

International Symposium on Signed and Spoken Linguistics (1)

‘Description, Documentation and Conservation’

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Abstract

**Sign Linguistics Programs for Culturally Deaf Students:  
A Crucial Component in Sign Language Documentation and Preservation**

**James WOODWARD**

Centre for Sign Linguistics and Deaf Studies

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

While sign language documentation and preservation is not new, it is fairly recent. What is new and important is that there appears to be a growing interest in sign language documentation and preservation as witnessed by this conference. This presentation will briefly examine the importance of sign language documentation and preservation and then focus on the training of Culturally Deaf people in Sign Linguistics as a crucial component for sign language documentation and preservation.

Specifically, the presentation will examine difficulties faced in establishing and maintaining Sign Linguistics programs for Culturally Deaf students and how these problems have been dealt with in programs that have been established in Thailand, Viet Nam, Cambodia, and a regional program in Hong Kong that currently is serving Hong Kong, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Fiji, and Japan. In addition, the presentation will provide information on courses taught in the training for each program as well as on the research outputs in terms of sign languages dictionaries and sign language teaching handbooks that have been produced and are currently being produced in these programs. The presentation will conclude with a summary of guidelines currently in use that ensure that these research and training programs remain Deaf-centered.