

EXPLORING PHONOLOGY AND SIGN LANGUAGE AS CATALYSTS IN MODERN COMMUNICATION

Dr. Monika Jakhar

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mass Communication, Govt College Hisar, Haryana

ABSTRACT

Phonology, focusing on the sounds of spoken language, forms the bedrock of oral communication and intertwines with technology, while sign language, a visual-gestural medium, champions inclusivity for the Deaf community. This symbiotic relationship not only enhances our understanding of linguistic diversity but also shapes a more interconnected and inclusive global dialogue, breaking down barriers and fostering a dynamic and enriched communication landscape. The articulators of sign language are the visible and moveable portions of the body, including the hands, face, head, and upper torso. These articulators are responsible for conveying prosody, as well as for shaping, restricting, and contrasting words. An introduction to the structure of phonology in the non-verbal language of sign language is given in this article.

Keywords: *-Language, Communication, Speech, Human, Sign.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The significance of language cannot be stressed in the setting of human communication, which is always shifting and developing. Language is a dynamic and crucial component of our day-to-day existence, and it acts as the conduit via which thoughts, ideas, and emotions are conveyed and exchanged with one another throughout our lives. In this complex web of language variety, phonology and sign language stand out as essential components that significantly impact the ways in which modern communication operates. With an eye toward exploring how these linguistic occurrences enrich and broaden contemporary communication, this study seeks to delve into the many ways in which phonology and sign language serve as catalysts. Oral communication rests on the foundation of phonology, a branch of linguistics concerned with the study of individual phonemes. As the foundation for spoken language, it contains the rules and patterns that control the structuring of sounds and serves as the organizational framework. The complicated interaction of phonetic components, such as vowels and consonants, is one of the factors that adds to the musical symphony that we experience when we speak. Individuals are able to speak and interpret spoken language with more accuracy when they have a solid understanding of the intricacies of phonology, which is an essential component of efficient verbal communication. When it comes to the field of phonology, the study of phonetics is an extremely important component. Physical aspects of speech sounds, including their production, transmission, and reception, are the focus of phonetics research. Learn more about the subtle acoustic differences between sounds by delving into the field of phonetics. This is accomplished by diving into the mechanics underneath speech. An in-depth comprehension of phonetic principles gives people the ability to become proficient in the art of clear enunciation, which in turn makes it easier for them to communicate effectively in a variety of linguistic settings.

Furthermore, the introduction of new technologies has brought up new aspects in the field of phonological research. The concepts of phonology are used by speech recognition systems, which are driven by powerful algorithms and artificial intelligence, in order to comprehend and react to orders that are uttered. Phonology is positioned as a catalyst in the seamless integration of human and machine communication, which is highlighted by the junction of technology and phonetics, which highlights the present significance of phonology. Although phonology is the bedrock of spoken language, sign language has grown into a potent tool for conveying thoughts and concepts, particularly among populations who are hard of hearing or deaf. The popular view that language is just an auditory experience is challenged by the fact that sign languages are entire linguistic systems that have their own grammar, syntax, and lexicon. A huge step toward inclusivity and the removal of barriers for the deaf and hard of hearing has been the recognition of sign languages as legitimate means of communication. Over the course of many centuries, sign languages from all over the world—including ASL, BSL, and countless others—have evolved into expressive and vibrant forms of communication. Individuals are able to communicate with exceptional clarity and depth, transcending both linguistic and cultural limitations, because to the visual-gestural character of sign languages. Not only has the introduction of sign language into school curriculum and public places resulted in the empowerment of the Deaf population, but it has also contributed to the broader enrichment of the fabric of linguistic variety. Within the setting of bilingualism or multilingualism, which

involves both spoken and signed languages, the synergy that exists between phonology and sign language becomes more obvious. An example of the versatility of the human brain in processing a variety of linguistic stimuli is shown by the research of bimodal bilingualism, which is characterized by people who are able to switch between spoken and signed languages with greater ease. Traditional concepts of linguistic exclusivity are called into question by this phenomenon, which also highlights the dynamic nature of human communication.

