

## Chapter 1 : International Sign Language

*Scholars and sign language speakers alike consider International Sign Language (IS) the sign language equivalent of Esperanto. Also called Gestuno, IS is a constructed language with over 1, signs intended to unify sign language speakers around the world.*

Hearing people often mistakenly think that sign language is an international language. In fact, there are probably hundreds of national sign languages all over the world www. National sign languages are used in the education of deaf pupils, taught to hearing learners, and have become languages of instruction in the training of sign language interpreters. Signed languages seem to allow communication across language boundaries to a degree that is inconceivable in spoken languages. Not surprisingly, this unique linguistic fact has long been part of the heritage of Deaf people, who take pride in being an international community. Transnational communication, as practiced by Deaf people, has come to be known as International Sign IS. While IS lacks the differentiation and efficiency of well-established national sign languages, it is uniquely successful in allowing Deaf people to overcome linguistic borders, allowing for the development of a sense of connectedness between Deaf people of different origins. Different forms of IS may be distinguished, some more conventionalized than others, but our project takes a broad view and defines IS as a fairly diverse set of communicative practices commonly employed when Deaf people of different national backgrounds meet. National sign languages and IS should be seen as complementary. Clearly, national sign languages like DGS or BSL are the languages of choice in the everyday communication within local and national Deaf communities. Also, in events such as conferences or international meetings, interpreting into a national sign language is an undisputed preference. However, there are many situations, both of an informal and formal nature, where IS may be the medium of choice since it makes direct personal communication possible in the absence of a shared national language. IS is used not only in private international encounters of Deaf people, but it is the form of communication used at many social and sports events in the international Deaf world, including board meetings of the World Federation of the Deaf. Increasingly, it is also used on websites that relate to Deaf concerns, such as the website of the European Union of the Deaf www. What may count as good and representative examples of IS has been a matter of intense debate within our project. What do you think? Go to our SignWiki , watch our choice of IS videos and tell us what you think: Are these typical examples of international signed communication between Deaf people? Signs2Cross celebrates all forms of signed communication of Deaf people. It runs from January to December Signs2Cross builds upon the earlier Signs2Go project. The partners have also been involved in the BiBiKit project. For information on the aims of the project see AIMS. For more detailed project information download the Progress Report December Go to Signs2cross online course and join our Facebook group! You may contact the project coordinator at jens. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

## Chapter 2 : Sign language dictionary | SpreadTheSign

*International Sign (Language) Contrary to popular belief, sign language is not a universal language. Like spoken languages, sign languages around the world are different.*

History[ edit ] Deaf people in the Western and Middle Eastern world have gathered together using sign language for 2, years. Deaf people have therefore used a kind of auxiliary gestural system for international communication at sporting or cultural events since the early 19th century. In the following years, a pidgin developed as the delegates from different language backgrounds communicated with each other, and in , a WFD committee "the Commission of Unification of Signs" published a standardized vocabulary. They selected "naturally spontaneous and easy signs in common use by deaf people of different countries" [7] to make the language easy to learn. A book published by the commission in the early s, Gestuno: International Sign Language of the Deaf, contains a vocabulary list of about signs. The name "Gestuno" was chosen, referencing gesture and oneness. However, when Gestuno was first used, at the WFD congress in Bulgaria in , it was incomprehensible to deaf participants. Additionally, the vocabulary was gradually replaced by more iconic signs and loan signs from different sign languages. The first training course in Gestuno was conducted in Copenhagen in to prepare interpreters for the 5th World Conference on Deafness. Ingram and taught by Betty L. Ingram, two American interpreters. It is referred to by some sign linguists as "Eurosigs". Vocabulary[ edit ] The lexicon of International Sign is limited, and varies between signers. IS interpreter Bill Moody noted in a paper that the vocabulary used in conference settings is largely derived from the sign languages of the Western world and is less comprehensible to those from African or Asian sign language backgrounds. This suggests that the majority of IS signs are not signs borrowed from a specific SL, as other studies found, but rather are common to many natural SLs. Classifiers are used to describe things, and they transfer well across linguistic barriers. It has been noted that signers are generally better at interlingual communication than non-signers, even without a lingua franca. A paper presented in suggested that IS signers "combine a relatively rich and structured grammar with a severely impoverished lexicon". In a two-way conversation, any manual alphabet known may be used; often one speaker will fingerspell using the alphabet of the other party, as it is often easier to spell quickly in an unfamiliar alphabet than to read quickly. ISL also has a standardised system of numbers as these signs vary greatly between sign languages. This may be used in conjunction with spelling and classifying for the first instance, and the indigenous sign used alone from then on.

