All relationships relative; overlapping approaches drawn for distinction and not for accuracy. Additional credit to authors OPavas, Garnett, Jgak, Aderegola, and other unnamed contributors at https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Visual_Language_Interpreting/Tools_of_the_Trade.


**American Sign Language**

(principle is operational for other signed languages)

- Visio-gestural language, preferred and connotate language of American Deaf people. Roots:
  - Black SLVs (McCaskill, Hill, 2011; et al)
  - Mexican SLVs (Quinto-Pozos, 2008; et al)
  - Native American SLVs (Davis, 2010; et al)
  - French SLVs (Lane, 1984; et al)
  - Indigenous/regional/unknown SLVs

- First documented by Brown (1856, 1860). Topic-comment grammatical structure and approach (cf. Baker & Cokely, 1980); utilizes code-borrowing from majority spoken language. Also, ‘the sign language’ (Veditz, 1913) and ‘Ameslan’ (Fant, 1972).

**Contact Sign / Manually Coded English (MCE)**

more like ASL

more like English

**English**

(principle is operational for other signed languages)

- Simplified English-based code; only fourteen added grammatical markers. (Developed mid-1970s, Harry Bornstein, Gallaudet College; 1983, Barnstein, Saulnier, & Hamilton)

- Based on Seeing Essential English (SEE) (Fant, 1972). Topic-comment grammatical structure. Using the manual alphabet. Extensively used in schools for the deaf in the late 19th century. Sometimes used in tactile/deaf-blind signing situations; some Deaf adults still use this method. (Developed 1878, Zenas Westervelt, Western New York Institute for Deaf-Mutes, later Rochester School for the Deaf)

- Visual recording system based on Seeing Essential English (SEE). Used Stokoe Notation System (tab-dez-sig; Stokoe, 1960; Stokoe, Casterline, & Croneberg, 1965) to codify. Defunct. (Developed 1972, Dennis Wampler)

- Extensively produced using the manual alphabet. Each lexical unit produced using the manual alphabet. Extensively used in schools for the deaf in the late 19th century. Sometimes used in tactile/deaf-blind signing situations; some Deaf adults still use this method. (Developed 1878, Zenas Westervelt, Western New York Institute for Deaf-Mutes, later Rochester School for the Deaf)

**CASE (Conceptually Accurate Signed English)**