

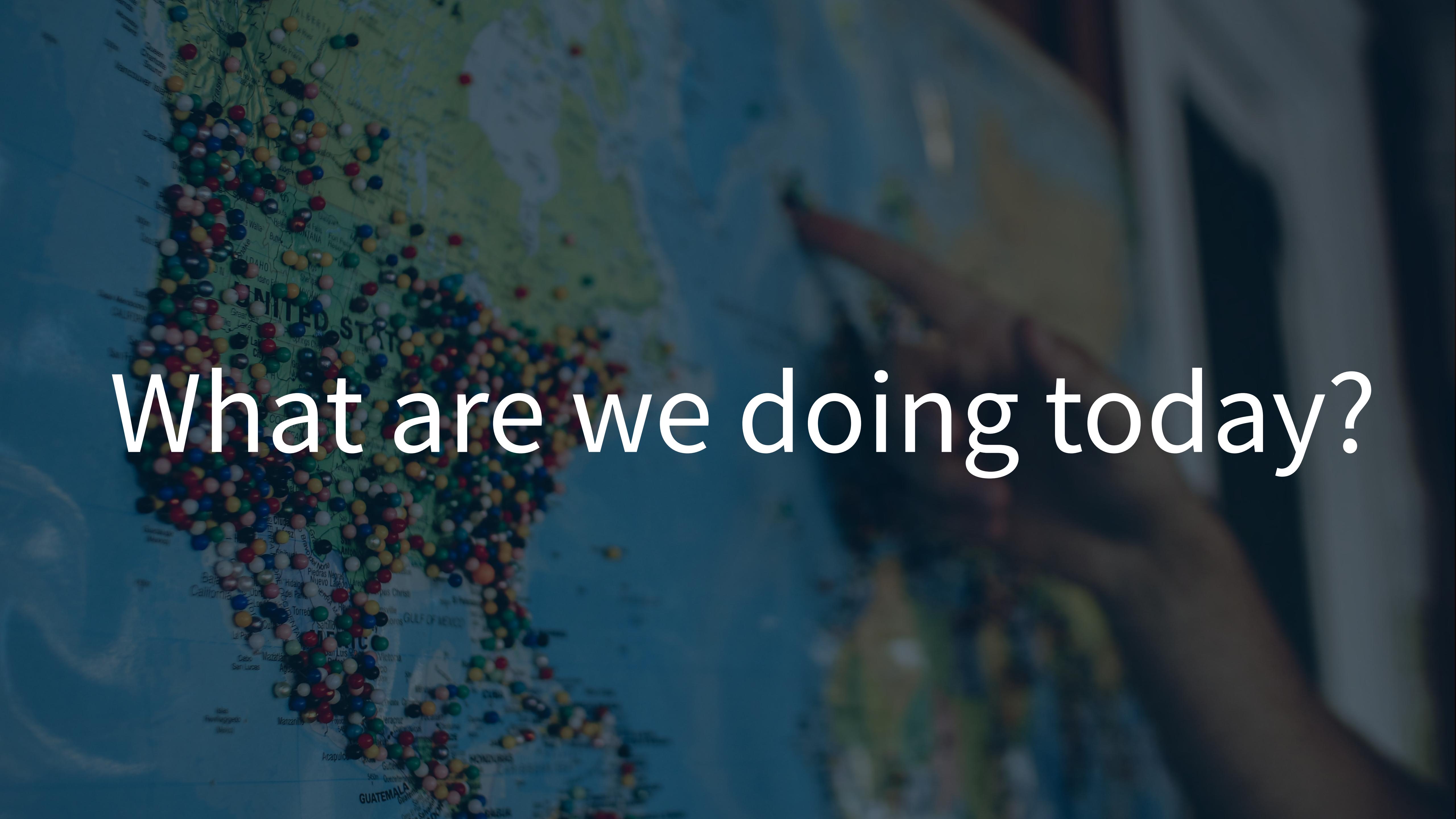
The background of the slide features a world map centered on the United States, resting on a dark wooden surface. Various travel-related items are scattered around the map: a blue passport in the top left, a pair of sunglasses in the top right, a white fedora hat hanging from a string in the bottom left, and a brown leather suitcase in the bottom right. A small American flag is visible near the bottom center.

2018 UVU SILENT WEEKEND

Around the World in 50 Minutes

Understanding How Country Signs are Created and Used

Doug Stringham, MS, UT QAIII | Utah Valley University

A world map is visible in the background, heavily marked with colorful pushpins. A dense cluster of pins is located in North America, particularly along the western coast and across the United States. Another significant cluster is in Europe, with many pins in the UK, Germany, France, and Italy. Smaller clusters are scattered across other continents like South America, Australia, and Africa.

What are we doing today?

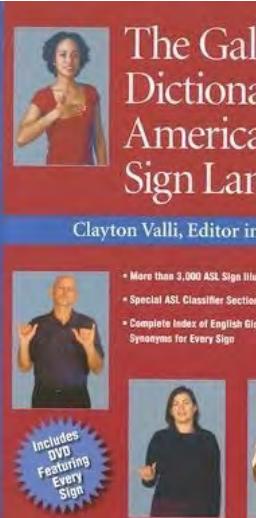
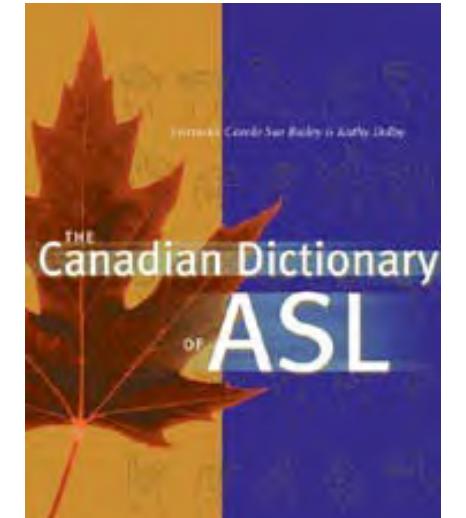
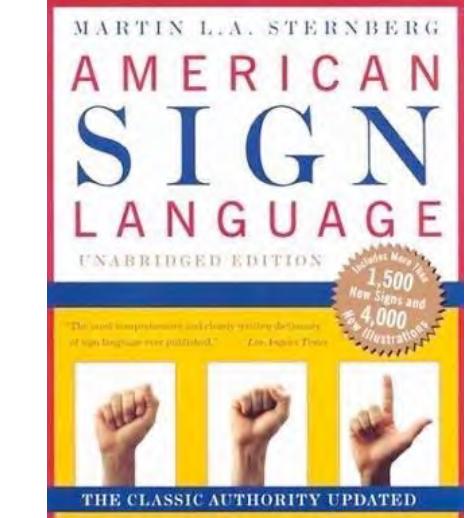
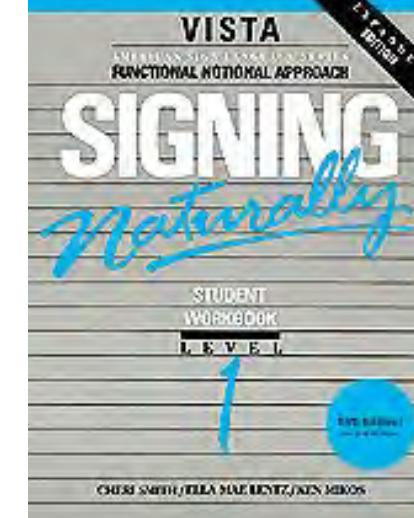
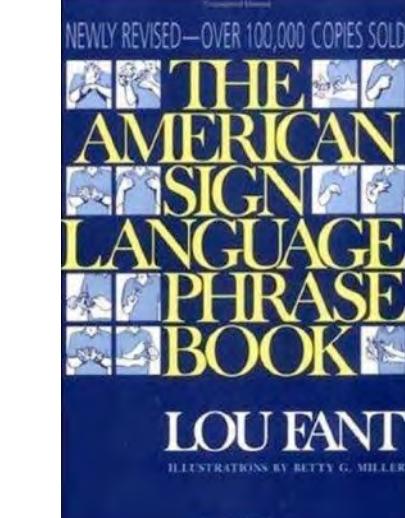
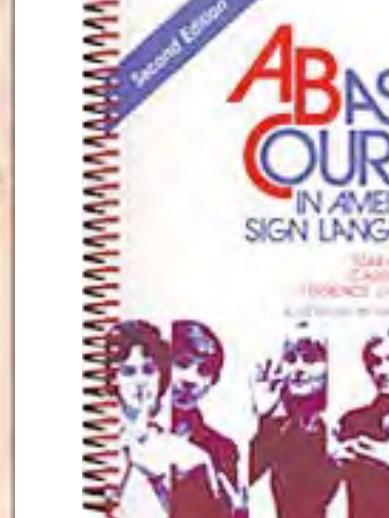
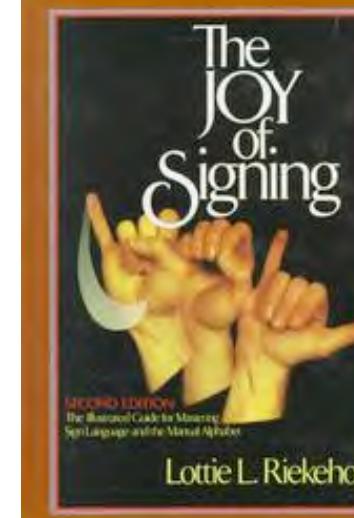
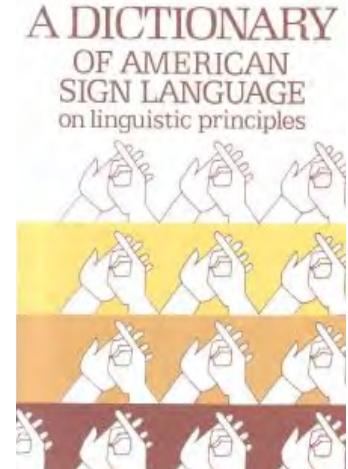
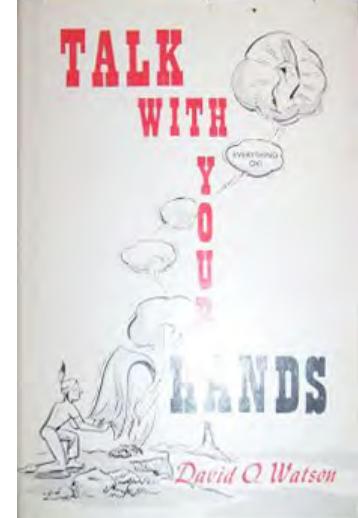
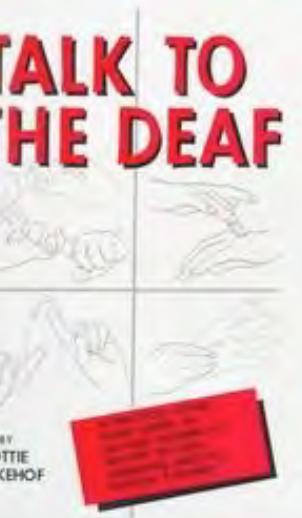
- **Learn about and understand** where ASL country signs come from and how they evolve
- **Understand** how Deaf communities use and identify themselves with certain country signs

- **Visualize** a proposed framework for country sign creation/validation
- **Learn** several indigenous country signs

~~You're a nerd, you know that?~~

So, where did this
information come from?

Analysis of country signs in 17 sign language dictionaries printed between 1909 and 2005.



~~That's way nerdy, nerd-dude.~~

Country politics and signs
have always changed.



1910

Pre-WWI Makeup of
European States



1945

Post-WWII Makeup of
European States

That happened
in only thirty-five
years.



Long (1909/18)

The Sign Language: A Manual of Signs

Long (1909)

SCOTLAND. Bring the “5” hands up in front, palms toward self, the palm of the right hand resting against the back of the left in such a way that the fingers of both hands cross at an angle representing an “X;” let the hands drop away toward the sides. Note that the fingers when thus held represent the plaid.

