

# BSL Standardisation



ABSLTA

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Introductions

Rules

Phonology

BSL Variations & Changes

And....Questions!



Whole group.....

Phonology x 5  
(5 Parameters/Phonemes)

This is where sign errors are  
mostly likely to occur.

Useful for BSL learners,  
BSL teachers, monitors,  
interpreters, translators and  
assessors



## Phonology x 5 (5 Parameters/Phonemes)

1. Handshape
2. Orientation
3. Locations
4. Movement
5. NMF... Non-manual features

# 1. HANDSHAPE

TWO

SPEAK

MAYBE

EXPLAIN

BORN

MUSEUM

THERE

SLEEP

TIME [GSV]

REASON

Heed some cross-cultural issues here regarding body contact and pointing?

## 2. ORIENTATION

TWO

CLOUDS

CROWN

PAY

'BOTH OF THEM' v PARENTS?

### 3. LOCATIONS

TREE + BUSH,

BIRD v CHICKEN

FRUSTRATION (“out” in spatial space)

1987



# Phonology x 5 (5 Parameters/Phonemes)

## 4. MOVEMENT

MEETING & DINNER,

CHILDREN

SIGNBACK (Int.S),

LEFT-HANDED for year 2021

WEBSITE/INTERNET

# Phonology x 5 (5 Parameters/Phonemes)

## 5. NMF

HEAVY, VERY SMALL

BSL mouth pattern e.g.

ZERO, THINGS GO OVER MY  
HEAD

SUN SETTING, HARD WORK

# BSL – Language Variations and Changes



What examples are  
out there influencing  
on our language?

- Age, Technology & Youth
- Media – regional influence  
(particularly  
See Hear)
- Schools – CSW's
- International/Websites
- Religion/Ethnics
- Professionals & Politics



# Age

SIGN LANGUAGE

RESIGN

NOT-BOTHERED

CLEVER

DAY & NIGHT

MONEY

RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

Fingerspelling & NMF less?

# Media - regional influence (particularly Scottish)

INFORM

WOW

DELIGHTED

WOMAN/MAN

CONTACT

HELP

MONDAY, TUESDAY

CONTACT

RECOGNISE

SET UP

NEWS

START

SEEM

LOOK AFTER

BALL

AIM

# Schools - CSWs/Youth/Makaton

HOME

ZOO

COOK

BALL

BALLOON

BEACH

GO

EARLY

MONEY

SEX

WITH

SANDWICH

EVERYDAY

DO

# International/Websites

HELLO

PEOPLE

THINKING

GOVERNMENT

TELLING-YOU

FOOTBALL

CONTRACT/SIGNED

APPROVE



- FOREIGN SIGN LANGUAGES

ASL

COMMUNICATION

DIE

SHOW

VARIOUS

STRATEGY

SIGNED NAMES

ISL

IRELAND

- LESS FINGERSPELLING?
- LESS ROLES SHIFT?

NEWCASTLE

SURREY

BIRMINGHAM

NOTTINGHAM

SON

SIT

# Professionals & Politics

LABOUR

TORY

LIB DEM

ACT/ POLICY

RULES

DAY/NIGHT

£3.....£10.....£50

CONCRETE, WARD

# METAPHORS

CLEVER

'BRAKING'

'WOMAN'S DRESS'

# A tip to remember...

...“Never learn signs from interpreters”  
(Hofschroer, S. 2005, ITV)

... Best to observe native BSL users  
(those who have started BSL before  
the age of 8, Schrembi, A. DCAL  
BSL Corpus project)

Abuse of our language? Incorrect semantics? Less NMF?

MPOOOOOO = this is a possession not a negation sign

POSITIVE/NEGATIVE

CHALLENGE

COMMUNITY

WITH

IMPACT

COMPARE

EXAMPLE

THAT IS ALL!

