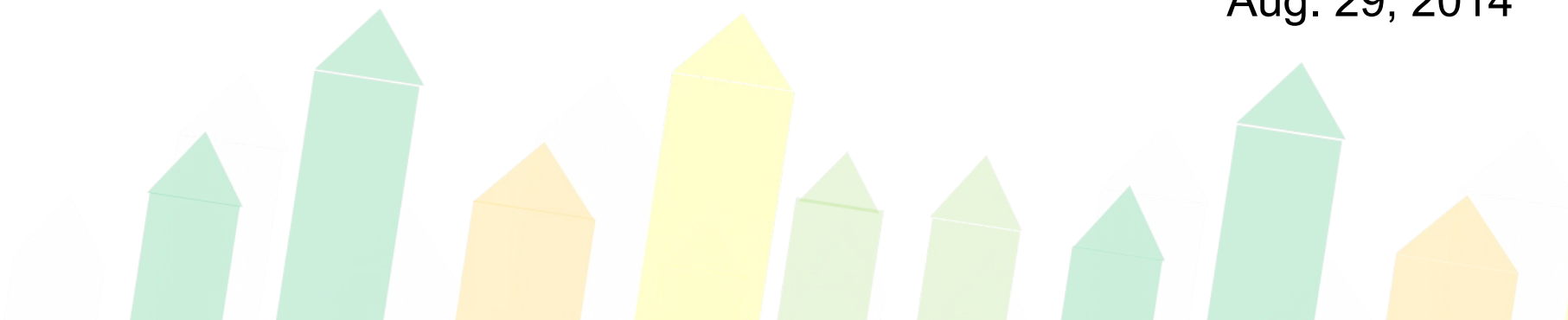




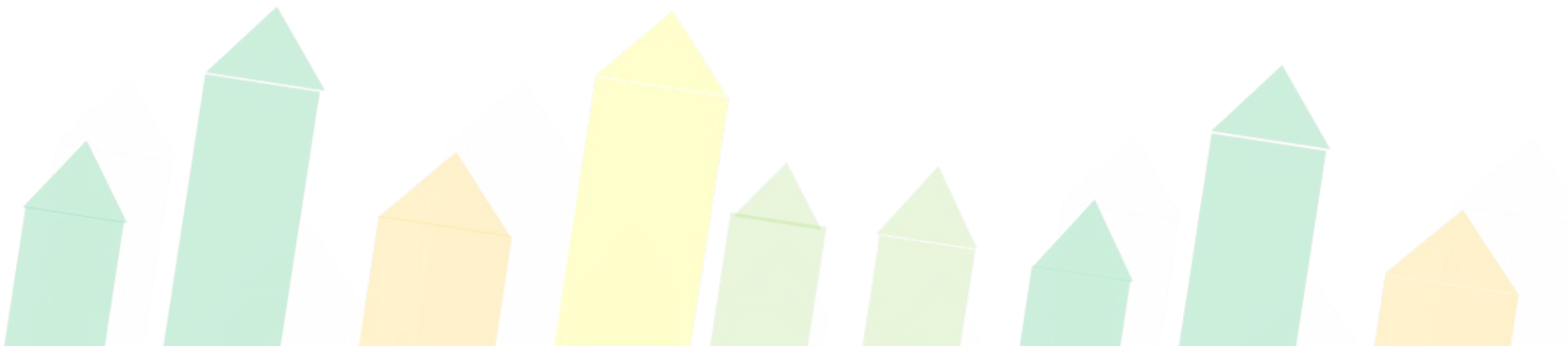
Cross-modal Bilingualism: Language Contact Phenomena in Chinese Deaf Community

Chen Yaqing
Fudan University
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Abstract

- Cross-modal language contact in the Chinese Deaf Community
- Word list, personal stories, free talks and conversations
- The phenomena of lexical borrowing, code-switching, and mouthing
- The outcome of language contact; nature and characteristics
- A continuum of varieties between Chinese and CSL
- A framework discussing languages involved in the sign-spoken language contact



Aims of this paper

- The first aim is to attend to the contact between CSL and the Chinese language, and to provide a detailed description of the contact-induced language change, including lexical borrowing, code-switching, as well as mouthing.
- Second, we aim to discuss the nature and linguistic features of the outcome of the language contact.
- Third, we also aim to provide a framework describing the languages and language varieties involved in sign-spoken language contact in China.