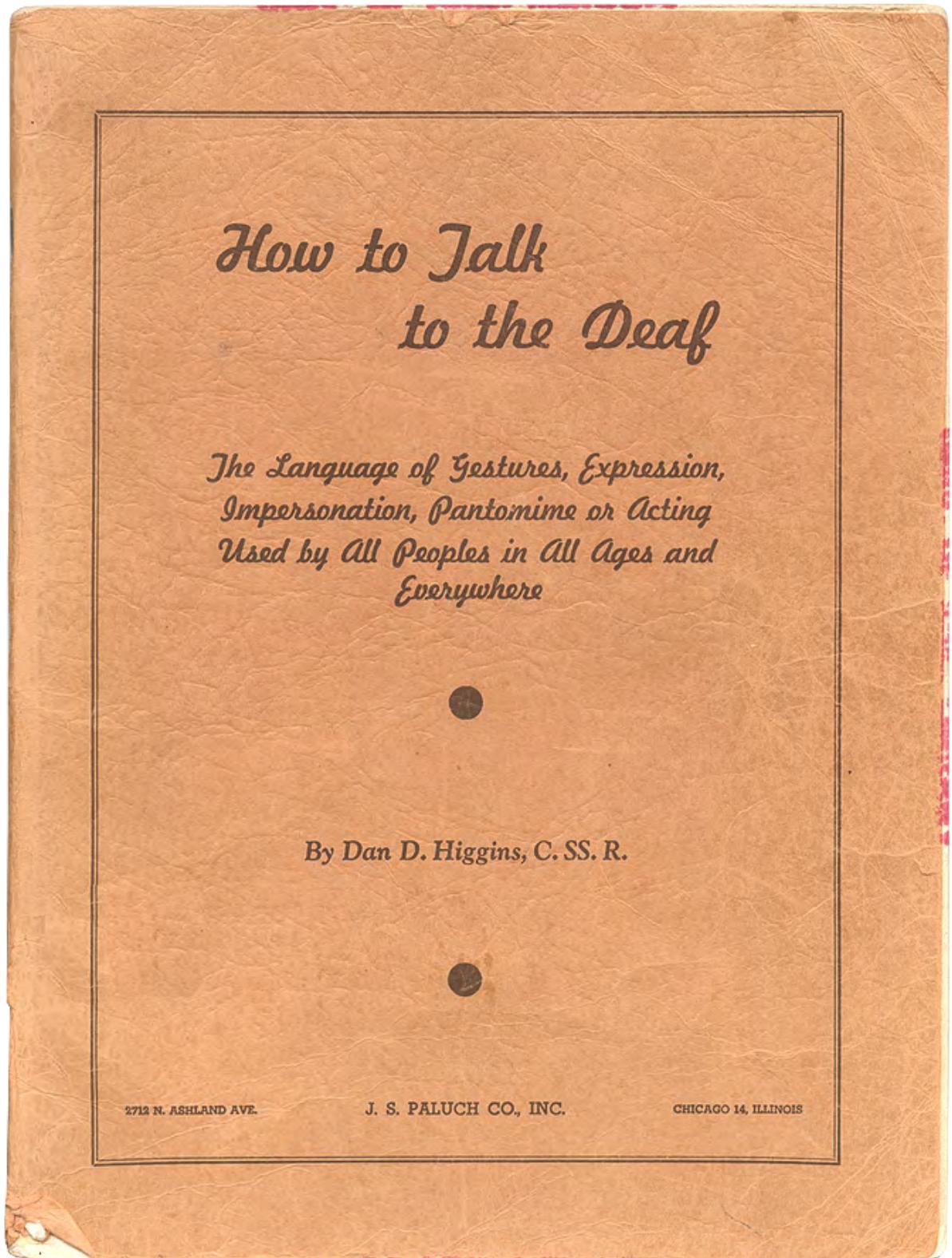




Long (1918)



SCOTLAND. (2) Place back of the extended right hand across the left arm; draw it across and then turning the hand over repeat, representing plaids on arm.



Higgins (1923/42)

How to Talk to the Deaf;
the language of gestures, expression,
impersonation, pantomime or acting, used by all
people in all ages and everywhere

Higgins (1923)

SCOTCH: Palms inward, open fingers crossed, hands drawn apart down to sides; or, tips of right prone spread fingers along left sleeve and then across to indicate the plaid.





Higgins (1942)

SCOTCH: Tips of right prone spread fingers along left sleeve and then across to indicate the plaid.

