

Sign Language Variation in the Asia-Pacific Region



Dear Colleagues,

Linguistic variation is prevalent in spoken languages and can be found at different linguistic levels. As human languages, sign languages exhibit variation in ways similar to spoken languages.

In recent years, the emergence of shared sign languages has drawn considerable attention among sign language researchers, and it has been suggested that shared sign languages exhibit more variation than deaf community sign languages do.

Some latest variation literature argue that signers make use of variable forms as a means to construct their social identities. All these findings have enriched our understanding of linguistic variation which was previously based on spoken language research.

The Asia Pacific Region is well-known for its linguistic diversities in spoken languages, yet relatively is known concerning the extent of variation in the sign languages there. This Special Issue will focus on empirical studies of linguistic variation in sign languages in the Asia Pacific Region. Research topics may include (but not limited to) the following:

- Deaf community sign languages
- Shared sign languages
- Lexical variation
- Grammatical variation
- Sociolinguistic variables
- Regional differences
- Variation and change
- Variation and social identity
- Variation and levelling

We look forward to receiving your contributions!

Keywords

Sign languages; Linguistic variation; Spoken languages; Empirical studies; Asia-Pacific Region

Guest Editor

Dr. Felix Sze

felix_cslds@cuhk.edu.hk

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