

# A Lexicon in Signed Language and its Comprehensibility to Normals\*

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The present study was aimed at assessing the usefulness of total communication with the hard of hearing children. For this purpose signed lexicon was elicited from thirty deaf students from Deaf and Blind School, Mysore, and its comprehensibility was checked on thirty normal hearing children from a local school.

Signs are represented by photographs.

Responses of normal children were analyzed by computing means and standard deviations for the whole group and sub-groups (below 10 years and above 10 years).

2 × 4 way of analysis of variance was done and F ratios were computed for interaction, for rows and for columns. From the results obtained following conclusions were made :

- (1) Normal hearing subjects performed well on concrete nouns with little variation between two groups are tested.

For the whole group  $M=0.85$   $SD=0.22$   
(Thirty subjects)

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For sub-group (below 10 years)

(Sixteen subjects)  $M=0.84$   $SD=0.22$

For sub-group (above 10 years)

(Fourteen subjects)  $M=0.86$   $SD=0.10$

- (2) Subjects above ten years performed comparatively better than the subjects below ten years on abstract nouns.

For the whole group  $M=0.66$   $SD=0.28$   
(Thirty subjects)

For sub-group (below ten years)

(Sixteen subjects)  $M=0.34$   $SD=0.27$

For sub-group (above ten years)

(Fourteen subjects)  $M=0.85$   $SD=0.19$

- (3) Both the sub-groups performed well comprehending verbs, with very little variation.

For the whole group  
(Thirty subjects)  $M=0.91$   $SD=0.14$

For sub-group (below ten years)

(Sixteen subjects)  $M=0.94$   $SD=0.12$

For sub-group (above ten years)

(Fourteen subjects)  $M=0.99$   $SD=0.44$

- (4) Both the sub-groups performed well for comprehension of adjectives.

For the whole group

(Thirty subjects)  $M=0.74$   $SD=0.42$

For sub-group (below ten years)

(Sixteen subjects)  $M=0.72$   $SD=0.37$

For sub-group (above ten years)

(Fourteen subjects)  $M=0.78$   $SD=0.3$

- (5) F ratio computed from analysis of variance for interaction of age and word groups indicated significant differences at 0.01 level of significance.
- (6) F ratio computed for word groups (rows) indicated significant differences in performance for the four groups of words at 0.01 level of significance.
- (7) F ratio computed for age groups (columns) indicated significant differences in performance between the two age groups tested at 0.01 level of significance.

### Limitations of the Study

- (1) Only signed lexicon was established. Phonology syntax and semantics were not studied.
- (2) Sampling of the lexicon was limited to only 100 words.
- (3) The comprehensibility of signed lexicon was checked only on normals.

### Recommendations

- (1) Results of this study can be validated on large number of population.
- (2) Future studies must be aimed at establishing phonology, Syntax and Semantics of Sign language.
- (3) Future attempts must be made to employ these signs in total communication with the hard-of-hearing children.

### Implications

As normal hearing children have responded well in comprehending these signs, it proves useful to be employed in total communication with the hard-of-hearing children.