

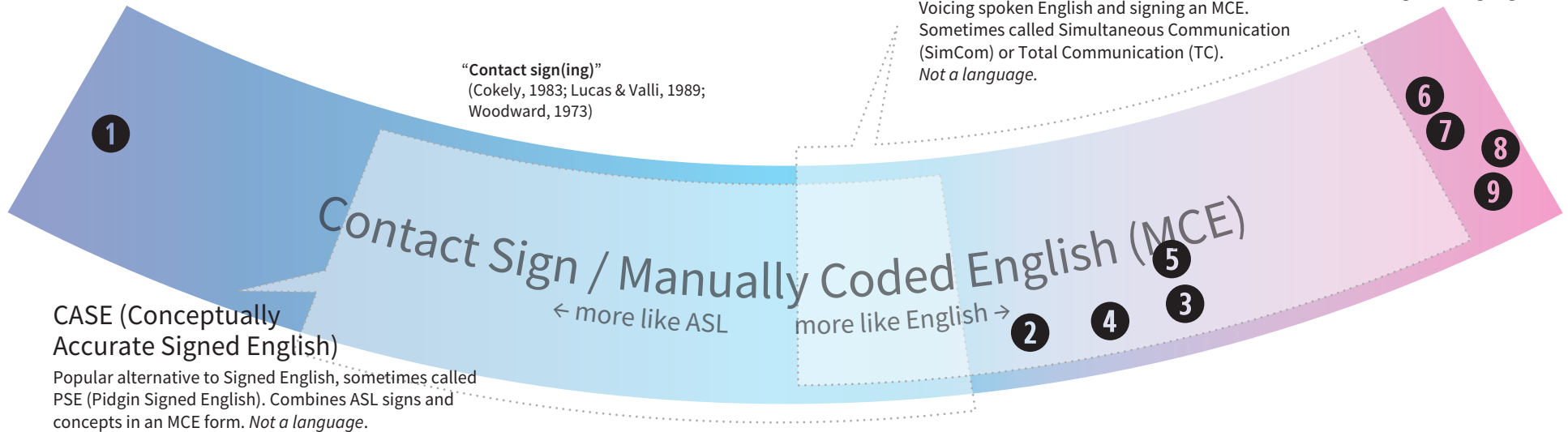
Comparative ASL/English Language Continuum

American Sign Language

(principle is operational for other signed languages)

English

(principle is operational for other signed languages)



1

ASL (American Sign Language)

Visio-gestural language, preferred and connate language of American Deaf people. Roots:

- British/Vineyard SLVs (Groce, 1985; et al)
- 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).

2

SE (Signed English)

Simplified English-based code; only fourteen added grammatical markers.

(Developed mid-1970s, Harry Bornstein, Gallaudet College; 1983, Bornstein, Saulnier, & Hamilton)

3

SEE₁ (Seeing Essential English)

(Formerly ‘SEE₁’); intended to reinforce basic English morphemic structure:

- compound words are formed with separate signs (‘butter’+‘fly’)
- same/one sign used for homonyms (‘bear’ and ‘bare’)
- heavy use of initialization (hAve)
- affixes, articles, and ‘to be’ verb added

(Developed 1966, David Anthony, Gallaudet College)

4

SEE₂ (Signing Exact English)

(Formerly ‘SEE₂’); similar to SEE₁ but:

- compound words are conceptually accurate (‘butterfly,’ not ‘butter’+ ‘fly’)
- more ASL signs (one sounded word = one sign)
- at least 70 artificial/invented signs and affixes added to this system

(Developed 1972, Gerilee Gustason)

5

LOVE (Linguistics of Visual English)

Visual recording system based on Seeing Essential English (SEE₁). Used Stokoe Notation System (tab-dez-sig; Stokoe, 1960; Stokoe, Casterline, & Croneberg, 1965) to codify. Defunct. *(Developed 1972, Dennis Wampler)*

$[] \checkmark C^* \checkmark Cx^*$
bear(s)

$\curvearrowright 5^*$
father

6

Rochester Method

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)*

7

Cued Speech

Not a signed language. Combines eight arbitrary handshapes and four locations to visually and phonetically represent English. *(Developed 1966, Dr. Robert Cornett, Gallaudet College)*

8

Written English

9

Spoken English