

Haitian and African Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students currently learn from materials developed by and in the Western world, materials which therefore do not meet the needs of local signers and educators because they do not include basic and important concepts unique to the culture. The Principal Investigator (PI) has completed Phase A of the study, in which he conducted an extensive literature review on sign language research and developed an initial vocabulary list of 500 basic words which are important for communication. This project will allow the PI to move to Phase B of the study, developing a standardized sign language for the Deaf that will reflect the natural evolution of the language. Using a scientific and a technical approach, the goal is to enable signers to communicate in an effective and standardized way. The project results will benefit the entire population of French-speaking African Deaf children, their parents, the professionals who work with them, and the international community. This poster session will be a demonstration of what has been accomplished so far by Dr. Vodounou.