articulation limited to hands, 70–72; and intrusion errors, 101–103, 112; and recall, 124; in slips of the hands, 128–145; values assumed by, 150, 151; ASL compared to CSL, 151–154, 156–157, 160–163; in perception studies (Fixed and Variable Primes), 166, 167–180; confusion of, in visual noise, 167, 172, 173, 177–178, 179; distinctive feature model of, 173–180; in superordinate terms, 234; substitutions (in play on signs), 324–325, 335, 336; in poetry (straight and art-sign), 344–350, 353–357, 361–362, 367–369. *See also* Contacting region/focus; Errors; Hand arrangement; Orientation (OR); Slips of the hands
- Hand-internal movements, *see* Movement (MOV)
- Harnad, S., 9  
 Heiman, G. W., 3  
 Herrmann, L., 277  
 Hildum, D. C., 149  
 Hintzman, D. L., 98  
 Hockett, C. F., 247
- Iconicity, 4, 13, 17, 18, 40, 124, 196; degree of, 21–26, 33–34; submergence of, 26–32, 34, 65–66, 74, 78, 81, 86, 210, 224, 270–271; paradox of, 32–33; historical change from (to arbitrary signs), 67–83, 198; residual, 86; and errors in recall, 100, 111, 116; in creation of new signs, 198, 200; of basic level signs, 229–230; in play on signs, 333–335; in poetry, 369–370. *See also* Mimetic representation; Pantomime
- Indexical signs, 80, 277, 300; and indexical inflections, 273, 299; and indexical plane, 276–279, 281, 283, 284, 285, 309
- Inflectional patterning: slips of the hands in, 141; modification of signs for, 190, 208, 209, 252; recurrence of, 197; in compound signs, 216–217; morphological, 243–246, 270–274, 300–302, 307–308; vocal vs. grammatical inflection, 245–246; ASL variations in, structure of, 273–295, 299–314; combinations of dimensional values in, 302–304; systematic features of, 303–308; relations of, to lexical structure, 308–312; hierarchies of form and meaning in, 312–314
- Initialized signs, 64–65, 199, 298. *See also* Fingerspelling
- Intaglietta, M., 168
- Invention of signs, 16, 32, 81, 229, 240–241; by children, 11, 12; for modulation of meaning, 64–65, 254; “methodical,” 67–69, 193; unintentional (slips of the hands), 138–140, 142–145, 149; for new concepts, 198–202, 225; for English morphemes, 244; in derivational processes, 298; blending (in play on signs), 330–333. *See also* Compound (multipart) signs; Modification of signs; Slips of the hands
- Israeli Sign Language, 210
- Jakobson, R., 37, 276, 341, 342
- Japanese language and tradition, 148, 341
- Jenkins, J. J., 149
- Jespersen, O., 210
- Johnson, D., 225
- Keep, J. A., 69
- Kegl, J. A., 3
- Key, H., 274
- Klima, E. S., 9, 12, 37, 88, 125, 340
- Lacy, R., 277
- Landauer, T. K., 94
- Lane, H., 68, 69, 164
- Language: concept of, 1; Sapir’s characterization of, 4; foreign, 23, 37, 147,