Situations in China

Chinese Sign Language (CSL) and CSL dialects

CSL vs. the Chinese language

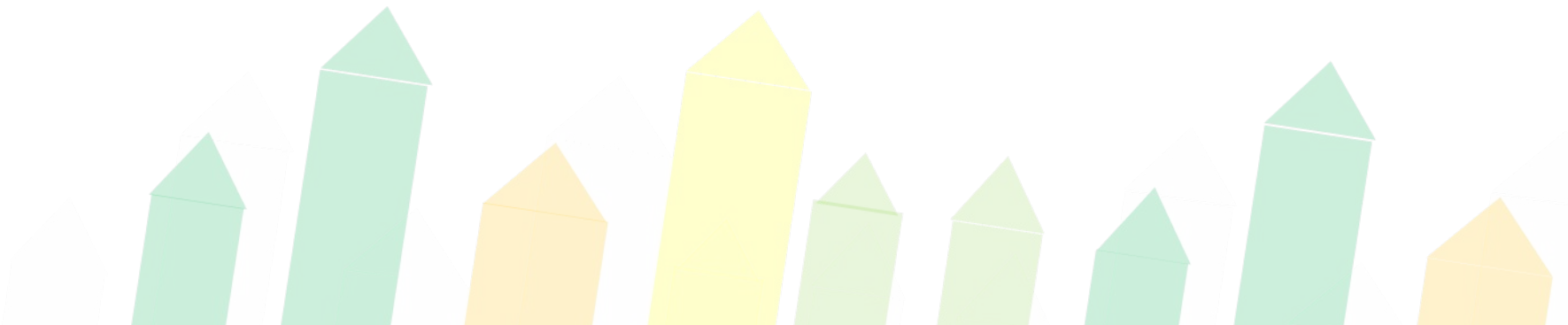
Pidgin Sign Language vs. Contact Signing (Lucas, 2000);
Sign-spoken language contact in Chinese Deaf Community
maintained bilingualism (Valli & Lucas, 2000)

“Chinese Sign Language”

Chinese Sign Language

Signed Chinese

“Focus On”



Data collection and analysis

Name	Sex	Age	When became deaf	Time of using SL	Family
Cai Mimi	Female	23	Deaf at 9 months	15 years (began at age 7)	Hearing
Hu Liyuan	Male	19	Born deaf	14 years (began at age 5)	Hearing
Pu Rong	Female	22	Deaf at age 2.5	16 years (began at age 6)	Hearing
Ma Rui	Male	23	Deaf at 5 months	6 years (began at age 17)	Hearing
Fu Kangzhen	Female	20	Deaf at age 12	1 year (began at age 18)	Hearing

- Static investigation: the Swadesh List
- Dynamic investigation: Self-introduction
- Sign language stories
- News in Signed Chinese and CSL
- News discussion
- Free talks and conversations
- Drawbacks



Results of the static investigation

腐烂 fǔlǎn rot



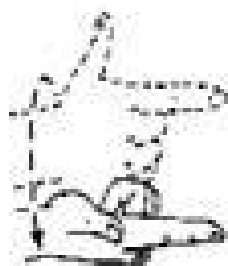
(一)同“臭”手势(见第 387 页之 3)。

(二)同“烂”手势。

因为 yīnwèi because



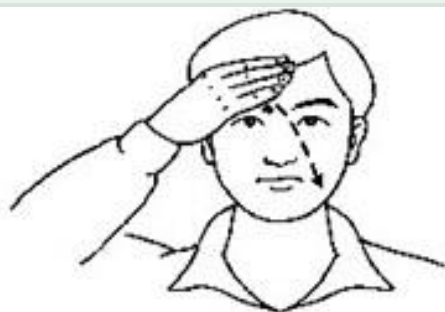
(一)



(二)

(一)一手打手指字母“Y”的指式。

(二)右手伸拇、食指,食指指尖朝前,腕部向右转动一下。



一手拇指贴于掌心,其他四指并拢伸直,从额头一侧向下一扇。

Results of the static investigation

Nouns & Adjectives

- CSL: expression of the visual features of the concept (shape, impression, visual effects, etc.)
full use of the speech organs (different parts of the body, hands, etc.)
employment of objects instead of attributes (adj.)
signing with strong subjective tones (n. & adj.)
- Chinese Sign Language: use of Chinese Pinyin system
neutral attitudes (little facial expressions)

