

Negative palm-up sign in HKSL: linguistic or gesture?

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This study presents the use of the negative palm-up sign in Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL). The negative palm-up sign in HKSL is considered a linguistic sign, not simply a gesture. It is a bound morpheme which adds an open 5-handshape with a palm orientation change in constituent negation. It is a negative suffix and forms part of a negative morpheme. The negative affix can attach to nouns, verbs, and adjectives. The negative palm-up sign in HKSL has two meanings, 'not have' and 'not'. Young and old deaf people interpret different meanings when the negative suffixes are used.