Evolution of SCOTLAND



SCOTLAND₁

Long 1909/18



SCOTLAND₂

Higgins 1923/42



SCOTLAND₃

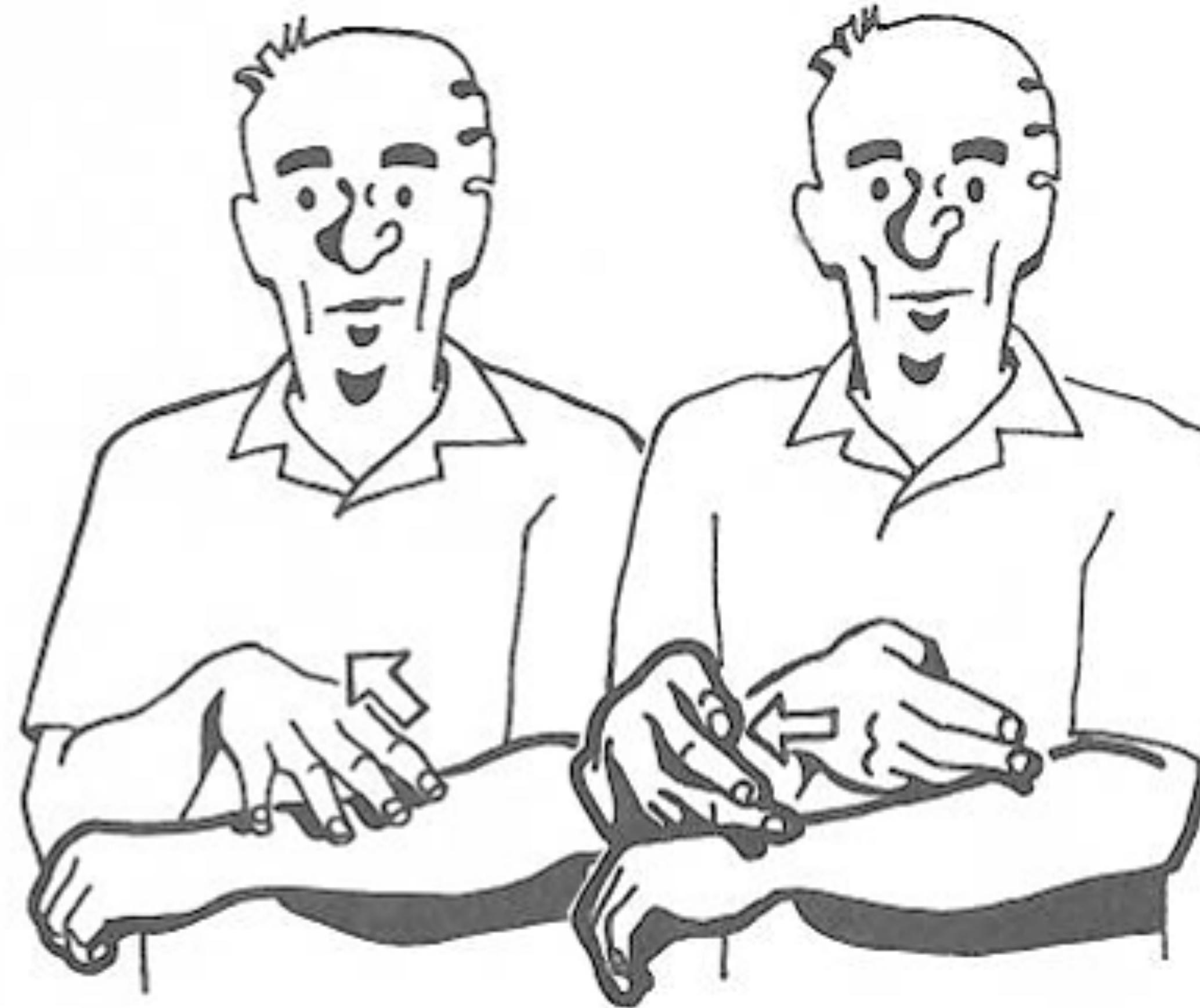
Riekehof 1963



SCOTLAND₄

Humphries 1980

Evolution of SCOTLAND



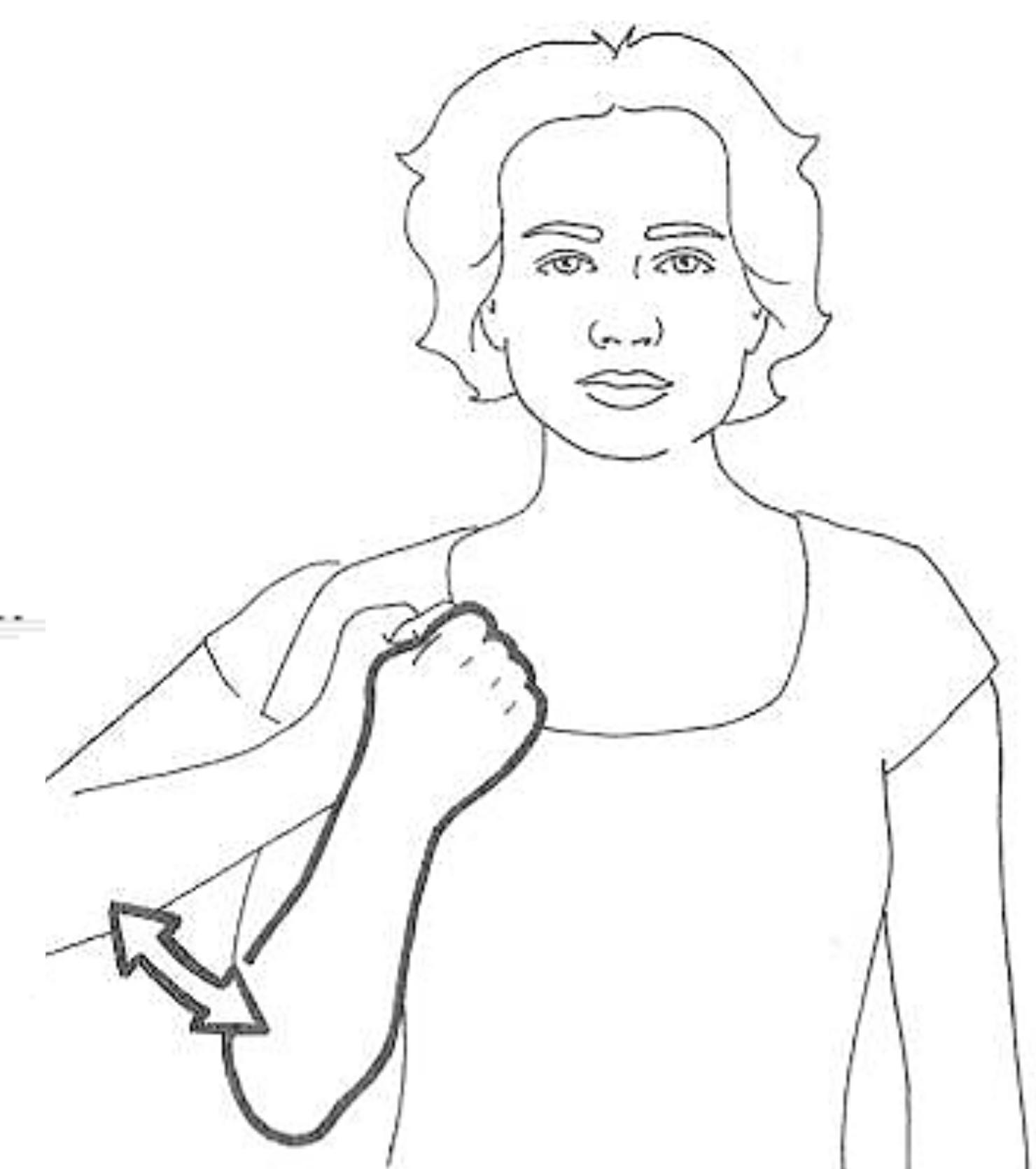
SCOTLAND₅

Fant 1983



SCOTLAND₆

Smith 1989



SCOTLAND₇

Valli 2006

Evolution of MEXICO



MEXICO_{1,4}

Long 1909, Smith 1989

MEXICO₂

Watson 1964

MEXICO₃

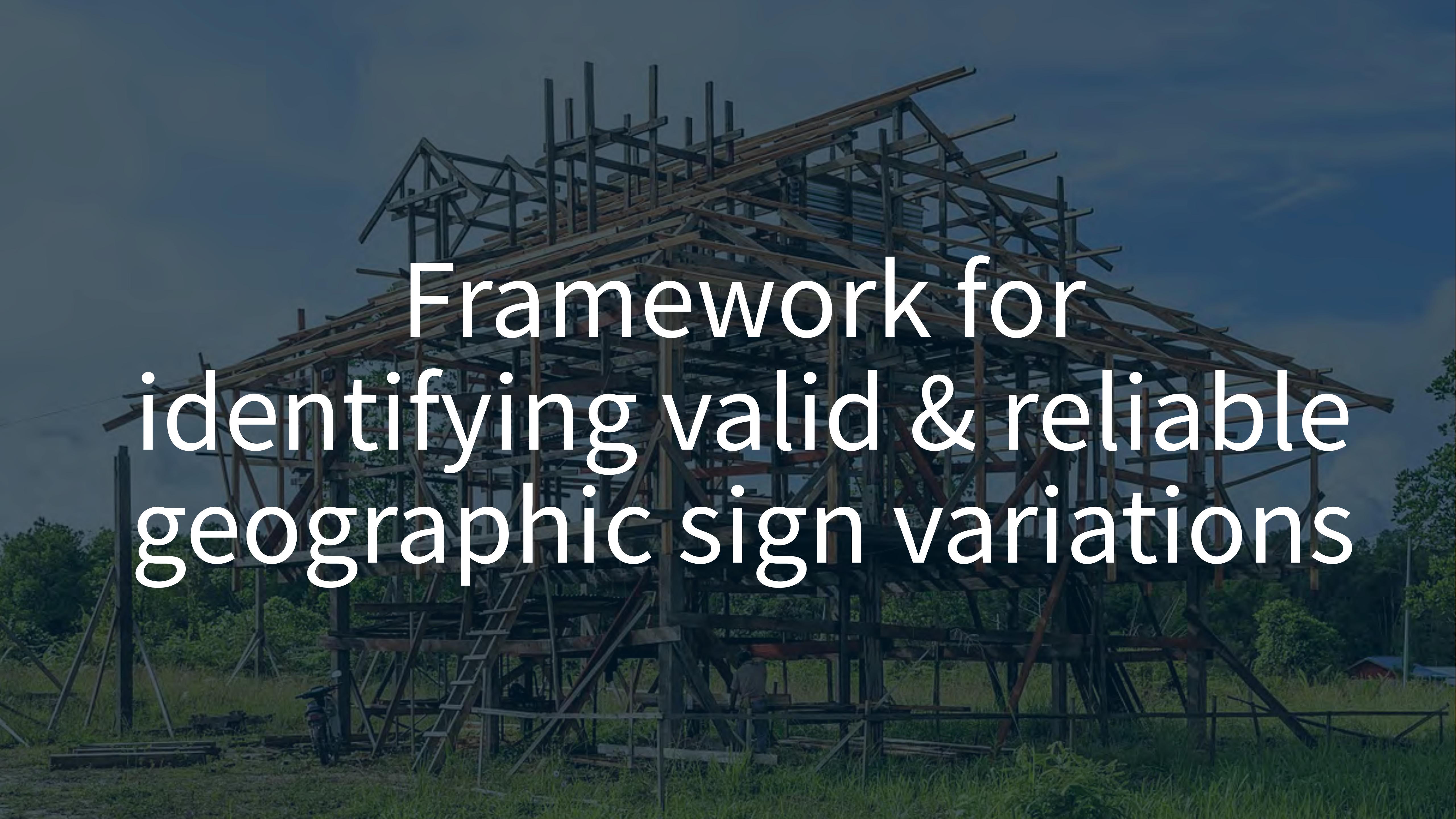
Stokoe 1965

MEXICO₄

Valli 2006

~~Seriously, you're a nerd.~~

Great, so what sign am I
supposed to use now?

A large wooden structure under construction, possibly a roof or bridge, with many vertical and horizontal beams.

Framework for
identifying valid & reliable
geographic sign variations



Robert Palella

2nd ASL Fest, Gallaudet
University (2007)

What do we see Deaf
people doing with
“newer” country signs?

- Signs are **not necessarily** changing as a reaction to so-called ‘political correctness’
- Other countries do consider ASL’s use of their indigenous sign as ‘respect;’ **fosters a globalism** at international conferences and sporting events

- Some ASL signs have been as insulting, focused on physical characteristics (examples?)
- Signs are being borrowed because signs for a country may not be present in ASL

- Reduces the need for fingerspelling
- “We already have a sign for a country; why replace it with another (non-ASL, outsider?) sign?”

- Spoken languages do not use indigenous names for other countries (do you say ‘Deutschland’ or ‘Germany’; ‘Japan’ or ‘日本’?)



vexillological

Sign describes a physical, symbolic, or conceptual characteristic of a nation's flag



Vexillological country signs (Valli, 2006)





Vexillological country signs (Valli, 2006)





Vexillological country signs (Valli, 2006)



Hong Kong₂



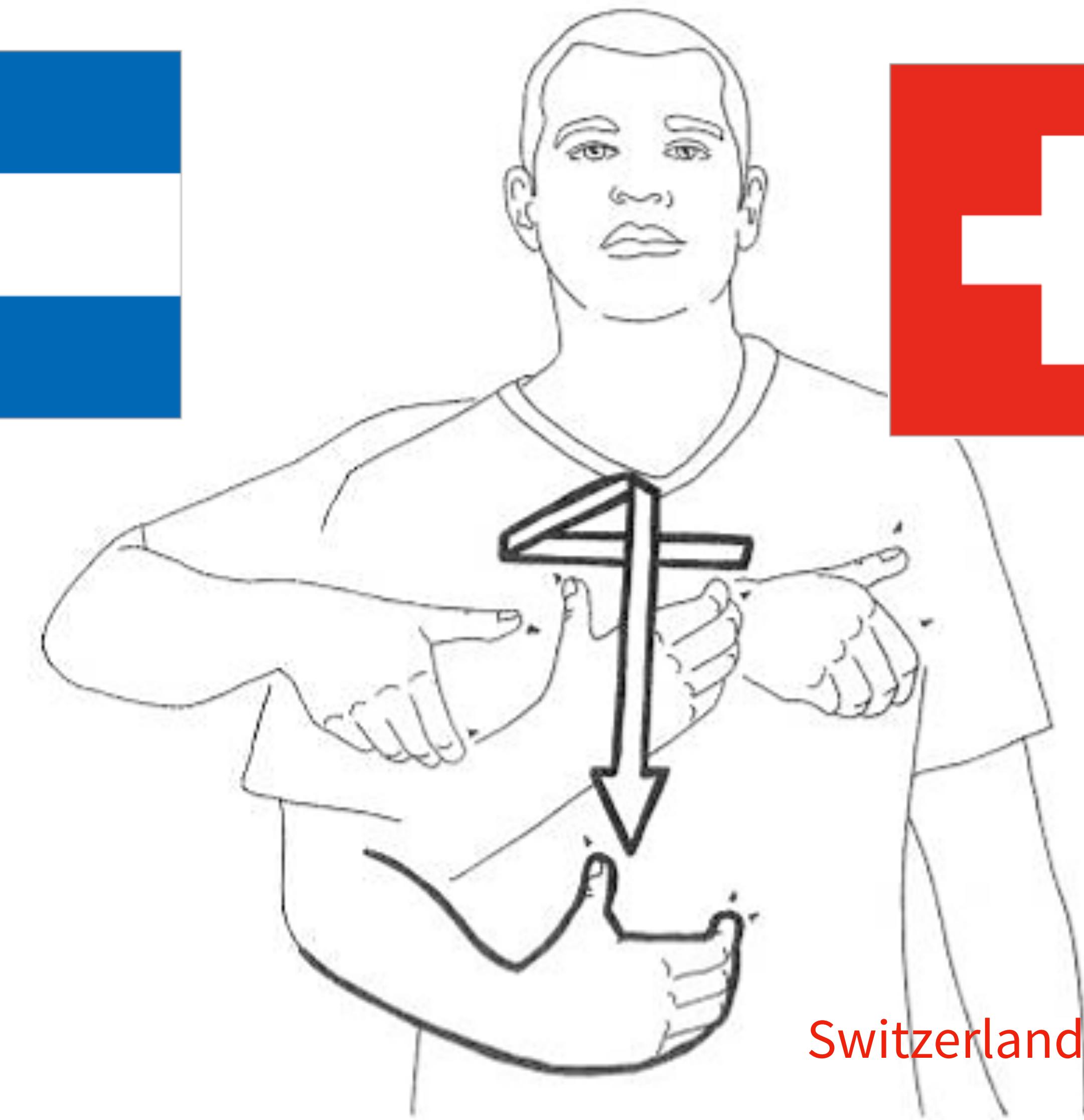
Lebanon



Vexillological country signs (Valli, 2006)



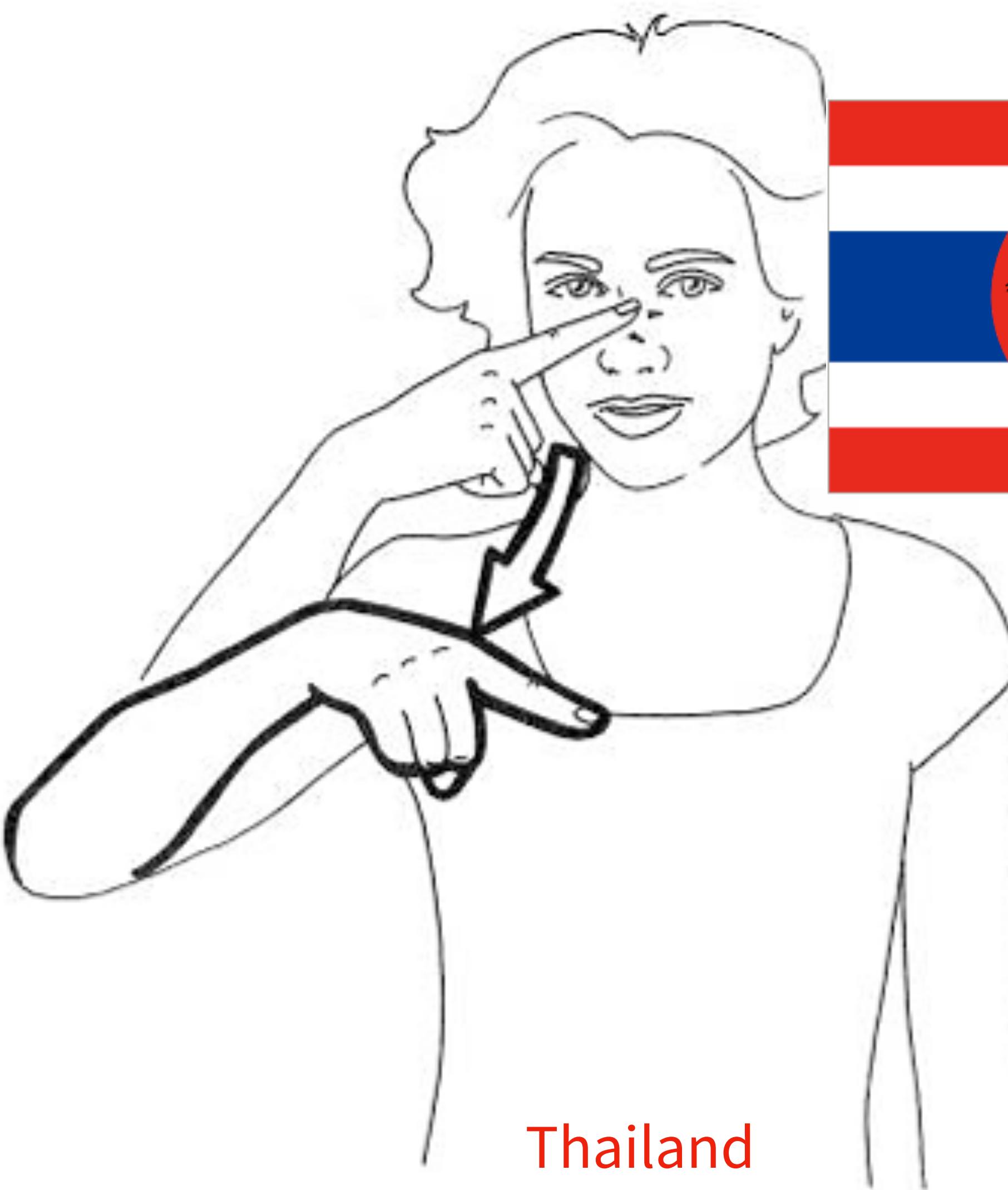
Nicaragua



Switzerland



Vexillological country signs (Valli, 2006)