Verbs

- Great similarity in handshape, location, and movement
- Major difference in facial expressions

Difference in degree of formality

- Formal : more Signed-Chinese-like signing
- Intimate: more natural CSL



Results of the dynamic investigation

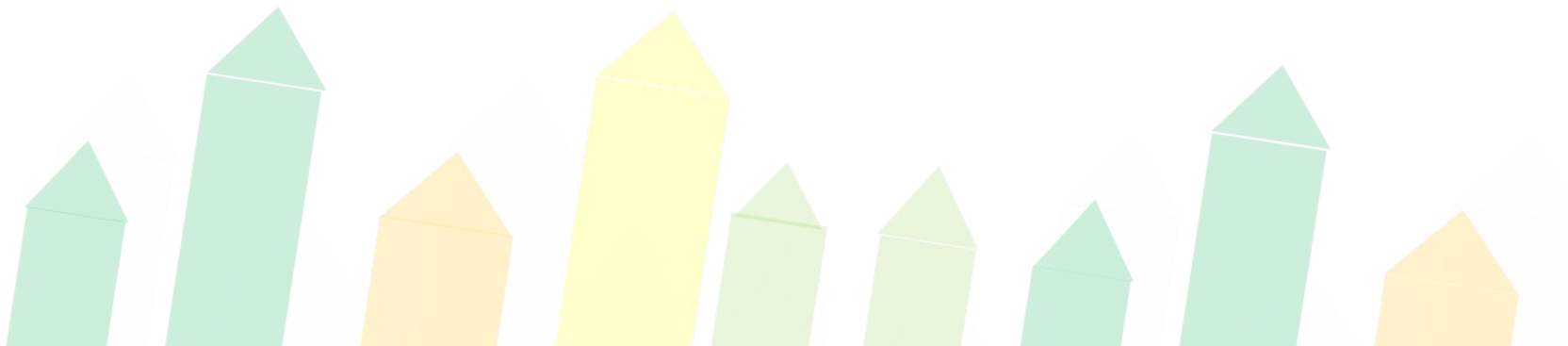
+MC	<u>head shaking/frown</u>	+M → gaze lf frown.....↙	
<u>YES</u>	<u>YESTERDAY BEGAN HAVE COLD ENTER CHINA EAST COLD INFLUENCE</u> ↙ -↘ ↙ ↘		
+M-	<u>FINISH.</u> ↙		
<u>RIV</u>	<u>draw the map gaze lf</u>	<u>gaze down and up</u> ↙	
	<u>ALL NORTHEAST STRONG WIND 4 TO 6 STRONG WIND.</u> ↙		
+M-	<u>gaze lf nodding</u>	<u>gaze down.....→</u>	<u>smile nodding</u> ↙
<u>AUT</u>	<u>NOW EAST HAVE RAIN. NOW ALL AUTUMN RAIN COLD COOL IS REAL.</u> ↙ <u>draw the map gaze lf</u> <u>gaze rt</u> <u>gaze down.....→</u>		
	<u>NOW NORTHEAST AND SHANDONG ETC. ALL TEMPERATURE LOWER 10</u> ↙		
<u>LOW</u>	<u>TO 12 DEGREE.</u> ↙		



Summary of preliminary data analysis

Natural CSL vs. the so-called “Chinese Sign Language”

- Different handshapes
- Non-manuals; CSL vs. Signed Chinese; mouthing, spoken Chinese without voice
- Signed Chinese, Chinese language word order, Chinese mouthing; CSL word order, information about the sign language discourse (topic, emphasis, deictic, etc.)
- CSL, use of space, orientation, and eye gaze, grammatical and pragmatic means; Signed Chinese, a linear language





Discussion

Contact-induced language change:

