

An Investigation of Sign Language as a Way of Communication in People with Hearing Impairments

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Abstract

The purpose of this investigation was to clarify how sign language is used as a way of communication among people with hearing impairments as compared to other ways such as the oral method, writing and phonetic sign. A questionnaire concerning frequency of using sign language and the degree of understanding, transmission, and satisfaction with its use was sent to 36 students of a junior and senior high school for the deaf-mute and 43 hearing impaired adults belonging to a communication support group which also included people with normal hearing. The age of the subjects ranged from 13–70. The results showed that sign language and oral communication were used more frequently than other ways of communication such as writing and phonetic design. Although the frequency of using sign language to people with a hearing impairment was high (90%), the degree of transmission was very low (70%) in both groups studied. The students' degree of satisfaction was higher when sign language was used with students with hearing impairments and teachers of the school for the deaf-mute. The degree of satisfaction was in direct proportion to the frequency of use.
