

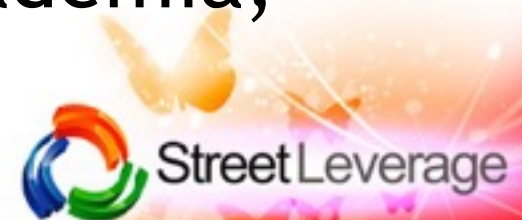
The Whole Picture: Why Academic ASL Exposure Matters to Sign Language Interpreters

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First, What Is Academic ASL

- Academic ASL is the use of American Sign Language in academic discourse.
 - Levels of discourses (Gee, 2004)
 - Primary - home (includes different homes). Acquired as part of language acquisition process.
 - Secondary - Social Institutions (e.g., Media, Business, Law, Academia, etc.). Learned process.



Academic Discourse

- “Rules of engagement” in:
 - Arguments
 - Agreements and disagreements
 - Supporting your points with data or citation
 - Value is pushed towards being objective
 - Using cited research or theories to support your argument
 - Be mindful of choice of words/signs
- Observed engagement of Lane and Balkany at University of Miami Ear Institute, February 2-3 1996



Academic Societies

- Disciplines/majors in colleges and universities teaches ways of engaging in the discourse of the discipline.
- Professional/Learned societies organize conferences to share new knowledge, network and promote the field and publish journals.
- The **robustness** of an academic society involves three layers:
 - Academic discipline
 - Professional associations
 - Academic journals



Academic Societies

- These three layers—discipline, organization and journal—play **crucial role in the percolation and propagation of academic discourse.**
- Academic discourse is also the discourse of a discipline not just colleges and universities or even one college.
- Now the professional disciplines in the domain of ASL:
 - ASL Teaching
 - Interpreting
 - Linguistics
 - Deaf Studies



ASL Academic Societies

- Interpreting
 - Academic Discipline: BA/MA/PHD in Interpreting
 - Professional Organization(s): RID; CIT
 - Professional Journal(s): Journal of Interpretation; International Journal of Interpreter Education
- Linguistics
 - Academic Discipline: BA/MA/PHD in Linguistics
 - Professional Organization(s): SLLS; FEAST
 - Professional Journal(s): SLS; SL&L



ASL Academic Societies

- American Sign Language
 - Academic Discipline: BA and MA in ASL Teaching
 - Professional Organization(s): ASLTA; SASL
 - Professional Journal(s): ?
- Deaf Studies
 - Academic Discipline: BA and MA in Deaf Studies
 - Professional Organization(s): ?
 - Professional Journal(s): DSDJ; Journal of Deaf Studies & Education



Languages of the Journals

- Interpreting
 - Professional Journal(s):
 - Journal of Interpretation - English
 - International Journal of Interpreter Education - English
- Sign Language Linguistics
 - Professional Journal(s):
 - SLS [Sign Language Studies] - English
 - SL&L [Sign Language & Linguistics] - English

Languages of the Journals

- American Sign Language
 - Professional Journal(s):
 - SLS; SL&L; Journal of Deaf Studies and Education - English
- Deaf Studies
 - No Professional Organization
 - Colleges and Universities host conferences: e.g., Utah Valley University, Gallaudet University
 - Professional Journal(s):
 - DSDJ - ASL & English



Languages of the Journals

- The practices of developing academic discourse in ASL via journals are virtually non-existent
 - All in English, how do you expect Academic ASL to thrive? Percolate and Propagate?
 - Conferences - presentation may be conducted in Academic ASL but no uniformity.
 - My experience and difficulty discussing my dissertation in ASL.



ASL Journals

- The Deaf Studies Digital Journal Story (2009)



Department of ASL and Deaf Studies

- dsdj.gallaudet.edu
- *Sections:* Articles, Commentary, Literature, Visual Arts, Film & Video, Interviews, Reviews, History



ASL Journals



Journal of American Sign Language and Literature

(JASLL) is ... peer-reviewed with open access digital journal committed to promoting the nationwide dissemination of original ASL-related research and literature.

... ASL Literature reflects the culture and history of the Deaf community. With regard to linguistics, *ASL users will be able to access, read, and understand the research and issues surrounding their primary language in their natural language.*

ASLized firmly believes all scholarly materials that study, research, and discuss ASL should be published in ASL.



ASL in Academia

- No Academic Society published Journal in Signed Languages (only a department and a group of interested professionals)
- ASL in higher education
 - Colleges and universities acceptance of ASL as one of the language requirement - varies and lot of struggles.
 - Gallaudet University declared itself as ASL & English Bilingual Institution 2007.
 - January 2016 Gallaudet President Cordano declared bilingualism a priority.



ASL in Academia

- Gallaudet addressing the need to deal with Academic ASL
 - [Academic ASL Gallaudet](#)
 - [Academic ASL Modules](#)
 - [GSR 103 Channel](#)
 - Corpus development and ASL Connect
- Scholars discussing and engaging in studies of Academic ASL
 - Raychelle Harris, Maribel Gárate, MJ Bienvenu, Laurene Simms, Trudy Suggs, etc.

Sustained Efforts

- Ongoing researches are attempting to describe and build understanding of what is included in Academic ASL
 - Several features are explored and questioned on whether they are acceptable in academic ASL discourses like the:
 - Use of fingerspelling
 - Use of facial expressions (such as non manual grammatical signals)
 - Researches also survey the academic community to get sense of what is and what is not acceptable

Rehashing Academic ASL

- All the facets need to come together in order for Academic ASL to thrive.
 - Academic institutions - like Gallaudet University
 - Academic Disciplines
 - Academic Organizations
 - Academic Journals
- These levels provide opportunities to solidify academic discourse structures, styles and formats.



Why Exposure Matters

- It matters because:
 - You are in the business of discourse
 - As interpreter you engage in the use ASL and English in various settings and contexts - from personal to academic settings.
 - Each setting and context often require changes in discourse strategies
 - Most interpreters probably work in academic settings from K-12 on to College.



Workshop Goal

- View video comparing Academic presentation and storytelling presentation
 - Identifying and describing the differences
- Outline Language Plans for Academic ASL development
- Discuss features of academic language development and discourse of engagement.
- Academic discourse tools, vocabularies and functions



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