

Wednesday 27th August 2014

Topic of the day:
Deaf Culture and Current Research in SLL

Klára Richterová: *Kinship Terminology in Signed Languages - Czech Sign Language*

Klára Richterová is a lecturer at the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in Prague. At the Institute of Deaf Studies she teaches subjects such as Phonetics and Phonology of Sign Language or Written Czech of the Czech Deaf.

She was born in the Czech Republic and holds a Master's Degree from her studies at the Faculty of Arts – Czech Language and Literature. The topic of her diploma thesis was Tense in Written Texts of the Czech Deaf (2009) and in 2010 she graduated with the degree of PhDr. at the Faculty of Arts. Since 2010 she has continued with her studies which will eventually conclude with earning her Ph.D.

In addition to her work as a lecturer, she also cooperates with the Institute of the Czech National Corpus, Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague on creating a corpus of the Czech written texts of the Czech deaf.

Research interest: Kinship Terminology in Czech Sign Language

Abstract

This lecture concerns one part of the lexicon of contemporary Czech Sign Language – namely kinship terminology, which was explored within the Sign Language Typology Project – Semantic Domains organised by prof. Ulrike Zeshan and Keiko Sagara, University of Central Lancashire. In addition to a brief description of the repertoire of terms for relatives, with a special emphasis on regional stratification (Bohemian signs vs. Moravian signs) and on their formal makeup, we will discuss origin of some of these terms and their (possible) motivations. Based on limited data we will provide a notion about diachronic changes of kin terms in Czech Sign Language, and the contemporary signs will be compared with and interpreted against the analogical data listed in the dictionary of Czech Sign Language of 1988.