### Chapter 3 : second lang acquisition - Which sign language should I learn first? - Linguistics Stack Exchange

*Here, you'll find a video dictionary of ISL (International Sign Language). Feel free to leave us your feedback or questions in the forum or send them by email. You can also use this site to discover other European sign languages.*

They have evolved over years in the different Deaf Communities across the world and Europe. Despite widespread opinions there is not one single universal sign language in the world or even in Europe. Just as spoken languages, sign languages vary greatly between countries and ethnic groups. Some countries have more than one sign language or dialect. Countries that have the same spoken language do not necessarily have the same signed language see for example Germany and Austria. In recent years Deaf people have been travelling extensively, taking part in international events, which increased the need for a lingua franca, much like English is widely used today. They decided to adopt a number of signs in an attempt to create a sign system to facilitate communication at the WFD Congresses every four years. Although the list of signs did not become widely accepted, the concept of an international signing system continued developing. Currently, International Sign IS is sometimes also referred to as an auxiliary language where meaning has to be negotiated between signers. IS Signers reportedly use a set of signs from their own national sign language mixed with highly iconic signs that can be understood by a large audience. Additionally, grammatical features that are thought to be common among Western sign languages are drawn upon. This can be classifiers, role-play, and general non-manual features, among others. It has therefore been said that IS is more of a language than a typical pidgin. Today, IS is used widely at international meetings where participants do not share one common sign language. Although often heavily influenced by American Sign Language ASL internationally, experienced IS signers nowadays try to be as independent from one specific national sign language as possible to ensure a large audience of varied backgrounds can understand the message to the fullest extent possible. Experience has shown that it is difficult to teach IS to anyone not knowing at least one or more national sign languages. EUD acknowledges that there is no standard for IS interpreters and there is no guarantee that an IS interpreter can interpret in every given setting or for every IS user. Furthermore, EUD strongly supports the notion that IS interpreters must first become professional sign language interpreters at national level, including appropriate English language competencies before entering the IS domain. EUD further encourages the facilitation of Deaf interpreters especially when interpreting between two or more sign languages. Therefore, EUD supports the recognition of national sign languages in all EU Member States as well as the interpretation from and to national sign languages, along with the teaching of national sign languages. Providing interpretations in as many national sign languages as possible would be an ideal solution but due to financial and professional restrictions this is not always feasible. However, access in the national sign language for an audience from one sign language community with a common sign language or a single Deaf person should always be prioritised and is the only way to provide full and equal access. Therefore, IS is - albeit not being the perfect solution - a good option when working with a diverse audience. This position paper has been developed in co-operation with the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters efsli. The creation of an international deaf community and sign language. Signum - p. British Deaf Association International Sign Language of the Deaf. Some Points for Consideration. Paper written by Lorraine Leeson. Perspectives on the Concept and Definition of International Sign. World Federation of the Deaf Available at: Diversity and community in the worldwide sign language interpreting profession. Paper presented at the issues in interpreting conference, university of Durham, Durham. Rosenstock, R , An investigation of international sign: Dissertation at Gallaudet University. The grammar of international sign: A new look at pidgin languages. The Linguistics of British Sign Language. Sign Language Legislation in the European Union. International Perspectives on Sign Language Communication. The Global Approach to Sign Languages. The Sociolinguistics of Sign Language. Cambridge University Press, pp.