- Language (*Continued*)  
 148, 203, 237, 272, 273, 276, 314; command of (Chomsky's characterization), 35; and linguistic studies of ASL, 165-180; grammatical classification of, 272-273; and linguistic play in ASL, 319-339. *See also* Grammar and grammatical processes; Speech
- Latin language, 272, 273, 314
- Lees, R. B., 210
- Lenneberg, E. H., 186
- Lentz, E. M., 319
- L'Épée, Abbé C. M. de, 67-68, 69, 71, 80
- Lewis, M. M., 10
- Lexical signs, 209; examples of, 10; and core vocabulary, 13, 15, 43, 224, 298; gestures as, 15, 38; degree of iconicity in, 21-26, 33-34; formational constraints on, 28, 30, 65-66; internal organization of, 38-39; formational parameters of, 43, 61; and lexicalization process, 80, 83, 196, 216-221, 295; and lexical gaps in ASL, 151, 230, 242; modulations on, 264, 302; inflection and, 308-312. *See also* Compound (multipart) signs; Formational parameters; Inflectional patterning; Modification of signs; Modulations of meaning
- Liberman, A. M., 36
- Liddell, S. K., 192
- Lloyd, B. B., 225
- Location, *see* Place of Articulation (PA)
- Long, J. S., 70, 71, 73-74, 79, 80, 81, 203
- McNeill, D., 188
- Mallery, G., 40
- Marchand, H., 210
- Markowitz, H., 3
- Maryland School for the Deaf, 158
- Maxwell, M., 333
- Meadow, K. P., 2, 331
- Meaning: relation between sign and, 22, 23-26, 28, 81, 200, 229; intensification of, 30, 33, 259-260; specialized, of compounds, 204, 209-210, 230; distinctions of, 273, 281, 284, 294; and plays on signs, 321-333. *See also* Inflectional patterning; Modulations of meaning; Semantics
- Memory, immediate/short-term, 33; experimentation with, 27, 88-124, 178; "echo" in, 88, 95; for random lists of signs, 90-111; memory span, 93, 95, 121; for multiparameter similarity, 112-116; for single parameter similarity, 116-124; and compression of information, 191-192. *See also* Codes and coding; Errors
- Merging of signs, *see* Compound (multipart) signs
- Mervis, C. B., 225
- Metathesis, 125, 129-133, 137, 144
- Methodical signs, 67-69, 193. *See also* Grammar and grammatical processes
- Michaels, J. W., 40
- Miles, D.: haiku poem of, 350-370
- Miller, G. A., 165, 167, 170, 171, 176, 178
- Mimetic representation, 9; compared to and distinguished from ASL, 11-21 (*passim*), 33-34, 51; progression from, to invented/arbitrary sign, 11-12, 16, 29, 32, 66, 70, 81, 198; potentials of, 196; basic signs conjoined with, 240-242. *See also* Iconicity; Pantomime
- "Mispronunciation," 18. *See also* Errors
- Modification of signs: and loss of realism (iconicity), 11, 12; stylized representation in, 17, 18, 222-223; as means of adding information, 190. *See also* Compound (multipart) signs; Iconicity
- Modulations of meaning, 190-192, 194, 196-197, 245-246; intensification, 30, 33, 259-260; creation of new signs for, 31-32, 199-202; in compound signs, 206-207; aspectual (eleven forms), 247-264; variation in terms describing, 264-265; systematic features of (for aspect), 264-270; grammatical processes and iconicity in, 270-271; protractive, 292, 294. *See also* Meaning; Semantics
- Morpheme(s): as abstract symbol, 10, 21; sequence of, 36-37, 191; constraints on, 63, 148-149; expression of, in sign language, 68, 189, 193, 194, 244
- Morphological processes: and iconicity, 30; in spoken language, 36-37, 191; number of hands in, 50, 302; indigenous to ASL, 69, 196-197, 255, 270-271, 274, 308-315; in speech/language errors, 140-141; affixation, 193, 244, 274; pluralization, 239; inflection, 243-246, 270-274, 300-302, 307-308; morphology (inflectional and derivational)

