

Title: Mirroring Sign Language

CMS summary: Through closely observing and copying a fluent signers' sign production over time: improve BSL reception & BSL production skills, work on your kinaesthetic sense of what 'good' BSL production can feel like, and help identify characteristics of BSL production that are found to be more difficult to produce, and so identify potential areas for development.

[tick box?] AV required. [tick box?] Can own. [tick box?] Short. [tick box?] 2 occasions or more.

Use Sign production from video / dvd / etc.

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Duration: Short pieces of work over a period of time.

Resources Required (if any): A short (30 seconds to 1 min) clip of a fluent deaf person signing, TV etc, video camera (not all the time), a fluent deaf person (if possible & not all the time).

The task:

1. Watch the sign clip through enough times that you feel confident that you can remember the content.
2. Repeat the story to camera in BSL, mirroring as much of the way it is signed as possible.
3. Continue over a period of a few weeks to carefully watch and sign the story again and again, making sure that you can reproduce every aspect of the way it is signed, (individual signs, directional verbs, placement, eye gaze, body posture, non-manual features, etc.).
4. If possible ask a skilled user of BSL to work with you to help you identify any features of BSL that you have missed.
5. When you really feel you know the piece inside out, film it again to camera and compare the two versions. You can repeat this cycle as many times as it feels useful.
6. Think about what BSL features you picked up quickly and which took much longer to include in your production.

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