The confluence of phonology and sign language in study and education offers up new options for comprehending the interdependence of linguistic modalities. This is in addition to the significance that each of these fields has on its own. Researchers investigate the ways in which the brain receives information in both oral and visual-gestural forms, with the goal of providing insight on the neurological foundations of language understanding. The use of this multidisciplinary approach not only contributes to the advancement of our knowledge of cognitive processes, but it also has implications for the creation of communication techniques that are inclusive. Furthermore, phonology and sign language have a function that goes beyond the realm of linguistics and permeates many other parts of society, such as the performing arts, the media, and literature. The use of sign language interpreters in broadcast events, for example, is an example of a dedication to ensuring that information is available to a more extensive audience. Additionally, the acknowledgment of sign languages in literary works and artistic performances contributes to the enrichment of cultural expressions, which in turn helps to develop a depiction of human experiences that is more inclusivity and diversity. Phonology and sign language are two powerful technologies that have emerged as powerful catalysts in contemporary communication. Each of these technologies brings its own distinct qualities to the fabric of human contact. Phonology, which is concerned with the sounds that are produced by spoken language, is the foundation of oral communication and the framework upon which linguistic expression is built. Concurrently, sign language, which is a visual-gestural medium, is becoming an increasingly important form of communication, particularly for the Deaf population, which helps to create inclusion and diversity with its use. Not only does the convergence of these language phenomena deepen our understanding of human communication, but it also paves the path for a more interconnected and welcoming global community. As we make our way through the intricate landscape of language, the harmonic interaction between phonology and sign language continues to mold and reshape the contours of contemporary communication.

II. REVIEW OF LITRATURE

Whynot, Lori. (2015) International Sign is a phenomena in contact sign language, and this dissertation evaluates its communication efficiency. By doing this research, the authors fill a gap in the existing literature on this kind of signed language communication. The analysis focuses on expository conference speeches given by a variety of signers from across the world who are deaf. Two investigations that are connected make up the research. The first one uses data generated by deaf presenters to examine the frequency of certain words in the International Sign language. A number of lexifier native sign languages, including Auslan (Australian Sign Language) and American Sign Language, are acknowledged as sources of lexical signs. The World Federation of the Deaf's 1975 Unification of Signs Commission "Gestuno" effort and other well-known international sign vocabulary may also have contributed to their recognition. Various other types of signals may also be discovered via studies of frequencies. There are a variety of signs used in sign language, some of which are not based on words at all but which are partially based on words, such as pointing, indexing, and classifier signals. This study compares the prevalence of these sign types to those of comparable research conducted on native sign languages. In the second research, we looked for signals and portrayals that appear often so that we could include them in our comprehension tests. In the second research, 32 deaf individuals from 5 different nations with different native sign languages were tested on their ability to understand International Sign using a selection of texts from the previous study. Making a comprehension test is the first step in administering these exams. The research explores the relationship between enhanced understanding and various linguistic and non-linguistic aspects using quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Participants' levels of understanding of expository writings offered in International Sign Language are much lower than those of comparable texts delivered in their native sign language, indicating a wide range of comprehension levels. Compared to a more granular level that deals with particular details, a more general and global level improves text comprehension. Implications for International Sign's efficacy as a "system of universal access" in its newly recruited, more diverse use contexts are borne out by the results.

Kraus, Nina (2015) our sophisticated systems of language and music allow us to communicate on a daily basis, yet they evolved from a much older connection with sound. Words are only one part of the communication process; our actions and the patterns of sound we produce also play a role. These patterns govern our everyday communication, from the inherent tempo of speech to the specific temporal features of consonants. Our ability

to communicate vocally and acoustically has its biological roots in the same information processing mechanisms shared by music and speech. Additionally, we think about the ways in which musical training and other experiences modify the brain's reaction to sound, and what this means for the future of treating communication issues.