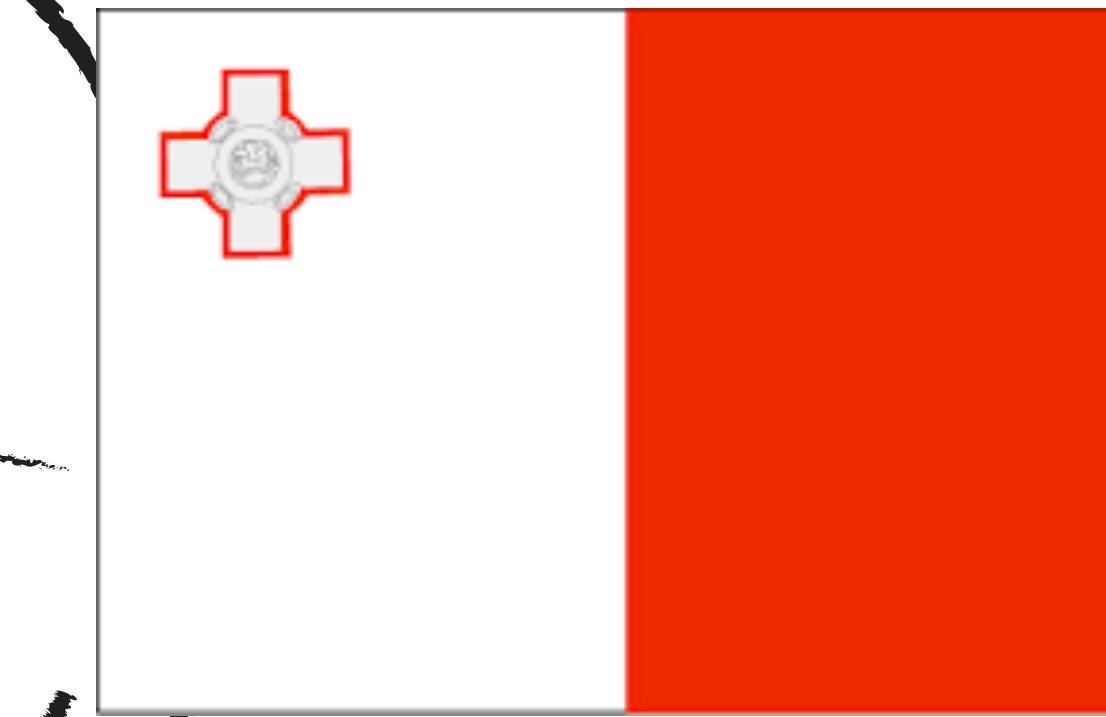
Thailand



Turkey



Vexillological country signs (WFD Países-Sinais, 2003)



Malta



Syria

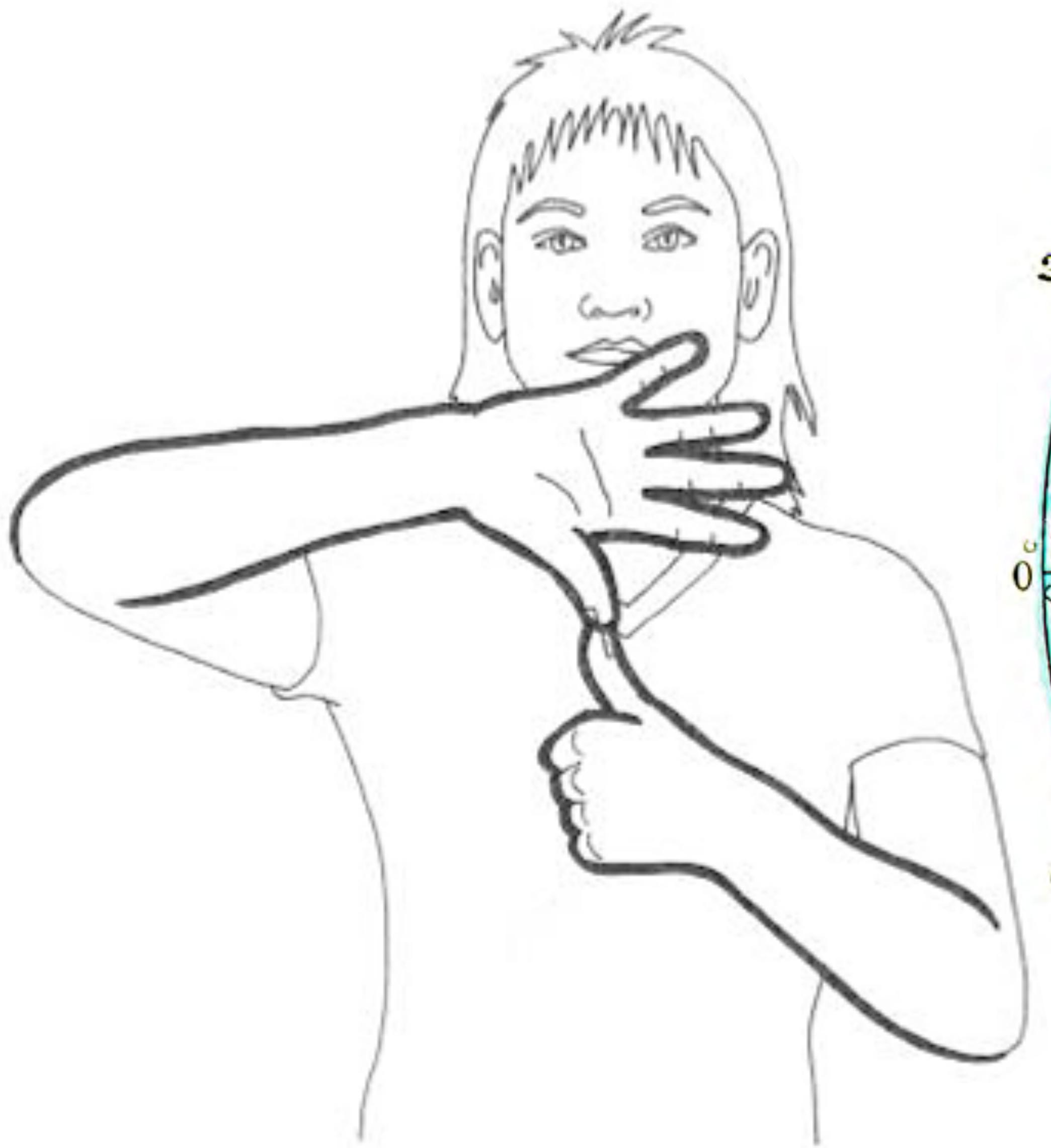


geographical

Sign describes a physical, topographic, or geographical characteristic of a nation

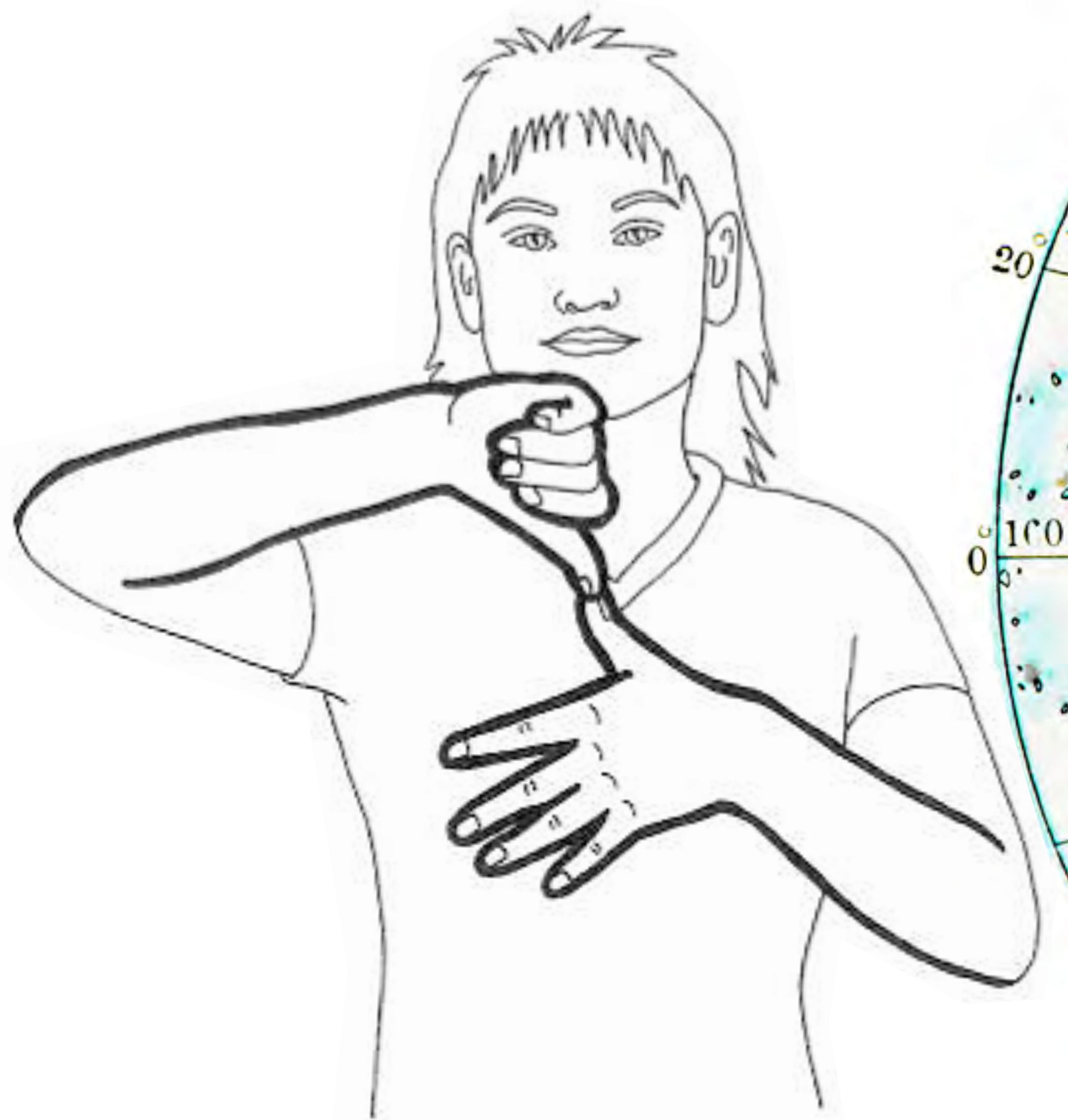


Geographical/country signs (Valli, 2006)



