**Background**

- Child sign language data has been drawn from independent studies on individual grammatical phenomena (Newport & Meier, 1985; Lillo-Martin, 1999, 2008; Emmorey, 2002; a.o.) as well as assessment tools (Enns & Herman, 2011; Haug, 2005; Herman & Roy, 2006; Herrmans et al., 2010; a.o.).

- While the number of Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL) acquisition studies focusing on specific linguistic structures is growing (Lam, 2009; Tang et al., 2006; Tang et al., 2007; Tang, 2009; a.o.), no assessment tool has been designed that aims at getting a broader picture of deaf children's overall HKSL development. The development of the Hong Kong Sign Language Elicitation Tool (HKSL-ET) attempts to fill this gap.

**Components of the HKSL-ET**

- The HKSL-ET consists of both expressive and receptive skills tests to investigate children's syntactic and morphological knowledge of seven linguistic structures in HKSL. A grammaticality judgment task is designed to assess children's receptive skills. Their production of HKSL is elicited by three different tasks, a picture description task, a question elicitation task, and a story retelling task.

### Coding Scheme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structures</th>
<th>Coding scheme for the expressive skills tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Classifier constructions | 1. Sign order of the sentence  
2. Configuring each of CLs to encode its thematic meaning by using of space  
3. Configuring two hands to encode the thematic relation between two arguments  
4. Phonological properties of the dominant hand which is used to encode an entity concerned  
5. A movement segment is initiated to encode an event by using a CL in the dominant hand  
6. Phonological properties of the non-dominant hand which is used to encode an entity concerned  
7. A movement segment is initiated to encode an event by using a CL in the non-dominant hand |
| Nonmanual adverbials | 1. Form of the grammatical nonmanual markings for yes-no questions  
2. Scope of the grammatical nonmanual markings for yes-no questions  
3. Form of the functional sign YES-NO-YES  
4. Syntactic position of the functional sign YES-NO-YES  
5. Nonmanual markings of the functional sign YES-NO-YES |
| Negation | 1. Form of the wh-signs  
2. Syntactic position of the wh-signs  
3. Sign order of the sentence  
4. Form of the grammatical nonmanual markings for wh-questions  
5. Scope of the grammatical nonmanual markings for wh-questions |
| Verb agreement | 1. Form of the functional sign CAN  
2. Syntactic position of the functional sign CAN  
3. Nonmanual markings of the functional sign CAN  
4. Sign order of the sentence |
| Yes-no questions | 1. Sign order of the sentence |
| Wh-questions | 1. Sign order of the sentence |
| Modals | 1. Form of the functional sign NOT-HAVE  
2. Syntactic position of the functional sign NOT-HAVE  
3. Nonmanual markings of the functional sign NOT-HAVE  
4. Sign order of the sentence |
| Negation | 1. Directionality of the agreement verb GIVE  
2. Sign order of the sentence |
| Verb agreement | 1. Form of the functional sign NOT-HAVE  
2. Syntactic position of the functional sign NOT-HAVE  
3. Nonmanual markings of the functional sign NOT-HAVE  
4. Sign order of the sentence |
| Expressive skills test | Picture description  
N.A.  
N.A.  
Picture description  
Story retelling  
N.A.  
Question elicitation  
Grammarmatic judgment |
| Receptive skills test | N.A.  
Grammarmatic judgment  
Grammarmatic judgment |

### Test Design

1. **Grammaticality Judgment (GJ):**

   - Find the different picture then describe it.

2. **Picture Description:**

   - **Negation:** NOT-HAVE
   - Find the different picture and describe it.

3. **Question Elicitation:**

4. **Story Retelling:**

   - Watch a story signed by a native Deaf adult
   - Retell the story to a Deaf investigator

---

**Examples of the GJ task**

- GJ for nonmanual adverbials
- GJ for negation, modal, & wh-questions

**Example of wh-questions elicitation task:** WHAT

**Example of yes-no questions elicitation task**