A running head is not required in academic papers unless required by the professor. If requested, it should be in all caps and appear in the top left corner of every page.

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The title page includes the title of the paper (4 lines from the top, centered and bolded), a double space then the writer's name, university or affiliation, course code and name, instructor's name, and due date centered on the page.

Locative Relationships in ASL

First name Last name

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Instructor Name

Month day, Year

Locative Relationships in ASL

Every language must possess a way to represent the spatial relationships between objects. In English, these relationships are represented through prepositional words like "on", "in", "over", "beside", etc. In American Sign Language (ASL) these relationships are represented through locative signs that show the relationship within the signing itself as opposed to utilizing singular words as other languages so often do. ASL is unique in the different ways that it has the capacity to represent such relationships in each sentence and in each circumstance that the signer may find themselves in. There are many ways that locative relationships can be conveyed in ASL that are different from English, and each one has its own individual function and uses in showing these spatial relationships.

Spatial Relationships

ASL shows spatial relationships much differently than English's "close-class set of prepositions," including only a few words to show relationships between objects such as "in", "on", "above", etc. (Emmorey et al., 2004, para. 1). ASL is not bound to the spoken prepositions of verbal languages, but it provides a "unique insight into this interface because physical space is used to schematically encode spatial relationships" (Emmorey et al., 2004, para. 2). The visual representation of these locative relationships gives the receiver a greater grasp of what the speaker is conveying, richly expressing these prepositions in sign language (Prepositions and Locatives, n.d.). ASL shows these relationships in specific ways without signing using individual prepositional word/sign-concepts.

Body Anchor Signs

A unique way that ASL shows locative relationships is through body anchor signs. These signs show the location where an action occurred or where something resides on a person's body. Phrases that often accompany this type of relationship are "bruise-on", "tattoo-on*"*, "hurt at", "hit-on", etc. These signs show the exact place on the body that the object is or where the action took place (Baker-Shenk & Cokely, 1980). The signer has the liberty to show this with their hands from the size of the object or the force of the action, but most importantly the locative relationship answers the question of where on the body. Describing the location of a new tattoo requires a body anchor sign. If a person just had a tattoo done on their shoulder and wanted to describe to his friend where it was and how big it was, the signer would sign *tattoo* and then using their hands hold out or gesture the general shape and size of the tattoo and place it on their own shoulder in the exact location of the new body modification. Since locatives show one object spatially related to another object (Baker-Shenk & Cokely, 1980), the necessary component of this body anchor sign is that one object (in this case the tattoo) comes into direct contact with the body part. These signs are visibly easy to understand what the signer is spatially representing.

Classifiers

A common way to show these spatial relationships is through the use and interaction of classifiers within the signing space. "[A] Classifier is a pronoun-like linguistic symbol that represents a class or group of referents" (*Prepositions and Locatives*, n.d., para. 5). Classifiers are used to refer to an object that has already been referenced. For example, when speaking about a car, the signer would first

Margin note (left): Level two headings fall under the umbrella topic of the level one heading. To show this connection to the broader topic, the heading is placed flush left to the margin and bolded.

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sign "car" and establish the pronoun for the car using a classifier shape specifically for representing automobiles. The classifier, in essence, is a pronoun. This classifier in itself does not represent a locative relationship; however, when signed interacting spatially with another object, the locative relationship comes to life.

A level three heading is a subcategory under the level two heading. It is bolded, italicized and placed above the paragraph it proceeds.

Practical Example

To demonstrate this concept, the spatial interaction between a table and a cat can be established. If a signer wants to tell how their cat sat on the table, they would first sign "table" and then use the flat hand, palm-down classifier to represent the table established in the sign space. Holding the classifier for the table in one hand, the signer would then sign "cat" and use the classifier hand shape for the number two in the form of a claw, palm to the ground, to represent the cat. Now the signer has established two objects (*Prepositions and Locatives*, n.d.). When the signer places the cat classifier on the table classifier, they establish a spatial relationship between the cat and the table—"the cat is on the table." Classifiers are excellent in showing spatial relationships because many of them can be moved around in the signing space with ease (Baker-Shenk & Cokely, 1980, p. 334). This allows for a myriad of opportunities to show objects interacting in the sign space.

Conclusion

Locative relationships make ASL unique; the expressive nature and signer's perspective that influence the disclosure of the spatial relationship is a key difference in the structure of signed language. ASL's methods of portraying locative relationships are

out of the ordinary when compared to English, Spanish and many other languages due to

Its lack of specific prepositional used in verbal languages. ASL utilizes techniques that

take the place of these specific words or signs in a way that clearly portrays the idea and

conveys the message completely. Locative relationships represent the aspect of language

that represents objects interacting within the sign space; without the ways that ASL

demonstrates this, prepositional portrayals of things would be very two dimensional and

undescriptive in the world of sign.

References

The title of the reference page should be capitalized, centered and bolded.

The Reference page is a list of all the sources used in the paper. They are put on the last page in alphabetical order with a hanging indent and double spacing.

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