- Morphological processes (*Continued*)  
 defined, 272; formational components of (eleven dimensions), 300–302. *See also* Grammar and grammatical processes; Inflectional patterning
- Morton, J., 95
- Mosteller, F., 160
- Movement (MOV): conventionality of, 11; mimetic extension of, 13–15; manner and quality of (evenness, size, muscle tension), 15, 30, 33, 61, 65, 259, 263, 264, 266–267, 270, 294, 300–311 (passim), 314, 368; direction of/directional, 15, 55, 56, 248, 276–277, 291, 292, 301, 304, 305; body shifts and, 19, 70, 71, 277; as major parameter, 40, 54–61, 66, 109, 128, 165, 229; differences in, 41, 42, 133, 264; hand-internal, 45, 47, 54, 65, 70, 248–249, 254, 259; locus of, 50; wrist, 54–55, 65, 167, 248, 249, 255, 312; circular, 55, 56, 117, 133–134, 216, 247–249, 252–254, 274, 298, 309; clusters (simultaneous, sequential, combination), 55, 56–60, 137–139, 311; interaction of, 55, 76–77, 309; repetition of, 61, 184, 234, 247, 248–249, 254, 287–290, 303, 311–312; constraints (symmetry, dominance) on, 63–65, 76–78, 163; transitional (between signs), 78, 183, 212, 218–220, 232, 234, 236, 331–333, 359, 362, 367, 371; flow of, 80, 220, 247, 347–350, 362, 367–369; similarity of, 101–102, 109, 111, 113, 117–119, 121–123, 229; and intrusion errors, 101–102, 112; and slips of the hands, 128–129, 131–139, 142–144; values assumed by, 150, 151, 301; ASL compared to CSL, 151–154, 156, 163; in Fixed and Variable Prime studies, 167, 169–170, 173; modulations of (to modify meaning), 190–192, 194, 196–197, 247–271, 298–299; changes in, when forming compounds, 216–221, 232–234; in superordinate terms, 234; cyclical, 247, 254, 256, 266, 301, 305, 309, 311, 312, 314; contoured, 274, 275, 287, 300, 301, 303, 307; inflectional processes and, 274–275, 281, 283, 287, 301; geometric patterns in, 301, 304, 305; substitutions and blends (in play on signs), 326, 327, 331; in poetry and song, 347–350, 362, 367–369.
- See also* Articulation; Place of Articulation (PA)
- Mow, S., 369–370
- Muscle tension, 259, 263, 264, 294, 301, 368. *See also* Movement (MOV)
- National Theater of the Deaf, 343, 344, 347, 350, 356
- Navajo language, 237, 314
- Newkirk, D., 35, 41, 125, 181, 202, 272
- Newport, E., 61, 65, 201, 225, 249, 256, 267, 294, 295–296, 311, 314
- Nicely, P. E., 165, 167, 171, 176, 178
- Norman, D. A., 27, 88
- Nouns: compared to related verbs, 295–297
- Number/numerosity (grammatical), 273, 276, 280–283, 301; distributional aspect of, 284–291, 299
- Number of hands, *see* Hand arrangement
- O'Connor, J. D., 148
- O-FSL, *see* French Sign Language
- Opaque signs, 23, 25, 28–30, 34, 80
- Orientation (OR): as minor parameter, 45, 47–48, 128, 165; changing (to create new or merged sign/to modify meaning), 65, 78–80, 190; in errors and slips of the hands, 102, 103, 134; in two-part sign, 140; in Fixed and Variable Primes studies, 167, 169–170, 173; in inflectional process, 276, 279; substitution (in play on signs), 326, 327; special, in poetry, 358, 362. *See also* Hand Configuration (HC)
- Overlapping of signs: in poetry, 360–362, 366, 368, 371
- Pantomime, 3, 13, 33; ASL compared to, 11, 15–21, 51, 71, 242; progression from, to invented/arbitrary sign, 16, 32, 70, 71; independent use of hands in, 77. *See also* Iconicity; Mimetic representation
- Parameters, formational, spatial, *see* Formational parameters; Space
- Parents, deaf, *see* Children
- Paris National Institute for Deaf Mutes, 68, 69
- Pauses between signs, 183–185, 187, 188. *See also* Articulation; Movement (MOV)