Berent, Gerald. (2013) Visual language - verbal communication being fluent in two languages, one spoken and one signed, allows a person to communicate effectively via both the visual-gestural and oral-aural modes of communication. This ability is known as bimodal bilingualism. This study establishes a program of linguistic research on bimodal bilingual mixing by using a fundamental assumption for bimodal code-switching (BCS) to investigate the different results of sign language-spoken language interaction. By building on MacSwan's straightforward study approach for unimodal bilingual mixing, this chapter explores the analysis of bimodal mixing. In contrast to unimodal mixing, the characteristics of bimodal linguistic structure—the product of interactions between two languages and their respective modalities—are striking. The overarching purpose of this review is to further our knowledge of bimodal mixing as a whole, as well as our quest for a coherent explanation of bimodal mixing in particular.

Cormier, Kearsy (2008) Role shift, sometimes called referential shift, built action, or constructed dialogue, is a common tactic in sign languages like British Sign Language (BSL) that entails describing the thoughts, emotions, or actions of a referent using the signer's head, face, or body. By adopting the persona of a referent, such as a fictional character, a signer might engage in role shifting. The ability to fluidly shift between narrating from the signer's point of view or another character entirely while retaining referential and discourse coherence is a hallmark of fluent signers. Learning to switch roles is a gradual process that starts at about the age of three for deaf youngsters. Reilly (2000) and Slobin et al. (2003) found that deaf children continue to have difficulty with role shifting and its pragmatic functions even at the ages of 9 and 10. This research looks at how children who are profoundly or severely deaf learn BSL and how their roles change over time: First, five deaf children from hearing families who have learned sign language from birth; second, five deaf children from hearing families who started learning sign language after the age of five; third, five deaf children from hearing families who have had very little exposure to sign language; and finally, five deaf children from hearing families who attend bilingual schools that use both sign language and English. With a median age of 83 months and a mean of 80.5 months, the children's ages ranged from 5.1 to 7.5. We used short video snippets (approximately 10 seconds each) to generate brief narratives from each youngster. Several aspects of role shift use were coded from the child's signed output, such as the role(s) being performed, the number of roles being performed, and the language cues (such as eye gaze, head movement, and body movement) utilized to indicate each role change. The deaf children who are native signers of British Sign Language (BSL) seemed to describe the video clips more thoroughly, employ role shift more often, and include more clues for referential cohesiveness than the non-native signing youngsters. Consistent with previous research comparing the linguistic ability of native and non-native signers (e.g. Newport, 1990), these results indicate an influence of age of learning. The practical challenges of changing one's point of view may also explain why non-native signing deaf youngsters acquire Theory of Mind later than typically developing sign language learners.

Arbib, Michael. (2013) The straightforward explanation given when questioned about the origins of language in the brain is "through biological and cultural evolution." Accuracy is the challenge. When I say that early Homo sapiens had "the language-ready brain," I mean that their brains were capable of supporting language. Nevertheless, it need a considerable amount of time for humans to master these intrinsic brain capacities in order to construct civilizations capable of and actually using languages. Access to the Internet is a modern-day manifestation of humanity's expanding technological and social infrastructure that allows us to put our brainpower to work in ways that were not influenced by natural selection. This book aims to do double duty: first, it will explain the origins and biological influences on the language-ready brain; and second, it will show how these same brain mechanisms formed the basis for language development, all subsequent patterns of language acquisition, usage, and change, and the social interactions that keep them going.

Wildgen, Wolfgang. (2007) Even at an intermediate stage (like Homo erectus's proto-symbolic behavior), the symbolic ability of humans had to have evolved at a tremendous rate. A runaway model is necessary for such a quick procedure. When it comes to symbolic evolution, classic runaway models of sexual selection don't appear to hold much water, but Eigen and Schuster's "hypercycle" model of very selective and exponentially expanding self-organization might account for the depth and speed of development. We make two levels of assumption: first, that the species adapts to its environment and stores the genetic markers of its adaptation. Language is one of the symbolic expressions that contribute to the accumulation of social and cultural knowledge at the second level. Another possibility is to develop Bühler's idea of the three main functions of signs until its cyclical structure becomes apparent. We postulate that, beginning with Homo erectus about 2 my BP, the hypercyclic

process of semiosis and functional differentiation was expedited with the development of Homo sapiens and succeeding species. The essay will wrap off with some last thoughts on what this means for the evolutionary stratification of human languages. The main objective of this work is to propose a semiotic explanation of language's origins, as opposed to a purely linguistic one, that uses the advantages of self-organizing systems and may potentially be linked to relevant models in evolutionary biology.