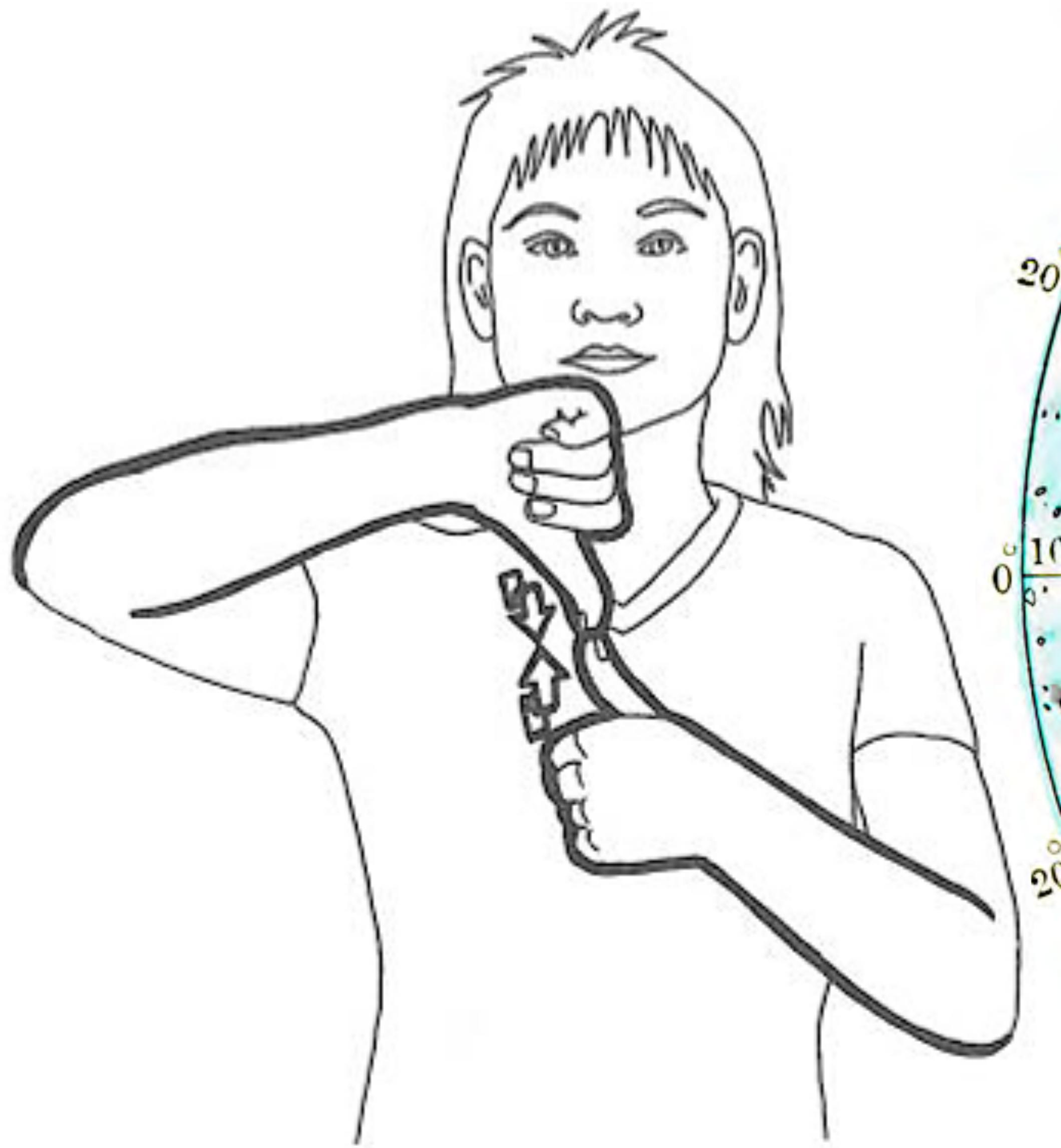


Geographical/country signs (Valli, 2006)





Geographical/country signs (Valli, 2006)





Geographical/country signs (Valli, 2006)

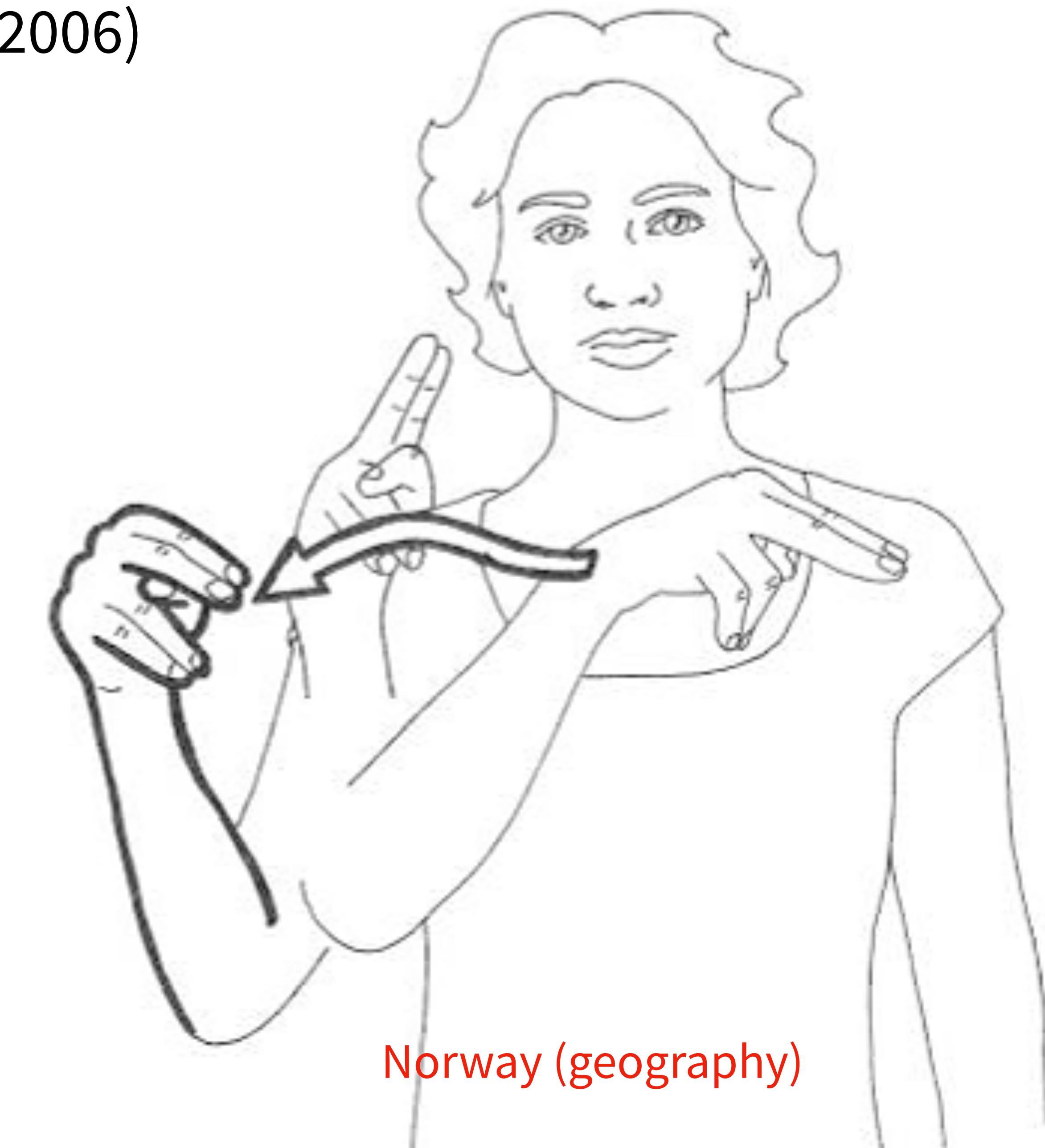


Namibia (shape)





Geographical/country signs (Valli, 2006)





Geographical/country signs (Valli, 2006)



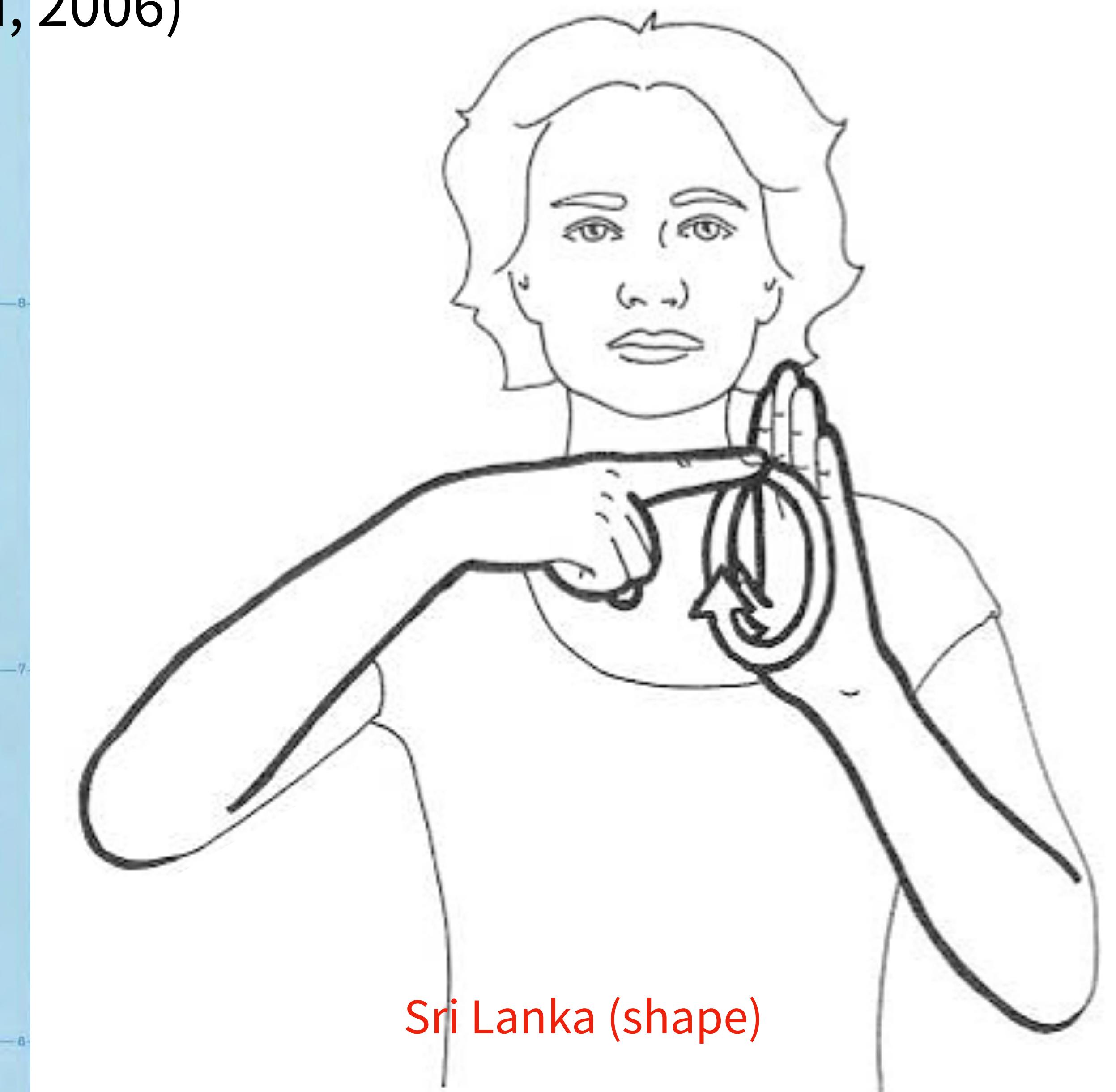
Italy (shape)



Geographical/country signs (Valli, 2006)