- Pedersen, C. C., 125, 243, 246, 247, 272
- Perseverations (in language), 126, 133–136
- Pfetzling, D., 193
- Phonemes (sound segments), 36–37, 40, 63, 147; and phonemic representations of signs (in memory), 95; in learning new language, 148, 160; feature values of, 164
- Phonology, 37, 38; and phonological similarity in/basis for recall, 27, 89, 90, 98, 100, 111; and slips of the tongue, 126; and phonological rules and processes, 149, 164–165, 205, 224, 299, 315; and “phonological” analysis of ASL, 156, 180. *See also* Speech
- Place of Articulation (PA), 57, 60; conventionality of, 11; similarity of, 27, 61, 101–103, 109, 111, 113–114, 117–119, 121–124, 229; as major parameter, 40, 50–53, 66, 109, 128, 165, 229; differences in, 41, 42, 51–53; constraints on (symmetry, dominance), 63–64, 76, 163; displacement of signs within (signing space), 70, 71–76; changing (in merging process/to modify meaning), 80, 81, 190, 191, 192, 196; and intrusion errors, 101–103, 112; as key in short-term recall, 124; and slips of the hands, 128–131, 133–134, 139–140, 142–144; values assumed by, 150, 151; ASL compared to CSL, 151–154, 156, 163; in Fixed and Variable Prime studies, 167, 169–170, 173; in superordinate terms, 234; and indexical signs, 277; planar locus and, 301, 304, 309; substitutions (in play on signs), 325–326; in poetry, 363, 367, 368–369. *See also* Indexical signs
- Plays on signs, 319–339
- Pluralization, 239. *See also* Morphological processes
- Poetry and song, 326, 340–372
- Presser, B., 210
- Puns (plays on signs), 319–339
- Rate of articulation, *see* Articulation
- Reciprocity/reciprocal inflection, 273, 276, 279, 280, 299, 300. *See also* Inflectional patterning
- Rhythm: in compound signs, 17, 211–216, 224, 230–234, 237; in poetry, 358–359, 364, 371
- Richards, L., 336
- Riekehof, L., 11, 39
- Rodman, R., 38, 274
- Rosch, E., 225, 226, 227–228, 237, 242
- Russian language, 148, 314
- Salk Institute, The, 350
- Sapir, E., 4, 163, 203, 274
- Schlesinger, H. S., 2
- Schlesinger, I. M., 210
- Semantics: semantic groupings of signs, 39–40; and sign families, 81, 112, 324; in spoken language, 81, 273; and errors in recall, 100, 104, 109, 111, 112; semantic similarity ratings (in memory tests), 105, 106, 109–111; semantic distinctions, 197, 268–270, 271, 273, 276, 294–295, 300; and derivation processes in ASL, 200–202, 295–299; semantic lexicalization, 214, 216, 295. *See also* Meaning; Modulations of meaning
- Semiotics and Human Sign Languages* (Stokoe), 40
- Shepard, R. N., 170, 176
- Shiffin, R. M., 94
- Shulman, H. G., 100
- Sicard, Abbé Roch Ambroise, 68
- Sign: definition of, 41
- Sign English (S.E.E.), 193, 273
- Sign families, 81, 112, 324. *See also* Semantics
- Signing space, *see* Place of Articulation (PA); Space
- Sign Language, The: A Manual of Signs* (Long), 70
- Sign Language Structure* (Stokoe), 40
- Sign Language Studies* (journal), 2
- Silverman, N. R., 168
- Similarity (visual) of signs, 27, 41, 45–48, 61, 100–124, 151–154, 159–162, 229. *See also* Hand Configuration (HC); Movement (MOV); Place of Articulation (PA)
- Simplex signs, *see* Unitary signs
- Siple, P., 2, 74, 76, 88, 104, 147
- Size-and-shape specifiers (SASSes), *see* Compound (multipart) signs