Sandler, Wendy (2006) despite sharing a common cranium with spoken languages, the physical transmission of sign languages is quite different, which is why linguists find them so fascinating. Wendy Sandler and Diane Lillo-Martin sought the commonalities between spoken and sign languages in a 2006 research that compared the two. Utilizing broad linguistic theory, they dissect the structure of sign language and find linguistic universals in its morphology, syntax, and phonology, as well as non-universal features that can only be explained by the physical transmission mechanism. Readers with little knowledge of sign language linguistics will find this book easy to understand, and the abundance of images will help them visualize the signals and facial expressions described. This book is a must-read for everyone curious in sign languages, linguistic theory, or the shared characteristics of all human languages. It will also be helpful for psychologists and linguists.

III. PARAMETERS OF CONTRAST

There are just a handful of unique, meaningless, and contrasting components that go into a sign language lexicon. The building blocks of words and morphemes are these units, which may be mixed and matched to form new words. Additionally, these devices are compatible with each other. This kind of framework allows it to develop a huge vocabulary, which is unmatched by any other animal. The first figure shows that minimal pairs may be built by exchanging units in the (a) handshape, (b) position, and (c) movement categories. Both the ASL research of Stokoe and the examples drawn from Israeli Sign Language (ISL) provide the basis for this.



Figure 1 Minimal Pairs in Israeli Sign Language: Handshape, Location, and Movement

According to Stokoe, each of these primary categories is considered to be similar to a phoneme. However, further study shown that, just as in spoken language, the characteristics of each category have their own internal order. Phonological types of lexical signs are broken down into the following subsections for your convenience.

HAND CONFIGURATION

The handshape of a monomorphemic sign is defined by the presence of one or more selected fingers in a certain posture. This posture might include the fingers being extended, closed, curled, or bent. Figure 2 is an illustration of these placements for forms that need all fingers to be selected.