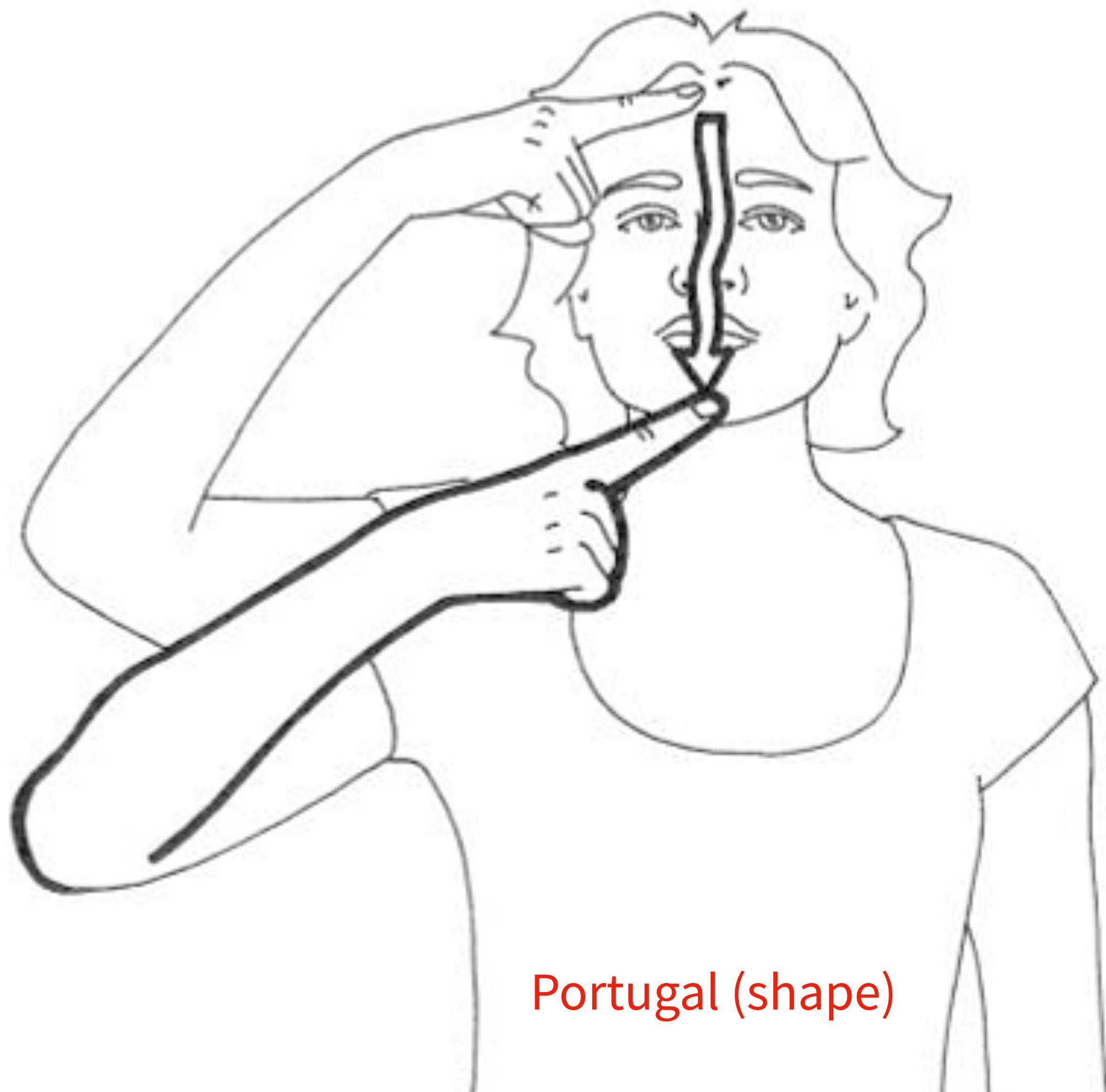


Sri Lanka (shape)





Geographical/country signs (Valli, 2006)

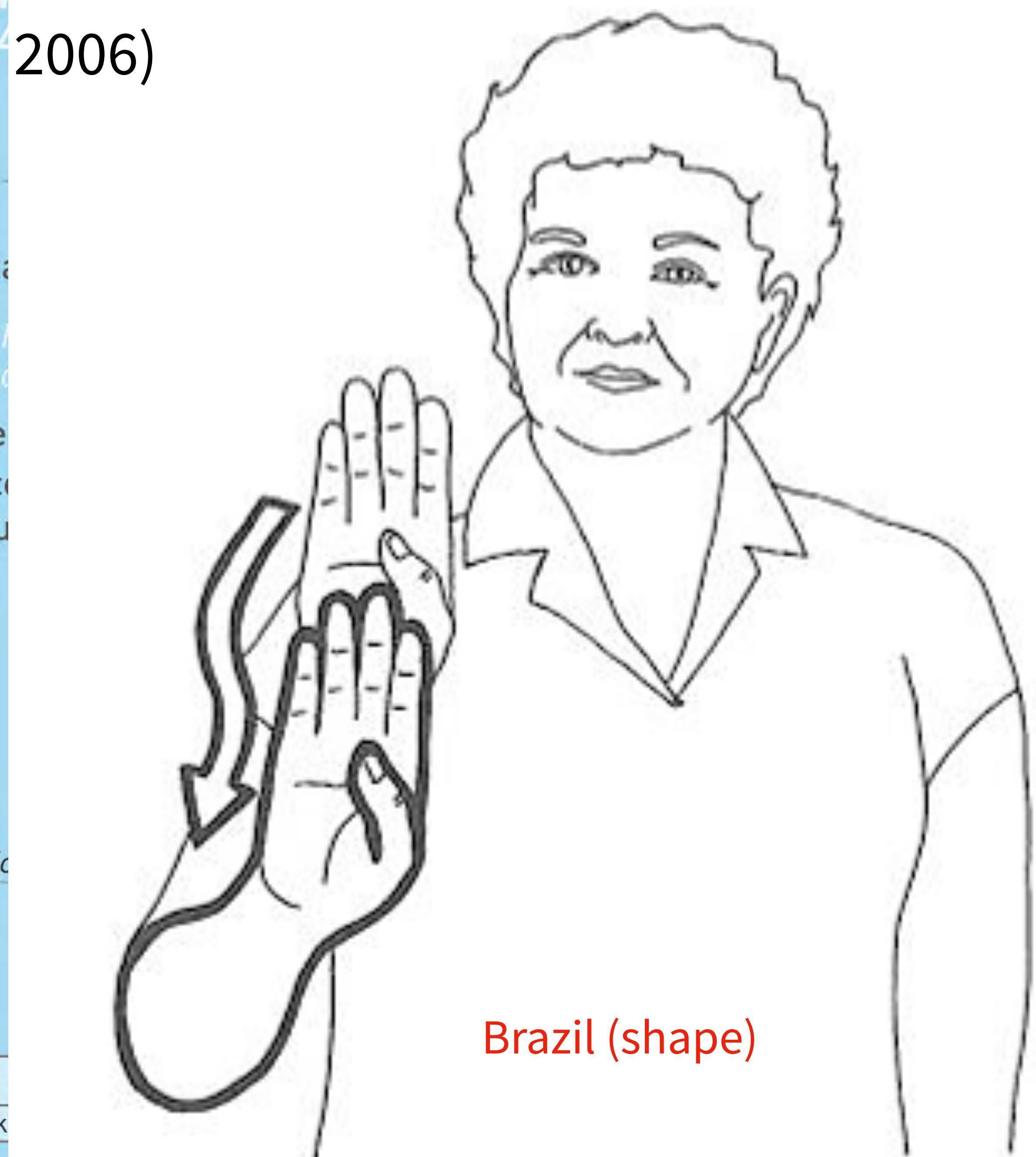


Portugal (shape)





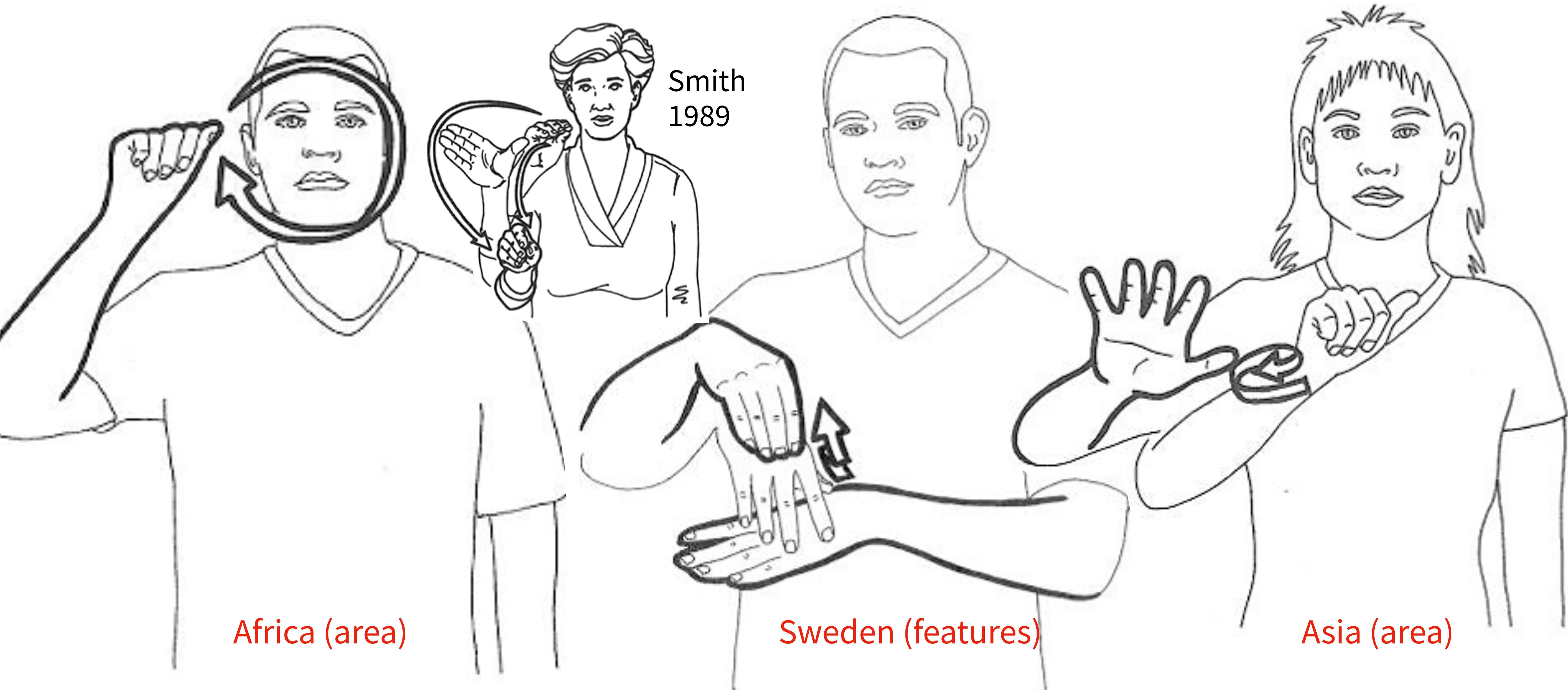
Geographical/country signs (Valli, 2006)



Brazil (shape)



Geographical/country signs (Valli, 2006)





Geographical/country signs (Valli, 2006)



Japan (shape)



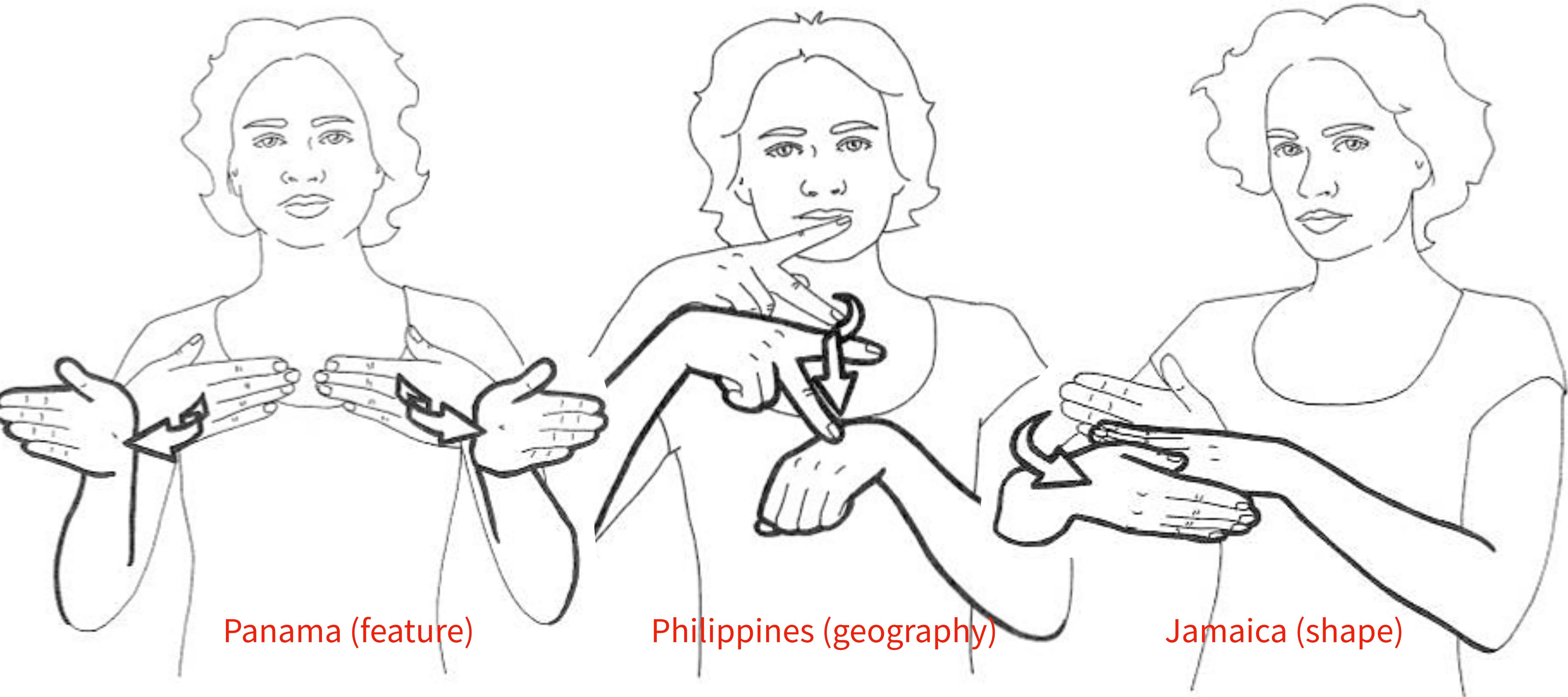
Haiti (geography)