- Slips of the hands: transposition, 28; symmetry in (two hands instead of one), 77; compared to slips of the tongue, 125–127, 136–137, 141–142, 145–146, 336; corpus and analysis of, 127–146, 149, 151; and “invention” of signs, 138–140, 142–145, 149; “pun” concerning, 336–338
- Space: spatial patterning, 15, 292, 303, 314; signing, 51, 60, 70–76 (*passim*), 81, 83; neutral, 52–53, 60, 114, 167; sign as multidimensional form in, 61, 66, 197, 274; and “time line,” 81–82. *See also* Contacting region/focus; Orientation (OR); Place of Articulation (PA)
- Spanish language, 147
- Speech: as preferred linguistic system, 1; compared to sign language, 3–4, 10, 41, 50, 63, 66, 77, 147–149, 163, 164–173, 181–194, 216, 224, 226–242 (*passim*), 266, 271–281 (*passim*), 295–300 (*passim*), 307, 308, 314–315; foreign languages, 23, 37, 147, 148, 203, 237, 272, 273, 276, 314; language as separate from, 35; consonantal segments in, 50, 63, 307; rate of, 94, 181–194; and semantic similarity (in memory tests), 105, 106, 109–111; “speech-like input” and memory, 124; slips of the tongue, 125–127, 136–137, 141–142, 145–146, 336; phonetic differences in, 147–149, 160, 307; Miller-Nicely study of, 165, 167, 171, 176, 178; perception of, in noise, 165, 171, 176; intonation, visual-manual analogue to, 216. *See also* Grammar and grammatical processes; Language; Morpheme(s); Morphological processes; Phonemes (sound segments); Phonology; Semantics
- Speelman, R. G., 95, 124
- Sperling, G., 95, 98, 112, 124
- Spooner, Rev. W. A., and “spoonerisms,” 125, 129. *See also* Metathesis
- Stanislavski acting method, 245
- Stankiewicz, E., 370
- Stokoe, W. C., 2, 68; et al., 10; linguistic studies and sign analysis by, 10, 11–12, 40–41, 43, 45, 50, 52, 54. *See also* DASL (*Dictionary of American Sign Language*)
- Structure of sign language, 4, 33, 86; studies of, 2, 35, 39–43; bisyllabic, 139–141; and use of space and movement, 276–315; inflectional, 299–314. *See also* Compound (multipart) signs; Formational parameters; Grammar and grammatical processes; Morphological processes
- Studdert-Kennedy, M., 36, 38
- Subordinate, superordinate levels, *see* Category levels
- Supalla, T., 61, 65, 201, 249, 256, 267, 294, 295–296, 311, 314
- Symbols: linguistic, 3, 10; ASL signs as, 11, 41, 163; representing prime values in DASL, 52; systematization of, 77; and sound symbolism in speech, 81; “coding” of, by deaf, 90; and poetic symbolism, 340. *See also* Iconicity
- Symmetry, *see* Hand Configuration (HC)
- Syntax, *see* Grammar and grammatical processes
- Tervoort, B., 32
- Thurber, J., 16
- Time: duration of signs, 18–19, 167, 193, 213–215, 234, 235–236; temporal aspect and focus, 247, 273, 276, 291–295, 299, 300, 303, 314; duration expressed, 257–258, 263, 267, 268, 269, 287, 292. *See also* Articulation
- Time line(s): indicating tense, 81–82; indicating temporal reduction in compounds, 232–234; indicating temporal characteristics of modulations, 264, 265
- Timing of signs, *see* Articulation; Pauses between signs
- Tompkins, W. R., 168
- Transition between signs, *see* Movement (MOV); Pauses between signs
- Translucent signs, 24–26
- Transparency of signs, 4, 22–23, 26, 28, 34. *See also* Iconicity
- Tweney, R. D., 3, 27
- Two-handed signs, *see* Hand arrangement
- Unitary signs, 13, 39, 61, 70, 128, 308; simplex, 58, 202, 213, 222–223; multipart reduced to, 78–81, 221–224; and two-sign units, 202–220. *See also* Compound (multipart) signs
- University of California (San Diego), 91



