

Low Tech / Low Cost Production of Sign Language Dictionaries and Sign Language Teaching Materials



Bien Hoa City

Project Site
CAO DANG SU PHAM, DONG NAI
(DONG NAI Province Teacher's College)



Coordinating Organization

Project on Opening University Education to Deaf People in Viet Nam Through Sign Language Analysis, Teaching, and Interpretation (Funded by the Nippon Foundation, 2000 to present)

- intended to serve as a model program to demonstrate that most countries in the region could establish indigenous tertiary educational programs for deaf people even if the country has

- few financial and human resources it can call upon;
- no previous sign language analysis;
- and only the most basic level of Deaf Education

- has provided deaf adults in Viet Nam with their first opportunity for higher educational programs taught in Vietnamese and Vietnamese sign languages (VNSLs)

The HCMCSL Production Team

SIGN TRANSLATIONS

Nguyen D. Mong Giang
Le Thi Thu Huong
Nguyen Hoang Lam
Nguyen T. Thuy Tien
Luu Ngoc Tu
Ho Tu Van

VIETNAMESE TRANSLATIONS

Nguyen Thi Hoa

LINGUISTICS ADVISOR

James Woodward

SIGN PHOTOGRAPHY

Nguyen Thi Hoa
Nguyen Minh Nhut

SIGN MODELS

Pham Van Hai
Le Thi Thu Huong
Nguyen Minh Nhut
Nguyen T. Thuy Tien

SIGN ILLUSTRATIONS

Pham Van Hai
Le Thi Thu Huong
Nguyen Minh Nhut
Luu Ngoc Tu
Ho Tu Van



*All members of the HCMCSL Production Team are Deaf except for Nguyen Thi Hoa and James Woodward

Focus of the Project

- There are at least 3 major sign languages in Viet Nam:

- (1) Ho Chi Minh City Sign Language (HCMCSL),
- (2) Ha Noi Sign Language (HNSL),
- (3) Hai Phong Sign Language (HPSL)

- With 54% to 58% shared basic vocabulary.

- The project has focused so far on HCMCSL, the Vietnamese sign language with the largest number of users.

Training in Sign Teaching

1. Communication in Gestures,
2. Methodology of Teaching VNSLs Level 1,
3. Instructional Design in Teaching VNSLs Level 1,
4. Materials Development for Teaching VNSLs Level 1,
5. Practicum in Teaching VNSLs Level 1.

Training in Technology

1. Still Photography,
2. Adobe Photoshop,
3. Video Photography,
4. I-Movie.

Compiling the Dictionary and Teaching Materials

Photographing Signs

Producing Line Drawings from Photographs

Organizing the HCMCSL/English Dictionary by Handshape, Orientation, and Location

Organizing the Vietnamese/HCMCSL Dictionary by the Vietnamese Alphabet



Photographing Signs



Producing Line Drawings from Photoshop



Example of Sign Photographs



Example of Automatic Sign Drawing with Adobe Photoshop Command



Example of Final Sign Drawing using Photoshop Erase and Layering



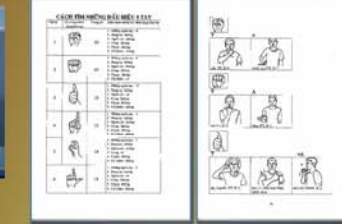
Organizing the HCMCSL English Dictionary by the Handshape of the Signs



Organizing HCMCSL Signs with the Same Handshape By Orientation and Location



Organizing the Vietnamese to HCMCSL Dictionary by the Vietnamese Alphabet



Example Page From HCMCSL to Vietnamese Dictionary



Example Page From Vietnamese to HCMCSL Dictionary

Compilation of Dictionary/ Learning Materials



4 Books published in May, 2007



4 Books published in Dec, 2007



4 Books to be published in Aug, 2008,

*4 Books to be published in Dec, 2008,

*2 Books to be published in May, 2009,

*18 Books total produced & sold at Low Cost (US\$2 a copy)

Related Activities

Deaf members of the group having been trained in sign language teaching by Prof. Mike Kemp teach regular classes in HCMCSL at Dong Nai Provincial Teaching College and some classes in the southern and central areas of Viet Nam. About 200 hearing students per year apply to take these courses.



Mr. Hai (Deaf) Teaching HCMCSL to Hearing at Dong Nai Teaching College



Other Examples Sign Language Teaching in Viet Nam

DVD Production

- Sample Classes Were Filmed and Analyzed,
 - Story Board Produced For Each Lesson,
 - Videotaping and Editing,
 - Burning DVD's.
- (Sample DVD Available for Viewing)

Future Plans

The research and training activities will continue as part of the project on "Opening University Education to Deaf People in Viet Nam Through Sign Language Analysis, Teaching, and Interpretation". This project is scheduled to run for at least another 4 years.

After the materials for HCMCSL are finished, the research team will develop similar materials for Ha Noi SL.