

Figure 1 Typical kinds of interactive gestures. Note that these are only examples because, unlike hand signals, there are no stereotypic forms.

The gestures should he visualized in rapid motion and in three dimensions. A = general delivery (verbal equivalent: "Here's my point").

B = general citing (verbal equivalent: "As you said earlier"). C = seeking help (verbal equivalent: "What's the word . . . ?"). D = giving turn (verbal equivalent: "You go ahead").

and perhaps by individual differences in style. Conversational gestures, including interactive gestures, are not stereotyped hand signals; speakers and listeners use and understand them in context, just as they do words.

Citing the other's contribution. A second broad set of functions that interactive gestures serve is to cite the addressee—that is, to acknowledge an earlier contribution the addressee made. General citing (as in Figure 1B) occurs when the speaker mentions something that the

addressee had said earlier. Notice that, if neither a verbal ("as you said") nor a nonverbal citation were made, it would appear as if the speaker had not heard the addressee's contribution or as if the speaker were claiming the contribution as his or her own. (Thus the general citing gesture might whimsically be called a conversational APA citation.)

The second context that elicits a citing gesture is when the speaker acknowledges the addressee's indication of