- Verbs and verb signs: inflection of, 276–297, 302–304, 312, 313. *See also*  
Grammar and grammatical processes;  
Inflectional patterning
- Visual acuity and sign perception, 74, 76
- Visual noise, *see* Errors
- Visual similarity, *see* Similarity (visual)  
of signs
- Watson, D. O., Jr., 203
- Wells, R., 141
- Wickelgren, W. A., 98, 124
- Wilbur, R. B., 274
- Wilcoxon test, 107, 116
- Woodward, J. C., Jr., 3, 165, 277
- Woodworth, R. S., 93
- Wundt, W., 40
- Zawolkow, E., 193
- Zimmer, K. E., 210



Appendixes

Notes

References

Index



## Appendix A: Notation

SIGN	Words in capital letters represent English labels (glosses) for ASL signs. A gloss is chosen on the basis of common usage among deaf researchers and informants in giving an English translation for the sign. The gloss represents the meaning of the unmarked, unmodulated, basic form of a sign out of context.
SIGN-SIGN	Multiword glosses connected by hyphens are used when more than one English word is required to translate a single sign (LOOK-AT).
'meaning'	Words within single quotation marks indicate the meaning or referent of the words or signs; e.g., 'tree' indicates the referent tree, not the English word <i>tree</i> .
<i>W-O-R-D</i>	Fingerspelled words are represented in capital italic letters with hyphens between letters.
SIGN+ <i>AFFIX</i>	Capital italics joined to a sign gloss by a plus mark indicate sign markers, signlike affixes invented to indicate English grammatical forms (as in SIGN+ <i>ING</i> ). Such affixes are not ASL signs but are used in various manual representations of English (in Signing Exact English, for example). Capital ASL. See chapter 9.
SIGN $\widehat{\text{SIGN}}$	Italics are also used for signlike inventions for English function words (the articles <i>A</i> , <i>AN</i> , <i>THE</i> , for example) and for letters in fingerspelled words.
$\widehat{\text{SIGN}}$	Sign glosses joined by an arc indicate compound signs in ASL. See chapter 9.
$\widehat{\text{SIGN}}$	A sign gloss preceded by an arc (but not joined to another sign gloss) represents a bound form in ASL, for example, $\widehat{\text{RECTANGULAR}}$ . See chapter 10.
SIGN $\frown$ SIGN	Sign glosses joined by an inverted arc indicate contractions in ASL.
SIGN/SIGN	Sign glosses joined by a slash indicate a blend of two signs, as discussed in chapters 5 and 13.

(SIGN)	A sign gloss within parentheses indicates that the sign is an indexical sign; that is, it is a pronoun, possessive, or "self" form made with a pointing hand that changes orientation and path of movement to indicate its referent: (ME), (HIS), (THERE), (YOURSELF).
SIGN[+]	A bracketed symbol following a sign gloss indicates that the sign is made with some change in form associated with a change in meaning from its basic, unmodulated form and thus indicates grammatical changes on signs. The symbol may be followed by a specification of the grammatical category of the process or the meaning of the inflected form. For example, GIVE[N:exhaustive] and GIVE[N:'to each'] are alternative ways of representing the same inflectional process. A plus mark indicates that the sign is not made in its uninflected form but does not specify what change the sign has undergone.
SIGN[x]	A form that has undergone indexical change. The meaning is sometimes specified, as in INFORM[x:'me'] or INFORM[x:'me to you'].
SIGN[R]	A form that has undergone the reciprocal inflection, as in INFORM[R:'each other'].
SIGN[N]	A form that has undergone inflection for numerosity (number and distributional aspect), as in ASK[N:multiple] or GIVE[N:'to each'].
SIGN[M]	A form that has undergone modulation for temporal aspect, focus, or degree. The modulation or the meaning of the modulated sign is sometimes specified: SICK[M:predispositional], BLUE[M:'dark'].
SIGN[D]	A form that has undergone a derivational process. The nature of the process or the meaning of the derived form is sometimes specified: COMPARE[D:nominalization], COMPARE[D:'comparison'].
SIGN[id]	The sign made is an idiomatic derivative. The meaning is sometimes specified, as in QUIET[id:'acquiesce'].
SIGN <sub>+</sub>	A sign gloss followed by a subscript symbol indicates that the sign is unusual in some nonregular respect; it may be a regional sign, an invented sign, a stylistic variant, which does not change its intended meaning.
SIGN <sub>inv</sub>	An invented sign.
SIGN <sub>var</sub>	A stylistic variant, occurring in informal signing styles, for example.
SIGN <sub>reg</sub>	A regional variant.
SIGN <sup>^</sup> SIGN[+]	When one component of a compound sign gloss is followed by a bracketed symbol, that component of the compound has undergone a grammatical operation.