Lexical borrowing

Loan translation	RESTAURANT 餐馆; AIRPORT 机场; POLITE 客气	
fingerspelling	Full fingerspelling	
	Initialization	UNCLE 舅舅
	Lexicalized fingerspelling	GARBAGE 垃圾
	Fingerspelling with signs	LIFE; CHAIRMAN MAO
Character signs	Imitation of character	INTRODUCE 介; WORK 工; PERSON 人
	Writing in the air	THOUSAND 千; TEN THOUSAND 万
	Imitation + writing	DO/DRY 干; NON- 非
	Full characters	

Code-switching

- Signing – speak (without voice)
- Speak – signing (hearing bilinguals)
- CSL – Manually Coded Chinese (situational/contextual)

Mouthing

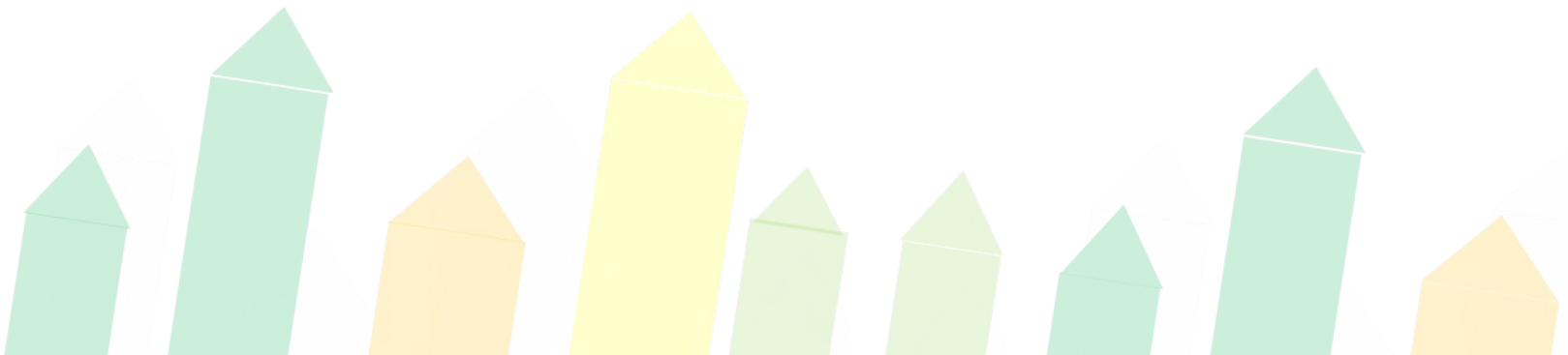
CSL mouthing	WAIT; SURPASS
Reduced Chinese mouthing	WHAT; WHERE; WHO
Chinese mouthing	
Chinese whispering accompanying signing	



Discussion

The outcome of language contact:

Chinese Contact Signing (CCS): a language system resulting from the contact between CSL and Chinese, receiving influence from both Chinese and CSL and consisting of features from both languages. It is a third system that neither belongs to the Chinese language system nor the natural Chinese Sign Language system. It is **an applicable communication system** for people from different language groups.





