

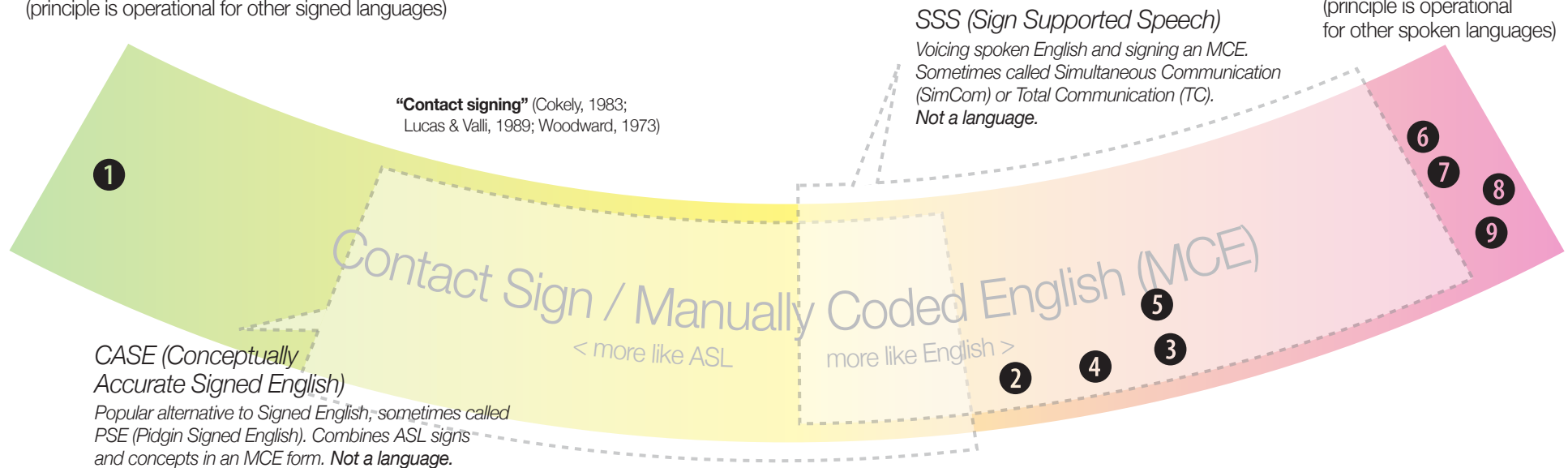
Comparative ASL/English Language Continuum

American Sign Language

(principle is operational for other signed languages)

English

(principle is operational for other spoken languages)



1

ASL (American Sign Language)

Visio-gestural language, preferred and connate language of American Deaf people. Topic-comment grammatical structure and approach (cf. Baker & Cokely, 1980); utilizes language- and code- borrowing from majority spoken language. Formerly ‘the sign language’ (Veditz, 1913) and ‘Ameslan’ (Fant, 1972). Etymologically related to Old French SL and American regional signs developed during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

2

SE (Signed English)

Simplified English-based code; only 14 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 seventy artificial/ invented signs and affixes added to this system (Developed 1972, Gerilee Gustason)

5

LOVE (Linguistics of Visual English)

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)

6

Rochester Method

Each lexical unit produced using the manual alphabet. Extensively used in schools for the deaf in the late nineteenth 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