

Hong Kong Sign Language Elicitation Tool



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賽馬會手語雙語共融教育計劃
JOCKEY CLUB SIGN BILINGUALISM AND
CO-ENROLMENT IN DEAF EDUCATION PROGRAMME

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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; Hermans 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 and provide language profiles for further researches on language acquisition and teaching of HKSL.

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.

Structures	Subcategories	Expressive skills test	Receptive skills test
Classifier constructions	two-handed classifier constructions encoding locative, motion/directional, & transitive predicates	Picture description	N.A.
Nonmanual adverbials	SLOWLY, QUICKLY, CAREFULLY, HAPHAZARDLY, EASILY, WITH-DIFFICULT	N.A.	Grammaticality judgment
Negation	NOT-HAVE	Picture description	
Verb agreement	GIVE with obligatory and optional person agreement markings	Story retelling	N.A.
Yes-no questions	N.A.	Question elicitation	
Wh-questions	--Argument questions: WHO, WHAT --Adjunct questions: WHERE, HOW-MANY		
Modal	CAN	Story retelling	

Coding Scheme

Structures	Coding scheme for the expressive skills tests
Classifier	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
Yes-no questions	1. Sign order of the sentence
	2. Form of the grammatical nonmanual markings for <i>yes-no</i> questions
	3. Scope of the grammatical nonmanual markings for <i>yes-no</i> questions
	4. Form of the functional sign YES-NO-YES
	5. Syntactic position of the functional sign YES-NO-YES
	6. Nonmanual markings of the functional sign YES-NO-YES
Wh-questions	1. Form of the <i>wh</i> -signs
	2. Syntactic position of the <i>wh</i> -signs
	3. Sign order of the sentence
	4. Form of the grammatical nonmanual markings for <i>wh</i> -questions
	5. Scope of the grammatical nonmanual markings for <i>wh</i> -questions
Modals	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
Negation	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
Verb agreement	1. Directionality of the agreement verb GIVE
	2. Sign order of the sentence

Test Design

1. Grammaticality Judgment (GJ):

GJ for nonmanual adverbials

GJ for negation, modal, & *wh*-questions

Examples of the GJ task

2. Picture Description:

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

Classifier constructions:
Look at the picture and describe it.

3. Question Elicitation:

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

Example of *yes-no* questions elicitation task

4. Story Retelling:

Watch a story signed by a native Deaf adult

Retell the story to a Deaf investigator