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Abstract

**Deaf fieldwork Researchers and Local Communities in the Documentation  
of Endangered “Village Sign Languages”**

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This presentation takes a look at sign language documentation in small-scale rural communities with a high incidence of hereditary deafness, seen from the point of view of deaf fieldwork researchers (Zeshan and De Vos, in press). Work with three such communities, in India, Turkey, and Mexico, has involved deaf fieldworkers from these countries, and we have documented their experiences, views, and approaches. Involving deaf in-country researchers has important consequences for linguistic documentation, practical work with local communities, and research ethics. The presentation gives examples from the three communities of Alipur (India), Chican (Mexico) and Mardin (Turkey), seen through the eyes of the deaf fieldworkers themselves.

Reference

Zeshan, Ulrike and Connie de Vos (in press). *Village sign languages: Anthropological and linguistic insights*. Sign Language Typology Series No. 4. De Gruyter Mouton: Berlin and Ishara