## Chapter 4 : Sign Language - Gestuno (ISL) and American Sign Language (ASL)

*International Sign Language Lesson filmed during the 8 day youth exchange called "Include Us! Employ Us!" supported by the Youth in Action Programme financed by the European Commission.*

November 12, "Gestuno" The need to communicate is universal. For those within the deaf community, the need to communicate in sign is universal. Just as there are languages in the world, there are thousands upon thousands of different signed languages, each with its own "accent" and "dialect. So what do you do when you try to gather together people of the deaf communities from all four corners of the globe? You devise an international sign language that all are capable of learning and understanding. As early as , at a gathering of the World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf, the idea of "unifying" the sign languages was being discussed handspeak. So around a committee was given the task to devise and standardize a system of international gestures. The Commission on Unification of Signs of the World Federation of the deaf then issued a book of almost signs, chosen or invented by them and they called the new basic international vocabulary "Gestuno. Yet in general assemblies and within the bureau, Gestuno is still used. It is still not known though, if everyone fully understands the language. Inside the bureau, Gestuno is far more defined. Members with a broad cultural understanding have been able to communicate many concrete principles as well as abstract ideas. There just are not that many people that have been willing to learn the new language. And with the highly developed translating devices of today and the skilled hands of international translators, who would really want to take the time to learn a language no one else knows Moody 81? Within the last few years in Europe, a lingua franca has developed. A sort of "creole sign language" that some have begun calling an international sign language. Whether it will ever catch on or not is unknown but is something to watch deaflibrary. A native language Gestuno is not. But it is a barrier breaking vocabulary that allows a select few to bridge an international language gap. It is still used today in specific gatherings for the deaf community where needed, yet these events are few in number. Yet the need to bridge that international barrier has aroused a sort of lingua franca rooted deep in the trade industry of modern Europe. Maybe this next generation of signers will develop this language further and international communication will be easier deaflibrary. As for the Gestuno thing, they said Esperante would work too. New York, New York: For Hearing People Only. Gallaudet Encyclopedia of Deaf People and Deafness. Are any of the signs the same? Well think about some of the Latin countries that use an "F" handshape with the index finger touching the tip of the thumb as an offensive gesture. It is the equivalent of the birdie flipping someone off in America. So letters like "F" and "T" are changed to more universally appropriate shapes. Gestuno is sort of like the signed version of Esperanto. A number of years ago a group called the World Federation of the Deaf tried to achieve what Margaret Mead suggested. She was an anthropologist She said that signing could become the language used internationally by people throughout the world. So this committee, over a period of several years, came up with about signs. They voted on what they thought would best represent each of the concepts. However I reckon as time goes on that might change. Suppose I speak ASL. I would tend to use Gestuno in an ASL grammatical style. Someone from another country would use their own grammar with the Gestuno signs lexicon. The term Gestuno seems to be almost extinct. Most people now just call it "international signing.

## Chapter 5 : Sign Language – ASL Dictionary | HandSpeak

*language is applied to the general pattern of a people or nation: the English language. dialect is applied to regionally or socially distinct forms or varieties of a language, often forms used by provincial communities that differ from the standard variety: the Scottish dialect. jargon is applied to the specialized language, esp. the vocabulary.*

## Chapter 6 : The ISL video dictionary: words - SÃ©matos

*Sign language is the primary method of communication for the deaf and hearing impaired. Contrary to popular belief,*

*there is no "universal" international sign language, only a set of vocabulary words chosen to be used for official purposes.*

## Chapter 7 : International Sign - Wikipedia

*Sign Language. Many who are deaf or hard of hearing rely on sign language to communicate. Explore the basics of the language and how you can use it to improve daily life.*

## Chapter 8 : Memrise - Sign Languages

*International Sign (IS) is a contact variety of sign language used in a variety of different contexts, particularly at international meetings such as the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) congress, events such as the Deaflympics, in video clips produced by Deaf people and watched by other Deaf people from around the world, and informally when travelling and socialising.*

## Chapter 9 : How to Learn Sentences in Sign Language | The Classroom

*Learning American Sign Language. Learning American Sign Language (ASL) takes time, patience, practice, and a sense of humor. If you are a parent of a newly-identified child who is deaf or hard of hearing, you can request ASL instruction from your child's early intervention system.*