Iran (area)



Geographical/country signs (Valli, 2006)





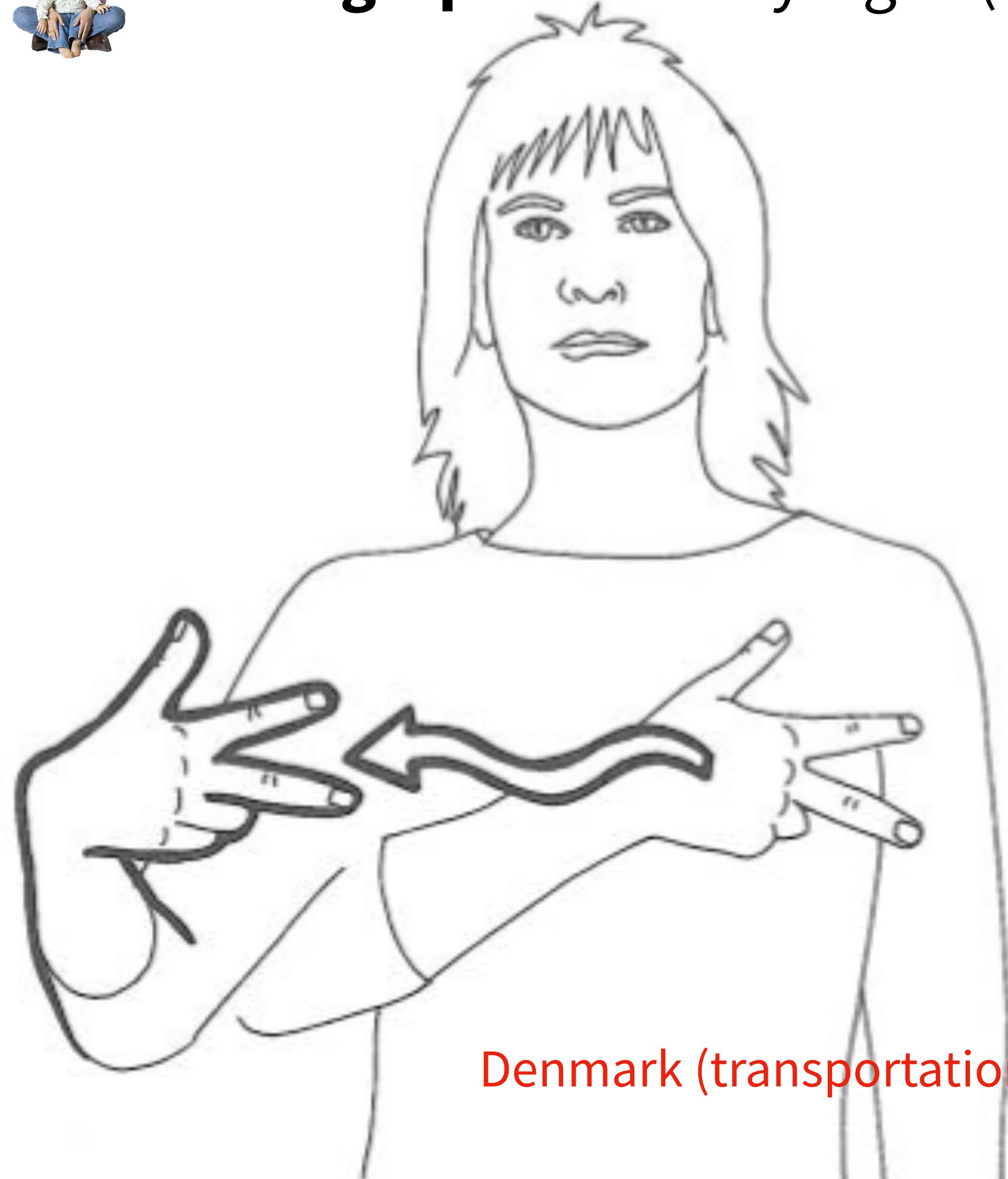
ethnographical

Sign describes cultural, personal, or customal characteristics of a nation or people

(food, history, arts/music, clothing, animals, personal features, weather, military, transportation, linguistics, behaviors, religion, combinations)



Ethnographic country signs (Valli, 2006)

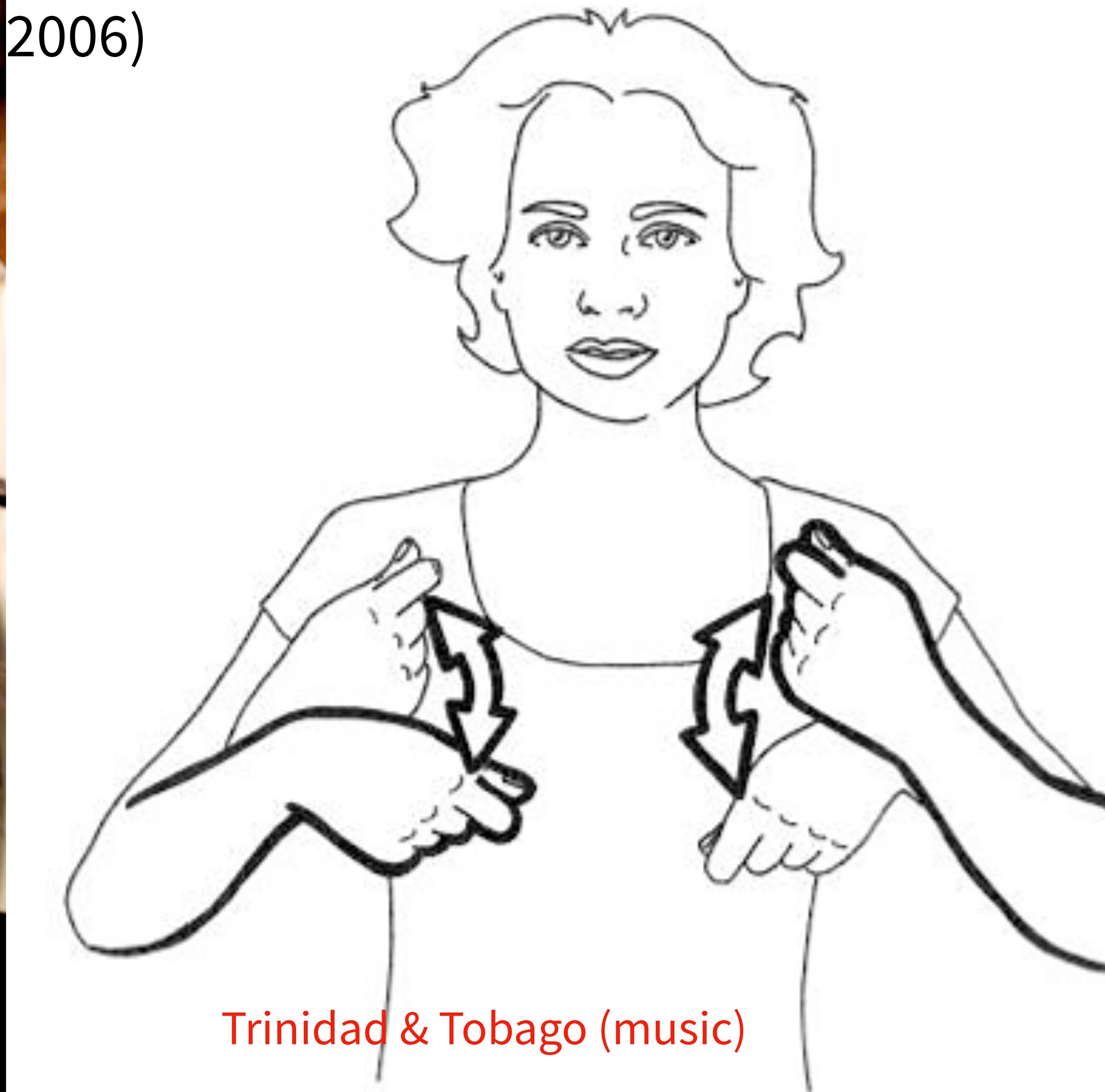


Denmark (transportation)





Ethnographic country signs (Valli, 2006)



Trinidad & Tobago (music)



Ethnographic country signs (Valli, 2006)



Korea (military)

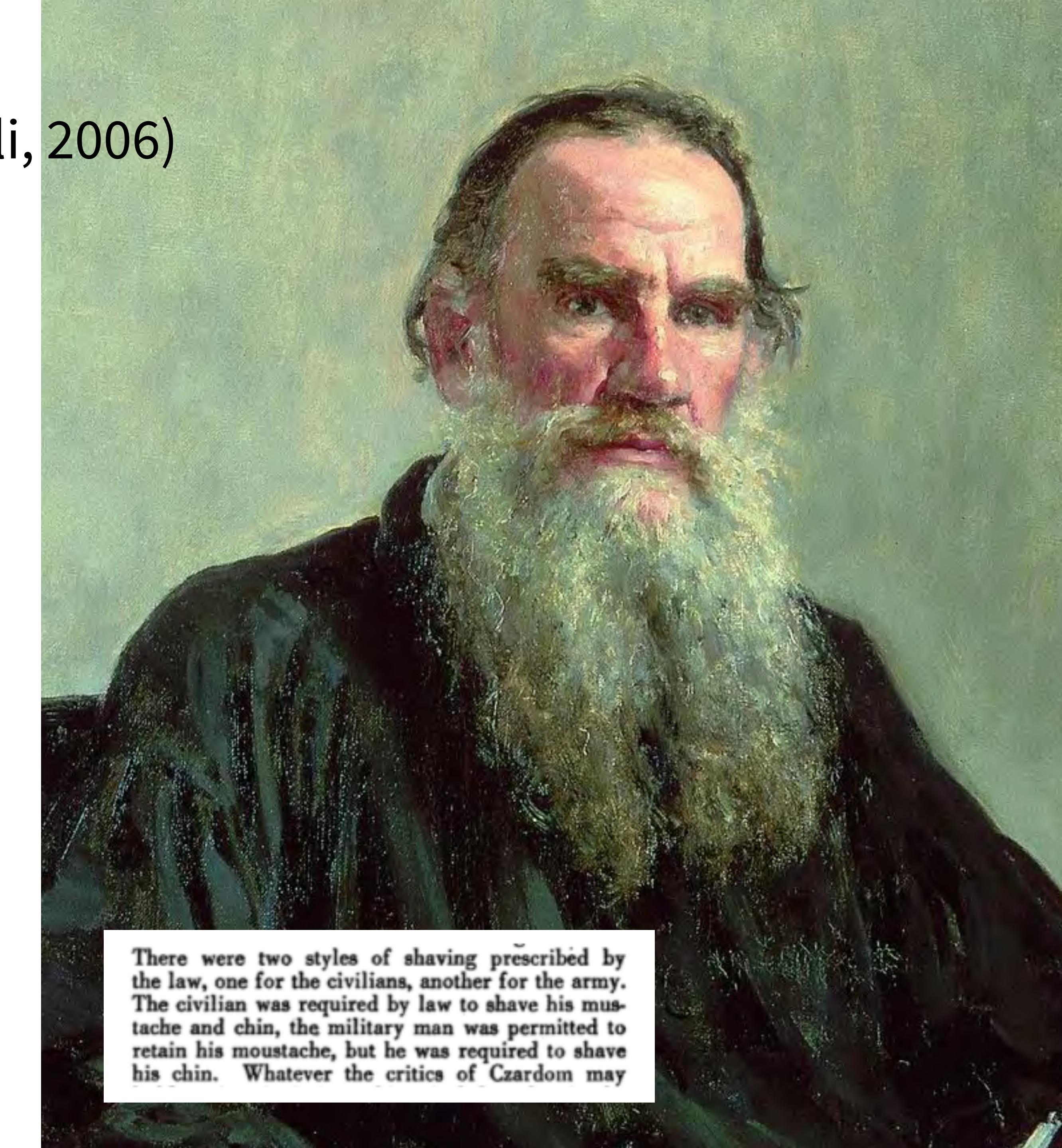




Malaysia (dance)



Ethnographic country signs (Valli, 2006)





Ethnographic country signs (Valli, 2006)



Taiwan₂ (food)



Ethnographic country signs (Valli, 2006)





Ethnographic country signs (Valli, 2006)





Ethnographic country signs (Valli, 2006)



Canada (weather)
alt. 'maple leaf'



Chile (vegetation)



Cuba (clothing)



Ethnographic country signs (Valli, 2006)





Ethnographic country signs (Valli, 2006)



England₁ (personal?)



