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

Project Title
CAO DANG SU PHAM, DONG NAI (DONG NAI PROVINCIAL TEACHER’S COLLEGE)

Bien Hoa City

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 deaf countries in the region could establish independent tertiary educational programs for deaf people even if the country has:
- few financial and human resources; it can function:
  - no previous sign language analysis;
  - no existing level of deaf education;
  - few deaf students in deaf schools

The first opportunity for higher educational programs taught in Vietnamese and Vietnamese sign languages (VNSL)

The HCML Production Team

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*All illustrations of the HCML Dictionary are the products of signed material.

Features of the Project
- There are at least 3 major sign languages in Viet Nam:
  1. Chi Minh City Sign Language (HCML)
  2. Ha Noi Sign Language (HNSL)
  3. Nha Trang Sign Language (NNSL)

- Each sign language has a large number of users:
- Vietnamese Sign Language (VNSL)
- With 2004 to 2008 statistics, the number is approximately 800,000

- The project has focused initially on HCML, the Vietnamese sign language with the largest number of users.

Training in Sign Teaching
- 1. Survey on State of the Art
- 2. Methodology of Teaching VNSL Level 1
- 3. Instructional Design in Teaching VNSL Level 1
- 4. Materials Development for Teaching VNSL Level 1
- 5. Production of Training VNSL Level 1

Training in Technology
- 1. Still Photography
- 2. Adobe Photoshop
- 3. Video Photography
- 4. I-Movie

Consulting the Dictionary and Teaching Materials

Photographing Signs
Producing Line Drawings from Photographs
Organizing New Vocabulary/Phrases weekly (by transcription, interpretation, sign amusing)
Organizing the Vietnamese/HCMCL Dictionary by the Vietnamese Alphabet

Organizing the HCML Signs with the Same Handshape by Orientation and Location

Organizing the Vietnamese to HCML Dictionary by the Viêt-Namese Alphabet

Example Page From Vietnamese to HCML Dictionary

Example Page From HCML to Vietnamese Dictionary

Constitution of Dictionary of Teaching 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

- 4 Books to be published in May, 2005

- 18 Books total produced & sold at Low Cost (USD$2 a copy)

Related Activities
Deaf education in the group has been trained in sign language teaching by Prof. Mike Kemp teach regular classes in HCML at Dong Nai Provincial Teaching College and some classes in the southern and central areas of Viet Nam. About 500 hearing students per year apply to take these courses.

Mr. Ho (Small) Teaching HCML to Hearing at Dong Da Teaching College

DV/DVD Production
- Sample Classes Were filmed and Analyzed
- Store Board Produced For Each Lesson
- Programming and Editing
- Burning DVDs
- (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 HCML are finished, the research team will develop similar materials for the other two.