

# Learning American Sign Language Humphries Padden

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intended for adult second language learners has explanations and basic structures of american sign language and practice exercises uses illustrations and scripts for signed sequences

bridging the gap between theoretical linguistics and language teaching judith r strozer explores what recent theoretical advances suggest about learning a language after childhood and the implications for the design and execution of a foreign language program strozer outlines clearly in nontechnical language the major concepts of modern language theory from chomsky s theory of language through the most recent discoveries about the abstract foundations of language she explains ideas about the evolution of a cognitive structure for language in the human brain a language faculty or universal grammar that gives humans alone the creative ability to generate the infinite expressions of language this innate universal schema for language endows humankind with a number a very broad principles applicable to all

languages turning to current advances in the theory of phrase structure which has replaced our 2 000 year old rules of grammar with highly abstract universal principles of language structure she relates the latest discoveries about the foundations of language to ideas about how children learn languages a child hearing a specific language can automatically set the parameters for the rules governing that particular language much like setting a binary switch but our ability to access this innate language mechanism automatically seems limited to childhood until physical maturity somehow changes this brain function arguing that adults need to learn consciously the systems and structures of another language that children acquire unconsciously strozer applies these latest theories about the nature of language and how we learn it to the design of foreign language programs for adults she concludes with recommendations for developing a new kind of teaching program that would draw on comparative language research and include new pedagogic approaches presenting state of the art language theory in easily readable terms and illustrative examples this book will be of interest to everyone interested in the latest understanding of the relationship between the brain and language as well as to all professionals in linguistics and language education

the issues behind the clinical vs cultural debate are explored in detail including oralism total communication and the use of american sign language the three major communication philosophies currently influencing the education of deaf children

contrary to the traditional focus on standard languages and written forms this book highlights speech variations dialects semantics and the relationship between language and society in a wide sociolinguistic framework the contributions present empirical research on a range of topics from many countries including malta germany the channel islands united kingdom and the united states

the second edition of language and literacy development in children who are deaf provides the most current information about teaching language reading and writing to deaf children models and strategies are clearly described and supported by theory current research and numerous examples of how these models and strategies can be used in classrooms with deaf students the book has been reorganized so teachers can easily follow how to assess a deaf child s current abilities in language and literacy develop appropriate instructional goals and choose from among a variety of effective teaching models and strategies key topics the second edition discusses issues related to american sign language bilingual education techniques incorporating technology into instruction and developing balanced literacy programs for deaf children experienced teachers novice teachers and individuals becoming teachers of deaf children can use this information to develop a comprehensive language and literacy program for deaf students from preschool through high school market for anyone who teaches reading or language to deaf children or who is involved in literacy development of deaf children

the 13th volume in the sociolinguistics in deaf communities series describes various accounts of contact between sign languages worldwide to further understand structural and social factors of this linguistic component

the 12th volume in the sociolinguistics in deaf communities series features the varied work of 16 linguistic experts on north american indian sign language australian sign language italian sign language langue des signes quiblocoise and american sign language

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