Discussion

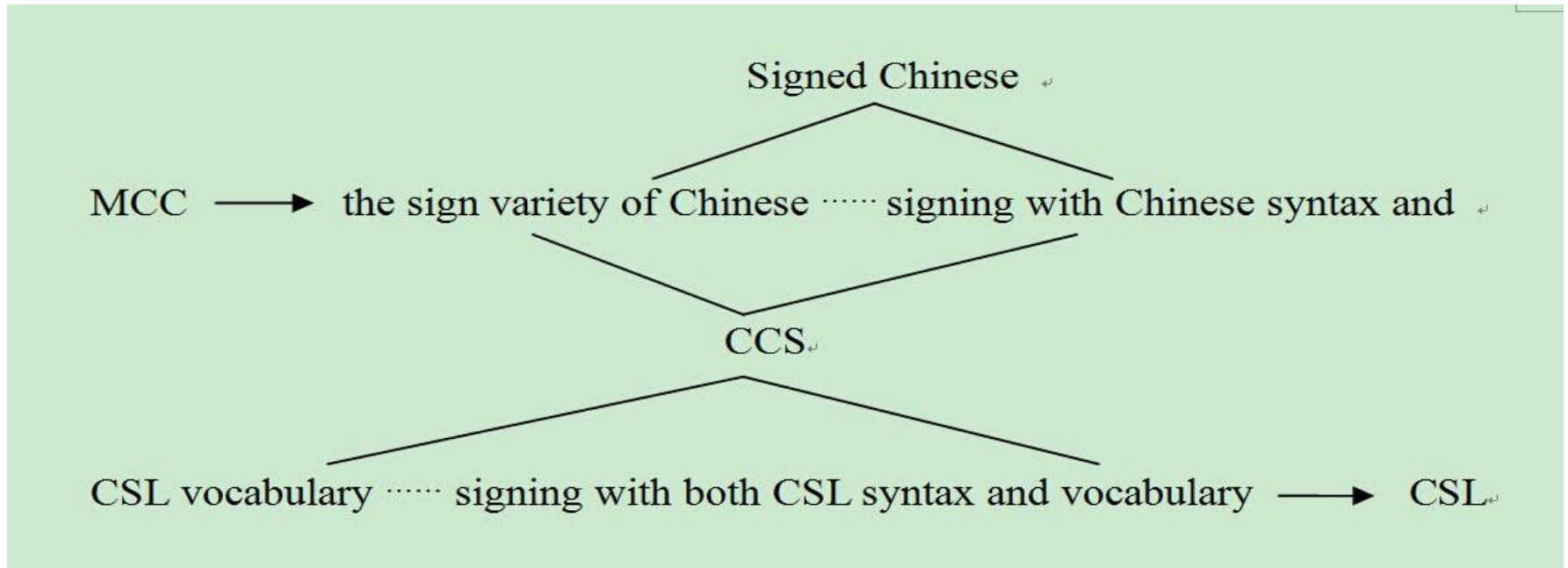
Linguistic features of CCS:

Lexical forms	CSL signs	
	CSL-like signs	MOREOVER 而且; GRANDFATHER 祖父
	Chinese lexical items	Isolated mouthed Chinese
		Chinese mouthing/whispering
	Correspondence to Chinese rhythm	
Vocabulary	More vocabulary from Chinese	
	More CSL-like signs (conjunctions)	
	More fingerspelling	
	More words from <i>Chinese Sign Language</i>	
Syntactic structure	More Chinese-like word order	
	Incompetent use of non-manuals	
	Little use of space	



Discussion

Chinese – CSL continuum:

