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Abstract

## **A Field Method Course of Saudi Arabian Sign Language**

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This study is based on the Gallaudet University Field Methods Courses on Saudi Arabian Sign Language from 2010 to 2011. This paper consists of five sections: 1) Bringing the field into the classroom: A Field Methods course on Saudi Arabian Sign Language; 2) selected phonological patterns in Saudi Arabian Sign Language; 3) selected lexical patterns in Saudi Arabian Sign Language; 4) selected morphemes in Saudi Arabian Sign Language; and 5) observations on word order in Saudi Arabian Sign Language.

Highlights from the study include a brief historical background on the field methods research that was used as part of the course where these linguistic investigations took place. This also leads to how we arrived at the name of the language under study. Finally, the origin of this paper, directly related to the topic at hand, namely the methodology for the course.

As one example of the origin of this paper, we will present on the topic, "Selected phonological patterns" in Saudi Arabian Sign Language. There are two selected phonological patterns that appear unique to Saudi Arabian Sign Language (SASL). One is focused on oscillation in selected signs. Johnson and Liddell (2011, 448) define *oscillation* as "a rapid, repeated alternation of two postural states that accompanies the production of a trans-forming segment". This movement occurs in specific signs in American Sign Language such as LONG-TIME-AGO. Another focus is the concept of weak hand drop which emerged in Battison's (1978) work, and was later expanded upon by Padden and Perlmutter (1987), who coined the term 'weak drop'.

### References

- Battison, R. (1978). Lexical borrowing in American Sign Language. Silver Spring, MD. Linstok Press.
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Padden, C., & Perlmutter, D. (1987). American Sign Language and the architecture of phonological theory.  
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