[SIGN $\widehat{\text{SIGN}}$ ][+]	When the compound is itself bracketed, the entire compound has undergone the grammatical operation.
*	An asterisk preceding a sentence indicates that the sentence is ungrammatical within ASL or English.
/k/	With reference to spoken language, a symbol within slashes indicates a phonemic segment (or phonological segment). Within a language, phonemic segments are those sounds that function to distinguish words.
[k]	With reference to spoken language, a symbol within brackets indicates a phonetic segment (or allophone).
/A/	With reference to American Sign Language, a symbol within slashes indicates a prime value of a sign parameter. Within ASL, the elements of the major parameters—hand configuration (HC), place of articulation (PA), and movement (MOV)—function to distinguish signs.
[Ā]	With reference to ASL, a symbol within brackets indicates a subprime value of a sign parameter. Analysis to date suggests that prime values may be considered as classes or families of related values.

Symbols identifying the separate primes of formational parameters of ASL signs may be found in chapter 2:

- Hand Configuration, figures 2.4 and 2.5
- Place of Articulation, figure 2.13
- Movement, figures 2.15 through 2.19

Names of the major formational parameters of signs are abbreviated: hand configuration as HC, place of articulation as PA, and movement as MOV. For the informal description of manual gestures in general, different terms are used: handshape, location, and either motion or movement (but not abbreviated as MOV). Names of minor parameters (orientation, contacting region, hand arrangement) are not abbreviated.

Special notation used in specific chapters is indicated within those chapters.

## Appendix B: Conventions Employed in Illustrations

Because movement of a sign is difficult to represent but essential in the analysis of signs, we have used a number of different ways of displaying temporal properties of signs. Many drawings are modifications of tracings taken from videotape, our essential research tool. Videotape stores images at 16-millisecond intervals (60 fields per second), a convenient rate for sign analysis.

In some figures we display individual selected images of a sign or pantomime (as for GOOD in figure 9.9, shown in four images). The number in the corner of a frame indicates the field number of the image selected.

Strobefike drawings in other illustrations are tracings made from videotaped representations. One line is drawn for each of the 60 images per second: widely spaced lines represent rapid movement, since the hand is traversing greater distances between images; narrowly spaced lines represent slow movement.

Time lines appear in some drawings. Again these are taken from videotaped representations. When time lines are represented by blocks, a white block represents the duration of an initial or final hold; black blocks represent the duration (and number) of cycles of the sign core. Gray blocks represent transitions between signs. Comparative duration is shown in length of line.

Dotted lines between drawings are used when two drawings are necessary to represent a single sign, as in signs with orientation changes, such as MISUNDERSTAND, shown in figure 13.15a. Two drawings separated by a dotted line topped by an arc represent the two distinct parts of a compound (although for other purposes a compound may be represented in a single drawing).

Hands drawn with dotted lines represent the first position of the sign; those drawn with solid lines represent the final position. Solid lines between drawings within a box indicate separate signs; drawings separated by a line that does not touch at top and bottom represent signs in a phrase.

Some signs are represented with accompanying facial expression, carried over from the videotape images. Facial expression plays a multitude of roles in American Sign Language, but we have not focused on that aspect of signing in this book. When the facial expression accompanying a sign is relevant to an issue discussed in the text, this is so noted.

Special conventions adopted for particular chapters are explained in the notes to those chapters.