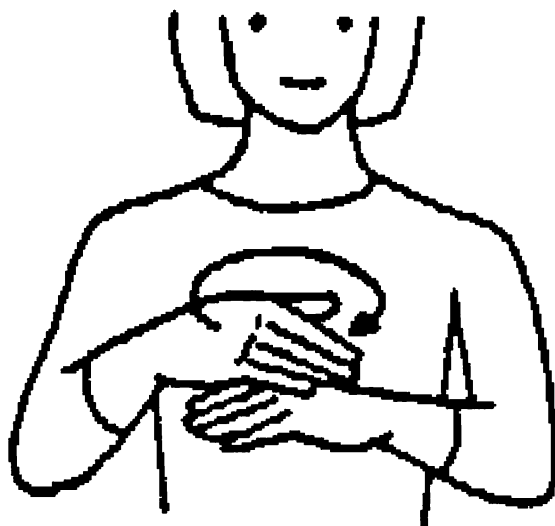


SIGNING EXACT JAPANESE



WITH LOVE!

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CHAPTER 1 PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Spoken language such as the Japanese language is represented with letters and voice according to several rules. We propose a signing system for representing the Japanese language with sign. We have named this system 'Signing Exact Japanese', called 'SEJ' in this pamphlet. The purpose of SEJ is to represent the Japanese language exactly by using signs and lip-reading simultaneously.

(1) Education

SEJ would have the following merits in the educational field;

- SEJ can make the Japanese language more understandable for the deaf people than lips or signs used alone because SEJ can be used together with lips and can help lip-reading.
- SEJ can help to learn the Japanese language because it can represent the Japanese language exactly.
- SEJ can represent technical terms or words used in special fields which cannot be represented by traditional sign system.

(2) Social life

Sign language which has been used in deaf society traditionally includes many usages free from the Japanese language grammar, and has an abundance of expression power. For the reason, we expect that SEJ would play a role different from the traditional sign language.

- the roles of traditional sign language

- a. Communication in daily life
- b. Artistic field such as visual performance

- the roles of SEJ

- a. Communication in daily life (the same as the traditional sign language, but different from it in several meanings)
- b. Mass media such as television
- c. Representing technical terms or words used in special fields
- d. Situation that depends the Japanese language in high degree

SEJ would improve deaf social-life and provide more opportunities of joining general society and performing various activities.

CHAPTER 2 BASIC RULES OF SEJ

One of SEJ's characteristics is to be presented with hands and fingers. The characteristic is useful for establishing SEJ system. We decided the following basic rules based on the characteristic.

Basic rules;

1. One sign to one Japanese word rule
2. Less movement to one sign word rule
3. Combination with lip-reading rule

In the following sections, we will describe these rules.

- Basic rule 1 One sign to one Japanese word rule

If one Japanese word has more than one meaning, it is used variously ways. If we assign a sign for it according to the meaning, it need more than one sign word. In such case, signer must select the exact sign when he hears the Japanese word. It is desirable that one Japanese word has only one sign word. For example, a word 'agaru' has various of meanings such as 'to rise', 'to lose one's cool' and 'to increase'. But we assigned one sign for the word based on the rule as shown in figure 1.