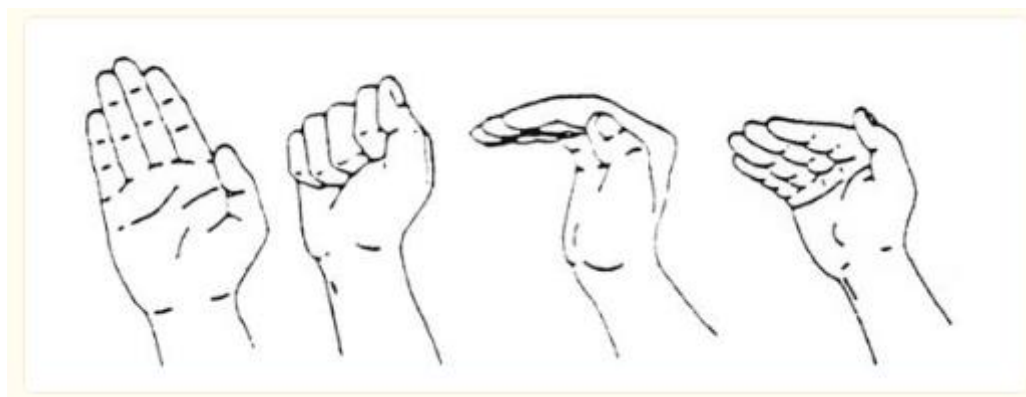
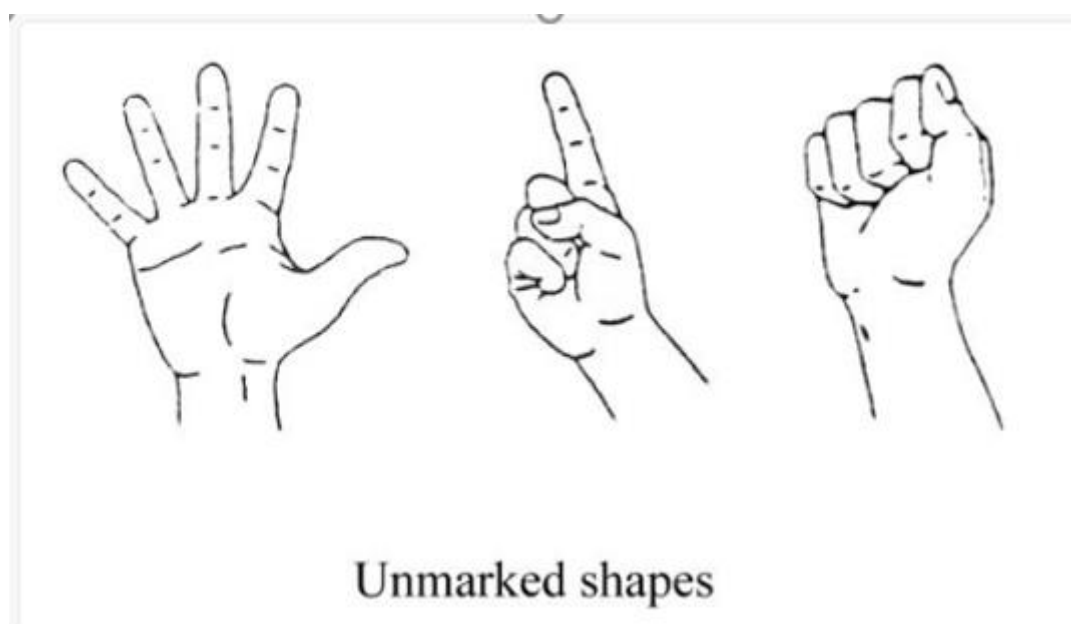
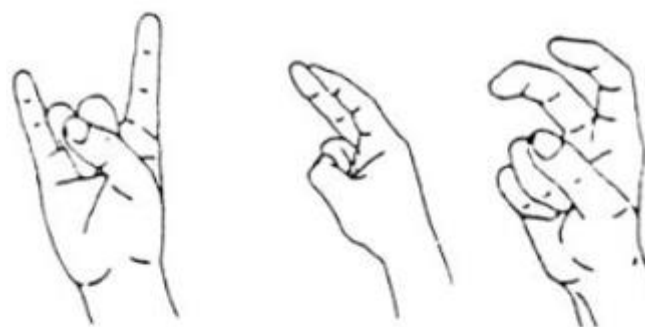


Figure 2. Finger Positions in Israeli Sign Language

In the event that a sign undergoes a change in its handshape, the position of all of the chosen fingers will shift in the same manner. A portion of a hierarchical model known as the Hand Tier (HT) model is motivated by these facts.

An association between relative markedness and relative complexity in the representation has been established, with the idea of Dependency Phonology serving as a significant influence. Consider the following examples: In Figure 3, we can see three unmarked forms, three marked shapes, and two shapes that do not appear in native sign language lexicons (they do not comply with restrictions 1 and 3 in Table 1, which can be found afterwards).





Marked shapes



Phonemically unattested shapes

Figure 3. Handshape Variations in Israeli Sign Language

Table 1. Common constraints on sign form found across sign languages.

CONSTRAINTS ON THE FREE MORPHEME	
1. Selected finger constraint	There may be only one (group of) selected finger/s in a free morpheme
2. Internal movement constraint	If there is a change of finger position in a morpheme, all selected fingers make the same change.
3. Unselected fingers constraint	If selected fingers in a free morpheme are closed, unselected fingers are open. If selected fingers are in any other position, unselected fingers are closed.
4. Symmetry constraint on two-handed signs	When both hands move in a free morpheme, they must be symmetrical in

5. Dominance constraint on two-handed signs	When one hand is active and the other is passive (i.e., functions as a place of articulation) in a free morpheme, the passive hand either has an unmarked shape or it has the same <u>handshape</u> as the active hand.
CONSTRAINT ON THE SYLLABLE	
6. Movement in syllables	A syllable must contain a movement, either a path movement, a handshape change, or an orientation change. These different types of movement may combine simultaneously, but maximally one of each type may occur in a single syllable.