'PHFVEEE'

DECIDE

CONFIDENCE

SAME

AFFECT

WALKING

SIT

BENEFIT

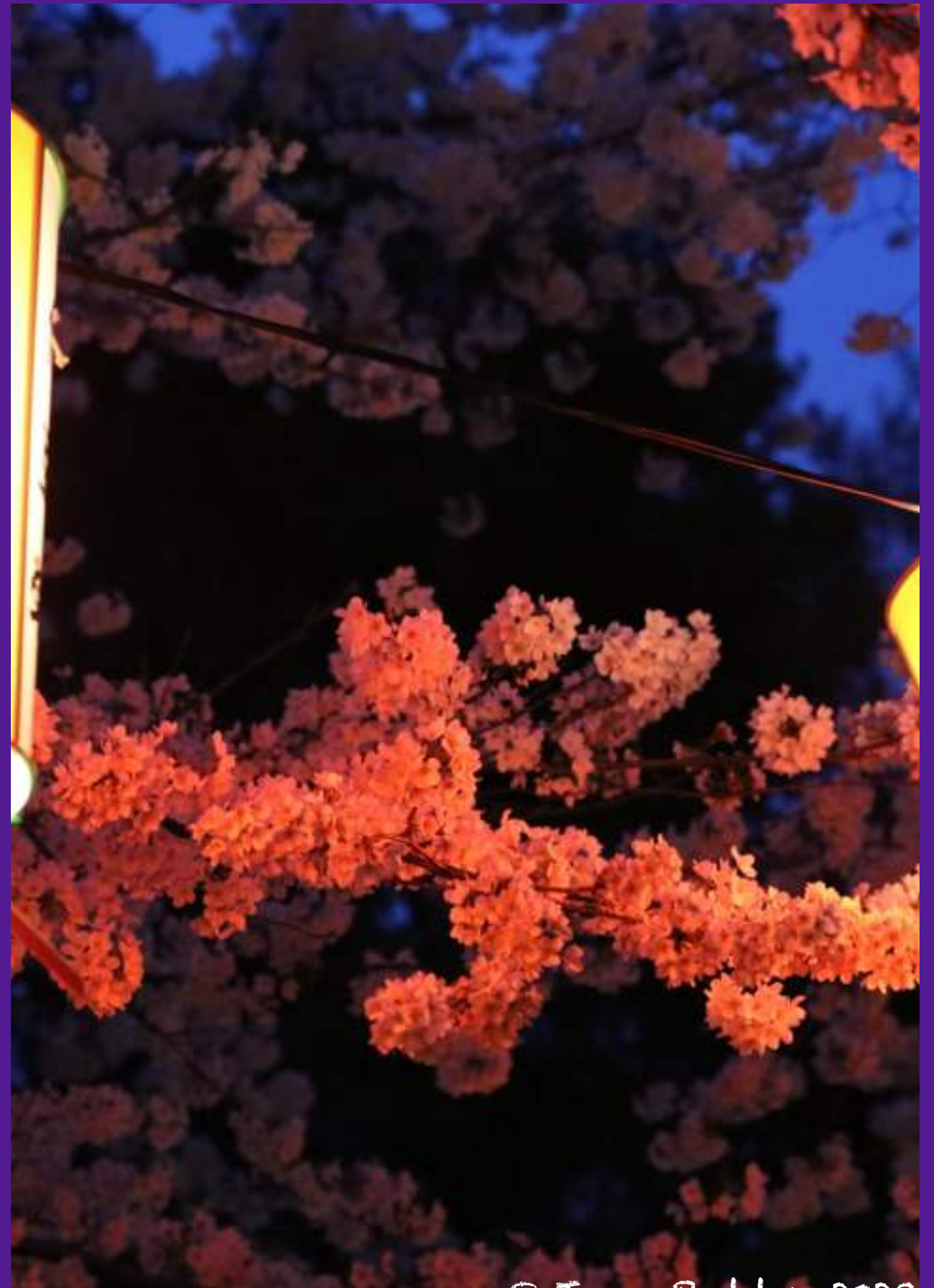
Towns & cities – Bristol University research proof

Name – next name? Signed names? BRISTOL UNIV.

Have a nice  
evening.

See you soon!

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