

Linguistic & Sign Linguistics

Questions & Answers



Questions 1-5

1. **What is the difference between Linguist and Linguistic?**
2. **What is Linguistics?**
3. **Who was the first person to recognise Sign Language was a true language?**
4. **Who was the first BSL linguist?**
5. **When did linguists in Britain start to research BSL?**



Questions 6-9

6. **Where were the first BSL linguist and their team based?**
7. **Why did the UK start BSL linguistics later than USA?**
8. **Who are BSL linguists at this moment?**
9. **9. Where would we find BSL Linguistic resources?**

1. What is the difference between Linguist and Linguistic?



- A person, who works and researches languages, is known as **a linguist**.



- **Linguistic** means an explanatory model of the structure of natural languages.

2. What is Linguistics?



- **Linguistics** is the study of Languages.
- **Sociolinguistics** is about the family, educational aspects, social, ethnicity and regional areas in language.
- **Historical Linguistics** is about the history of languages and how they have changed over time.

3. Who was the first person to recognise Sign Language was a true language?

William Stokoe

1919-2000

- was a [scholar](#) who researched [American Sign Language \(ASL\)](#) extensively while he worked at [Gallaudet University](#). He coined the term [cherology](#), the equivalent of [phonology](#) for sign language.



4. Who was the first BSL linguist?



- **Mary Brennan 1944-2005**
- Born and raised in Gateshead and attended the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. She taught first at Cologne University before moving to Moray House College of Education in Edinburgh. Her responsibilities at Moray House included teaching on a course for teachers of deaf children.

5. When did linguists in Britain start to research BSL?

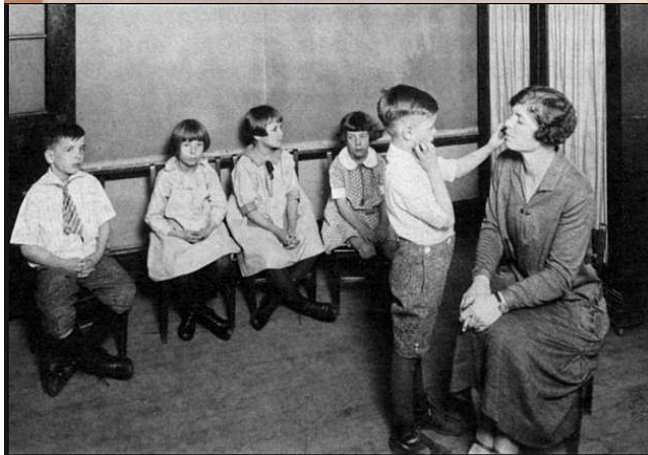
1977-79

6. Where were the first BSL linguist and their team based?



- At Moray House, in Edinburgh, Scotland

7. Why did the UK start BSL linguistics later than USA?



- Because the cost of the video cameras and the video recorders we could afford and access for research with evidences.
- The 1944 Education Act ensured that sign language stayed away from the classrooms in Britain- any schools of the Deaf who used the 'oral' system were given a rise!

8. Who are BSL linguists at this moment?



**Dr Robert
Adam**



**Dr Kate
Rowley**

9. Where would we find BSL Linguistic resources?

- **BSL Timeline**
<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dcal/bslhistory/timeline-bsl>
- **Illustrated by Linda Squelch using regional signs from Margate**
http://www.batod.org.uk/content/resources/materials/sign-resources/Sign_linguistics_in_a_nutshell.pdf
- **The BSL Corpus is a collection of video clips showing Deaf people using BSL** <http://www.bsllcorpusproject.org/>
- **Linguistic notes**
http://bslqed.com/02_The_Linguistics_of_Sign_Lan-i-172.html