Every one of the main sign languages has its own distinct set of hand forms. To explain these differences, Eccarius offers new rankings of (violable) Faithfulness and Markedness criteria inside the Optimality Theory framework, building on the concepts of Flemming's (2002) Dispersion Theory situated within Optimality Theory. For the most up-to-date information on handshapes, see Brentari (2011a). The orientation of the palm is determined by orientation factors, which might be contrastive. Actually, the Author's notation system does make note of [supine] and [prone] as handshape features. A number of scholars have expanded their analyses to include orientation as a fourth major factor. According to these competing hypotheses, hand configuration is the most important factor, while orientation is a secondary one. The physiological connection between the palm and the whole hand and the assimilation tendency seen in lexical compounds in different sign languages provide the basis for these theories. More research is required to see whether this hierarchical relationship holds true across sign languages and phonology.

MOVEMENT

A route movement from one site to another is a characteristic that may be applied to lexical signals, as is the case with all of the signs shown in Figure 1. As an alternative, the fingers may be the only ones that move, for instance by switching from closed to open positions. Additionally, the whole hand is capable of movement by only changing its position, which might result in actions such as rotation or nodding. Local motions or hand-internal movements are the names given to these movements that do not follow a route. In addition, it is possible for two of these movement kinds to co-occur concurrently in a sign, or even more rarely, all three of them. "In the case of the indications SCOLD (Figure 1c) and SEND (Figure 1d), for instance, both forward route movement and opening hand-internal movement are involved. The [arc] form that differentiates BETRAY (Figure 1f) from ESCAPE (Figure 1e) is one example of a characteristic of route movement that may be used to create a distinction between certain minimal pairings." The features [tense] and [doubled] are two more instances. All of the indicators in Figure 1 except BETRAY illustrate route movement, which is generally characterized by a default straight path from one point to another. Another way to tell signals apart is by looking at the patterns of iteration, which may be either bidirectional (returned) or unidirectional (repeated).

IV. CONSTRAINTS

As mentioned in Section 1, duality of patterning is necessary for a phonological level of structure but is not adequate on its own. There should also be restrictions on how the individual, pointless pieces may combine with each other in any language that is known to exist at the moment. A simplified summary of some of the constraints identified on the creation of signs across various languages is provided in Table 1, and there are only a few sign languages whose phonological structure has been fully investigated. We provide these limitations below in their more appropriate forms—as constraints on the free morpheme or the syllable—rather than as domain of the 'sign,' which was our initial assumption.

The cumulative consequences of these restrictions are due to the fact that they cannot be violated and may be applied to every free morpheme there is. For instance, when the limitations of the chosen finger, internal movement, and syllable structure are taken into consideration, it is possible for a single set of selected fingers to alter their location uniformly and only once inside a syllable. As may be seen in Figures 1c and 1d, this is the situation. Morphemes, syllables, and signs, on the other hand, are not isomorphic; they may be differentiated from one another.

Although Table 1 does not include every conceivable limitation, it does exhibit substantial limits that reflect the sign structure of many sign languages. Within the framework of certain theories on the structure of sign language, several further phonological constraints, some of which are interdependent, have been proposed.

V. CONCLUSION

The mutually beneficial link that exists between phonology and sign language has emerged as a significant driving factor in the development of contemporary communication. The study of phonology, which places a focus on spoken language, lays the groundwork for oral communication and acts as a driving force behind technical breakthroughs. At the same time, sign language, which is a visual-gestural medium, helps to break down barriers for the Deaf population, which in turn promotes inclusion and enriches the landscape of language. The convergence of these linguistic occurrences not only contributes to our advancement in the understanding of cognitive processes, but it also highlights the dynamic and linked character of human communication. In the process of navigating the difficulties of language, the harmonic interaction of phonology and sign language continues to be an important factor in the development of a global conversation that is more inclusive and varied.

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