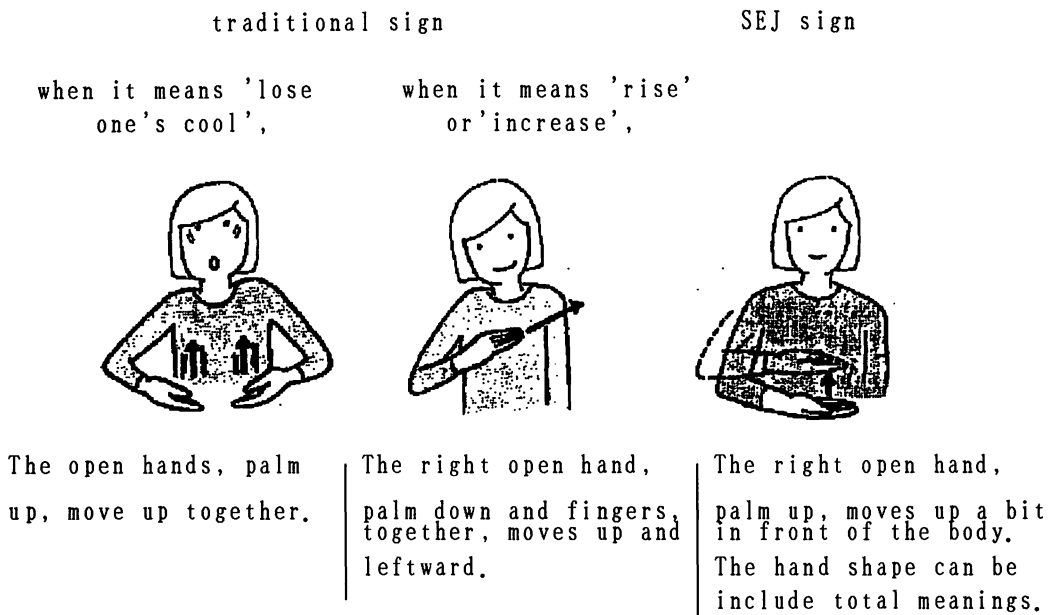
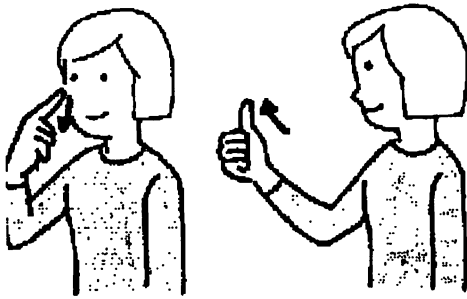


Figure 1 Example of basic rule 1

- Basic rule 2 Less movement to one sign rule

Hands and fingers can move in wider space than lips. Some of the traditional sign words have several movement, but those signs are often too long to represent with lips simlutenously. We decided that the sign should take space as small as possible and should have movement as less as possible. Please refer to figure 2.

traditional sign



The right index finger touches on the right cheek and moves down. Then the right thumb is extended and moves straight from the face.

SEJ sign



The right extended thumb touched on the right cheek and moves down. Then it moves straight out from the face.

Figure 2 Example of basic rule 2

- Basic rule 3 Combination with lip-reading rule

If the meanings of two or more different words are very similar to each other, the same sign should be assigned for these word. In such case, these words must be distinguished by lip-reading. In other words, sign represents superordinate category, while lip-reading would help to judge the meaning. For example, these words '法律(law)', '条例(ordinance)' and '規約(rule)' have similar meanings each other. Though the same sign is assigned for these words, deaf people can distinguish from each other by lip-reading as shown in figure 3.

| | | | |
|--|--|-------|----|
| | | ホーリツ | 法律 |
| | | ジヨウレイ | |
| | | キヤク | |
| | | ホーリツ | 条例 |
| | | ジヨウレイ | |
| | | キヤク | |
| | | ホーリツ | 規約 |
| | | ジヨウレイ | |
| | | キヤク | |

The right bended index and middle fingers moves down and are placed on the palm of the left hand.

These words use the same sign, but can be distinguished with lip-reading.

Figure 3 Example of basic rule 3

CHAPTER 3 KANJI-SIGN

As you know, the Japanese people use the Japanese kanji characters.

1. Availability of kanji-sign

The Japanese language would be represented exactly with sign by the rule. Though Japanese people (adult) can understand approximately 50000 words on average, it is impossible to create such number of signs and to memorize all of them.

Many of Japanese words use Japanese kanji and kana characters. If each Japanese kanji character is assigned a sign word, we can combine the sign words to represent Japanese words containing kanji characters. For example, if we determine that two kanji-signs '事'(thing or matter) and '物'(thing) should be used to represent a word '事物', we can use those kanji-signs for '品物'(product) or '事实'(fact).

A number of the Japanese kanji characters are less than Japanese word. And when deaf people will see kanji-signs, and remember the kanji character and the meaning, then the listener can understand the meaning more clearly. Kanji-signs are useful for representing, especially, abstract words.