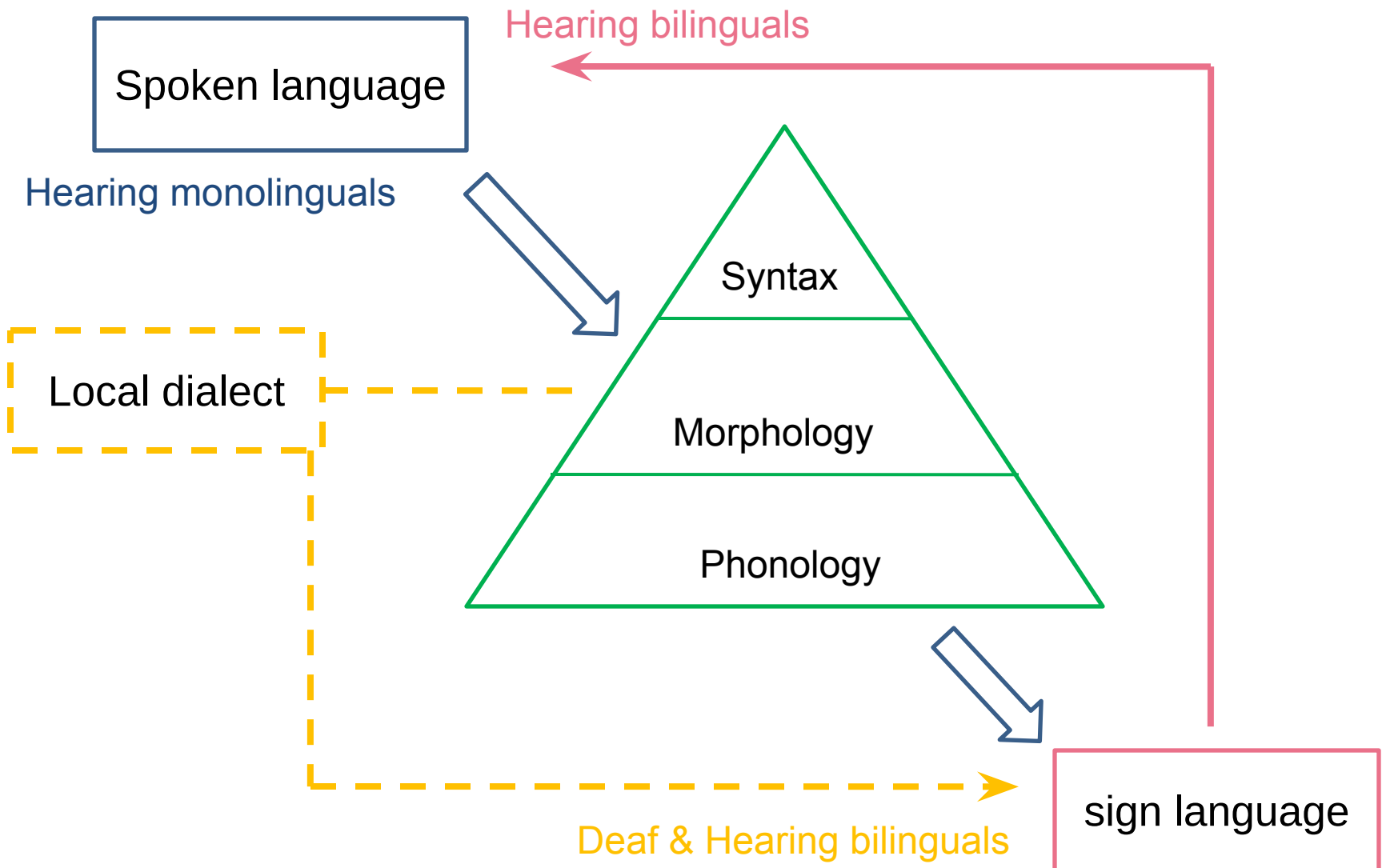


It is important to note that hearing signers are eager to produce natural CSL. At the same time, Deaf signers are also anxious to sign perfectly signed Chinese. But due to their incompetence in the two languages respectively, different varieties emerge.



Discussion

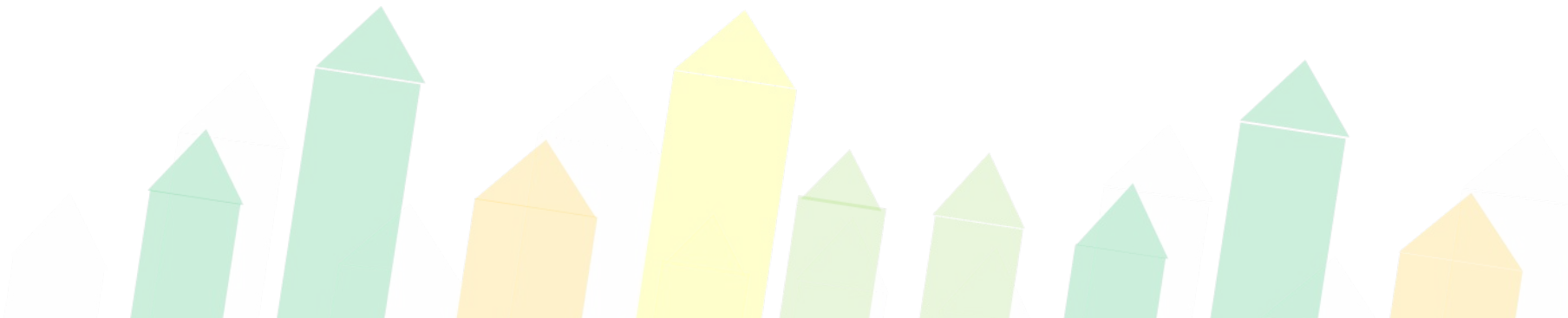
Sign-spoken language contact:





Conclusion

- Maintained bilingualism, immense and constant language contact; the results of the contact, lexical borrowing, code-switching, unique phenomena of fingerspelling, sign combination, and mouthing
- Chinese Contact Signing (CCS), an applicable communication system, linguistic features (lexical forms, vocabulary, and syntactic structure); part of a language continuum, different applicable varieties in accord with situations, communication purposes, and different levels of language proficiency
- Unidirectional bilingualism, deaf bilinguals and hearing monolinguals





Thank you!

