



Special Issue Reprint

The Emergence of Sign Languages

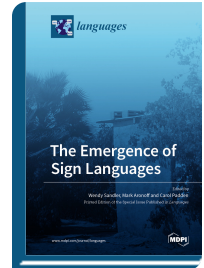
www.mdpi.com/books/reprint/6874

Edited by

Wendy Sandler

Mark Aronoff

Carol Padden



ISBN 978-3-0365-6245-2 (Hardback)

ISBN 978-3-0365-6246-9 (PDF)

We are pleased to present a Special Issue of Languages on the topic of Sign Language Emergence. Sign languages are the only extant languages that can be caught in the act of being born and developing with no model, and they, therefore, offer the only empirical evidence for language emergence in human societies. We have brought together a collection of articles on emerging sign languages that contribute a great deal to our current understanding of this process.

This Special Issue covers eleven different emerging sign languages around the world. The articles deal with several aspects of language emergence, including, most notably: (1) the relationship between the emerging language and the culture of the larger society; (2) the role of iconicity in the emergence of sign language; (3) the relationship between the shared context in a small signing community and the degree of variation in the vocabulary; and (4) the vulnerability of budding sign languages. Spoken creole languages are also young, but are different from emerging sign languages, in that the speakers of pidgins from which creoles are assumed to have descended already had native languages. One article compares the features of creoles and of emerging sign languages.

We are especially pleased with the diversity and breadth of interests of the contributors to the volume, who are based on four continents. The languages that they cover are equally diverse in their geographical provenance.



Order Your Print Copy
You can order print copies at
www.mdpi.com/books/reprint/6874

MDPI Books offers quality open access book publishing to promote the exchange of ideas and knowledge in a globalized world. MDPI Books encompasses all the benefits of open access – high availability and visibility, as well as wide and rapid dissemination. With MDPI Books, you can complement the digital version of your work with a high quality printed counterpart.



Open Access

Your scholarly work is accessible worldwide without any restrictions. All authors retain the copyright for their work distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License.



Author Focus

Authors and editors profit from MDPI's over two decades of experience in open access publishing, our customized personal support throughout the entire publication process, and competitive processing charges as well as unique contributor discounts on book purchases.



High Quality & Rapid Publication

MDPI ensures a thorough review for all published items and provides a fast publication procedure. State-of-the-art research and time-sensitive topics are released with a minimum amount of delay.



High Visibility

Due to our global network and well-known channel partners, we ensure maximum visibility and broad dissemination. Title information of books is sent to international indexing databases and archives, such as the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB), and the Verzeichnis Lieferbarer Bücher (VLB).



Print on Demand and Multiple Formats

MDPI Books are available for purchase and to read online at any time. Our print-on-demand service offers a sustainable, cost-effective and fast way to publish MDPI Books printed versions.