Trevor Johnston: *Building on Basic Annotations for Conducting Research: Exploring Examples and Solutions with Participants Using a Small Czech Sign Language Sample*

Trevor Johnston is Professor of Sign Language (SL) Linguistics in the Department of Linguistics, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

He was born in Australia and earned his Ph.D. in Linguistics at the University of Sydney in 1989.

He is Chief on two current projects, first of which is concerned with Auslan/English interpreter-mediated communication in health and medical settings focusing on medical terminology in Auslan using Auslan Signbank (an internet-based dictionary). The second project then applies comparison of variation in Auslan and BSL for evidence of the hypothesis that grammar is emergent from language use, is driven by frequency and usage which is reflected in the processes of grammaticalization and language change.

He also conducted research in the area of Auslan assessment, especially as a first language, in the evaluation of sign bilingual education programs.

He coined the term "Auslan" and authored several dictionaries among which is also the very first Auslan dictionary that was completed in 1989 and then revised with Adam Schembri and named "Signs of Australia" in 1998.

Research interests: Bilingual Deaf Education, Corpus Linguistics (both for research into sociolinguistic variation and for empirical language description), Gesture Studies, Grammatical Description, Grammaticalization, Language Evolution, Lexicography

Abstract

In this workshop I will work with participants to explore how a small Czech SL example text, which has already been given a basic glossing (in Czech and English) can be "improved" by (a) streamlining the glosses according to ID glossing principles and the identification of sign types and (b) by the addition of annotations and tags on supplementary tiers in order to sort and search the data by various criteria. Participants will discuss possible research questions and decide on what annotations are required to address or answer these questions.