2. Kanji-sign for Japanese kanji characters in common use

The ministry of Education decided in 1945 kanji characters in common use. We assigned sign for each of them. But kanji characters of low frequency in use need not sign to be represented. We decided sign for approximately 1600 kanji characters in common use. If traditional sign word can be suitable for the kanji character, we adapted it.

3. Direction

a. Rules

- i. Only one sign must be assigned one kanji basically.
- ii. The hand shape of kanji-sign must contain total meanings which the kanji character has.

b. Exceptions

i. Some kanji characters are read in more one pronunciation. For example, the Chinese pronunciation of a kanji character '通' is [tsu:]', while the Japanese pronunciations of it are [to:ru], [to:su] or [kayou]. If manual kana is used for such kanji characters, this manual kana must change according to pronunciation as shown in figure 4.

NOTE: 'manual kana'... Each of 46 kana characters can be represented with manual just as manual alphabet. So we defined it 'manual kana'.

In Chinese pronunciation 'tsu:'.



The right hand makes the manual kana 'つ(tsu)', and moves on the right index finger forward.

In Japanese pronunciation 'to:ru' or 'to:su'



The right hand makes the manual kana 'と(to)' and moves on the right index finger forward.

In Japanese pronunciation 'kayo-u'.



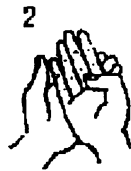
The right hand makes manual kana 'か(ka)' and brush back and forth over the left index finger.

Figure 4 Example of exception 1

ii. If a meaning of kanji character clearly varies on its pronunciation, separate sign may be assigned according to the meaning.

For example, a kanji character '治' means 'to dominate' when it is pronounced 'osameru', 'osamaru' (in Japanese), 'ji' and 'chi' (in Chinese), while it means 'to recover' when it is pronounced 'naoru' (in Japanese). We assigned two signs for the kanji character as shown in figure 5.

when it means 'to recover'



The open right hand, turndowned is placed on the palm of open left hand, and is upsidedowned.

when it means 'to dominate'



The open hands, turndowned, move down with away from one another.

Figure 5 Example of exception 2

iii. In some case, two or more kanji characters have the same the Chinese pronunciation. If these kanji characters have the same or similiar meanings, the same sign should be assigned, if not, separate sign should be assigned.

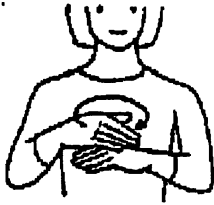
4. Usage

Not all words containing kanji characters need to be represented by kanjisigns. For example, a word '先生' consists of two kanji characters '先' and '生', but we regard it a single word rather than a combination of kanji characters. In such case, the word '先生' need not be represented by use of kanji-signs and shall be assigned a sign.

5. Examples of kanji-signs

1) 愛 (love)

the Chinese pronunciation : ai



The downturned open hands are crossed, and the right hand moves horizontal circles on the left hand. (quoted from "Watashitachi no shuwa" vol.5)

2) 悪 (evil)

the Chinese pronunciation : aku

the Japanese pronunciation : warui



The right index finger moves leftward and a bit downward, brushing lightly the tip of nose. (quoted from "Watashi-tachi no shuwa" vol.1)

3) 圧 (pressure)

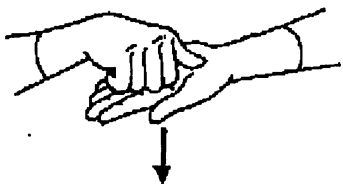
the Chinese pronunciation : atsu



The right open hand, downturned, is placed on the back of the left fist hand and pressed against it. And the hands down together.

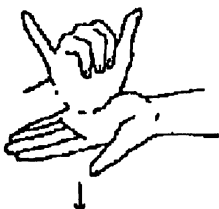
4) 安 (The kanji character has different means by pronunciation.)

the Chinese pronunciation : an (stable)



The right fist hand, downturned, is placed on the open left hand. And the hands move down together.

the Japanese pronunciation : yasui (cheep)



The right hand makes the manual kana 'や(ya)' and put on the open left hand. Then the hands move down together.

5) 暗 (darkness)

the Chinese pronunciation : an

the Japanese pronunciation : kurai



The open hands, palms out, and arms are raised, are crossed over each other on the front of the face.

(quatedfrom "Watashitachi no shuwa" vol.1)