Finland₂ (personal?)



Germany₂ (military)



Ethnographic country signs (Valli, 2006)



Greece₁
(personal/history)



Netherlands₂ (personal)



Holland₁ (clothing)



Ethnographic country signs (Valli, 2006)



Indonesia (animal life)



Northern/Ireland₁ (food)



Ireland₂ (personal/
linguistic?)



Ethnographic country signs (Valli, 2006)



India (religion/personal)



Israel₁ (personal)



Jordan (linguistic)



Ethnographic country signs (Valli, 2006)



Kenya (music)



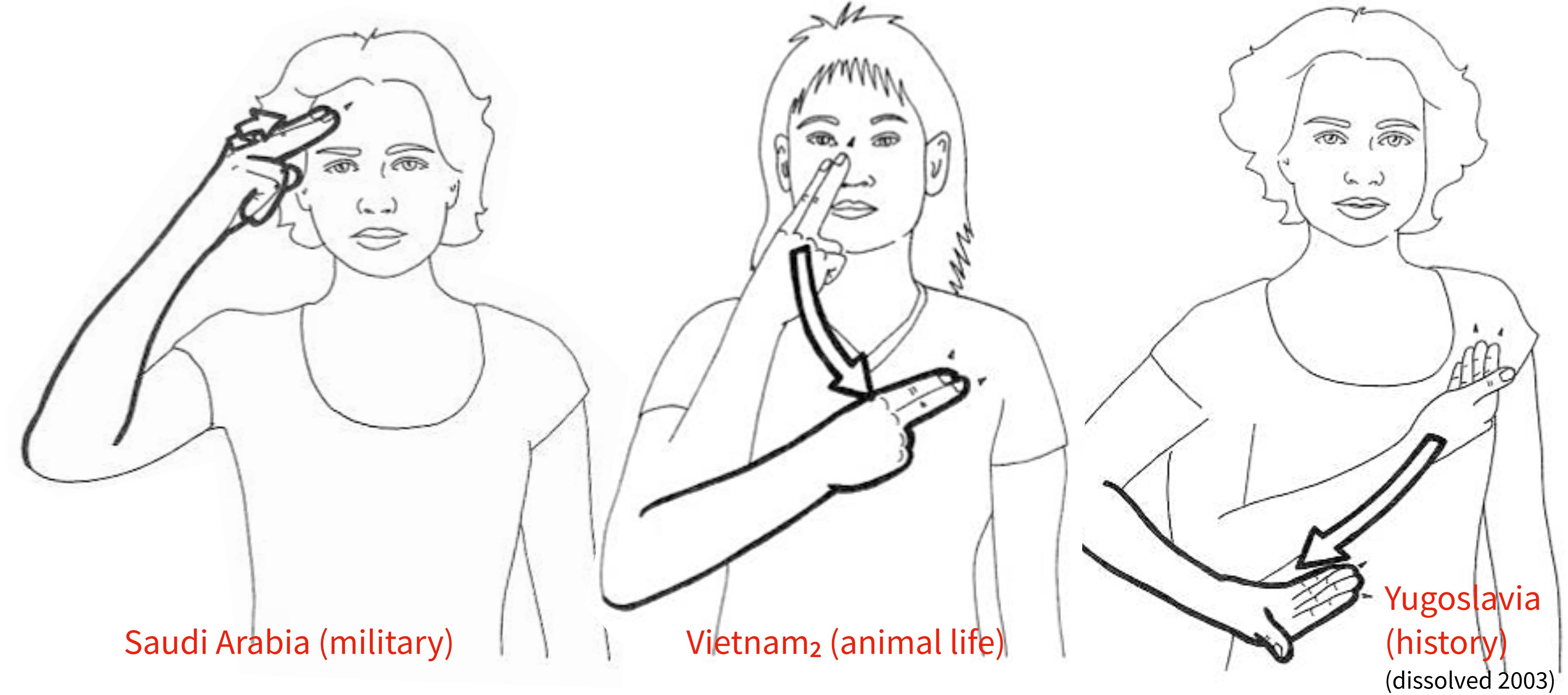
Palestine (clothing)

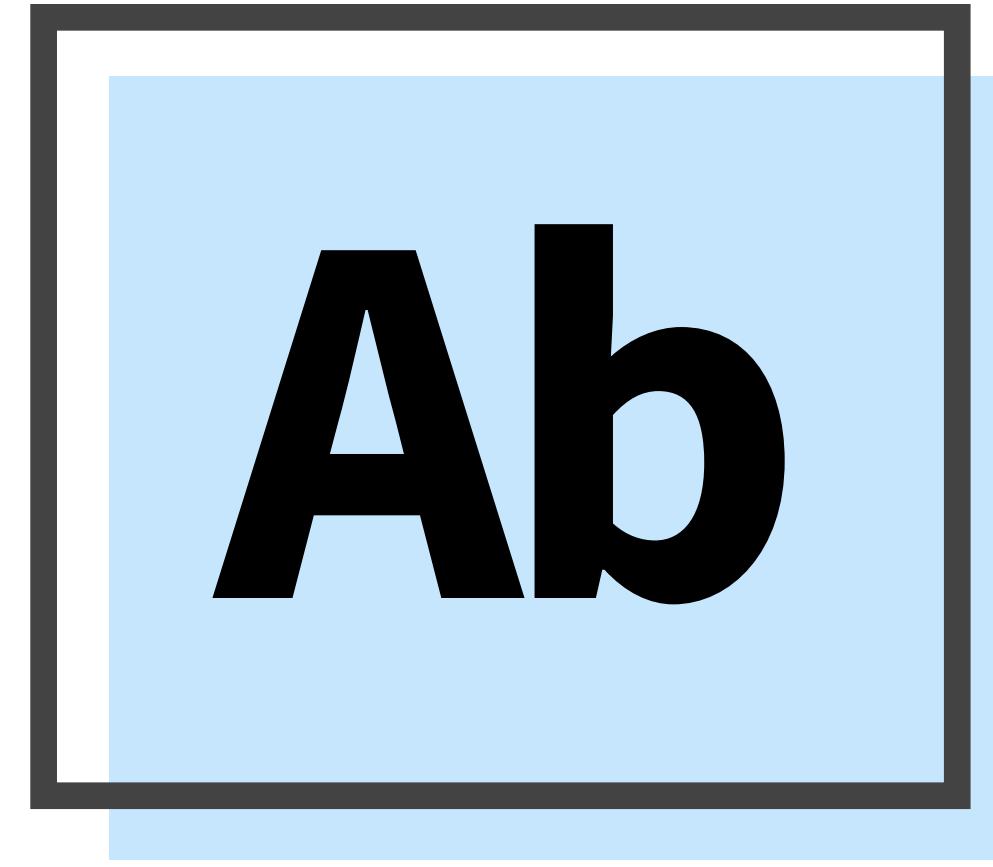


Spain₂ (clothing)



Ethnographic country signs (Valli, 2006)





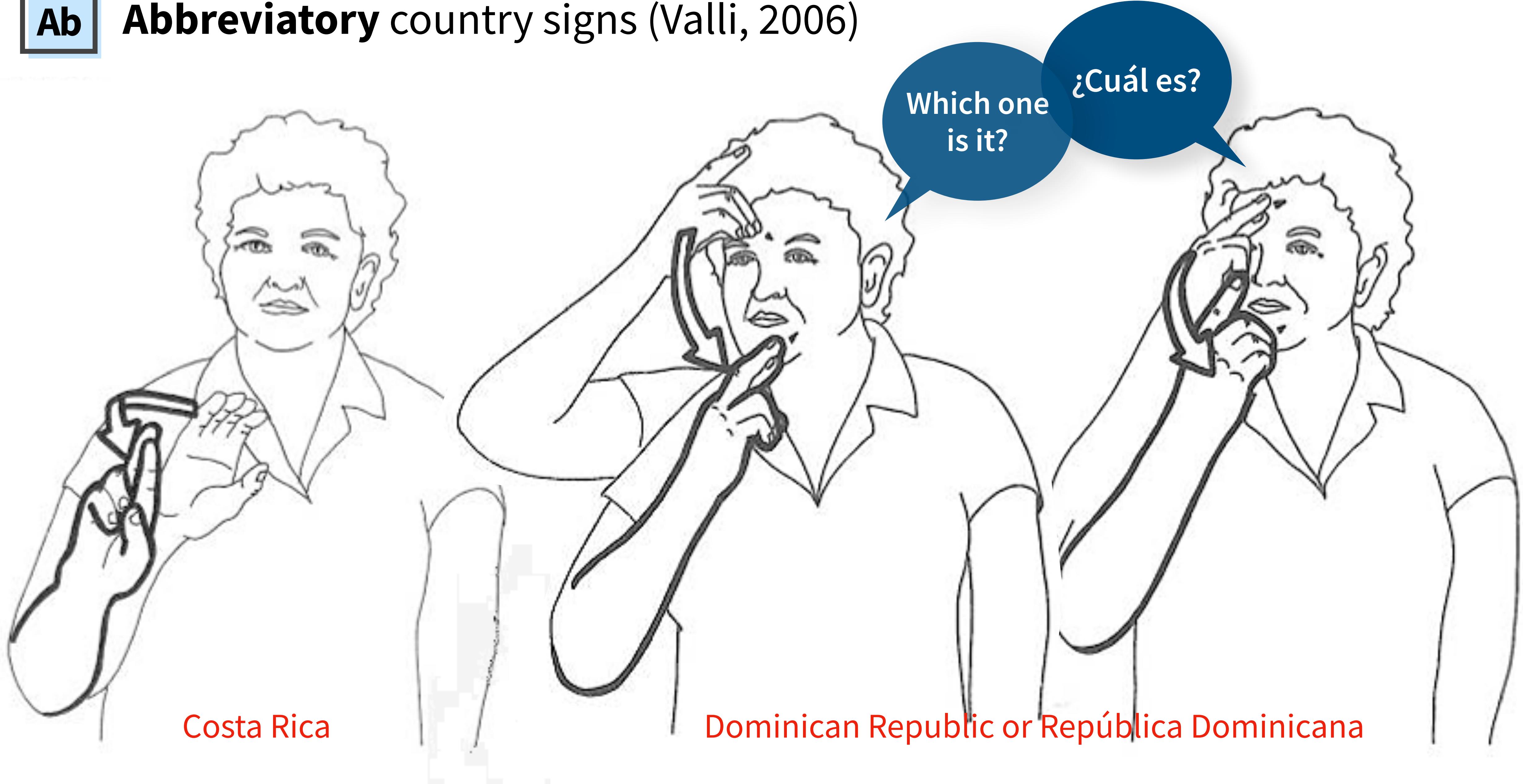
abbreviatory

Sign is pronounced by using the initials
of the nation's (English) name

(how valid/reliable is this? does it work only for the English name?)

Ab

Abbreviatory country signs (Valli, 2006)



Ab

Abbreviatory country signs (Valli, 2006)



Pakistan



Puerto Rico



United States

Ab

Abbreviatory country signs (Valli, 2006)



El Salvador



Hong Kong₁



Smith 1989

New Zealand



arbitrary/temporary

Sign is pronounced seemingly by
none of the previous characteristics

(how valid/reliable is this? created in contact/for pidgins?)

?

Arbitrary/temporary country signs (Valli, 2006)



Belize



Botswana

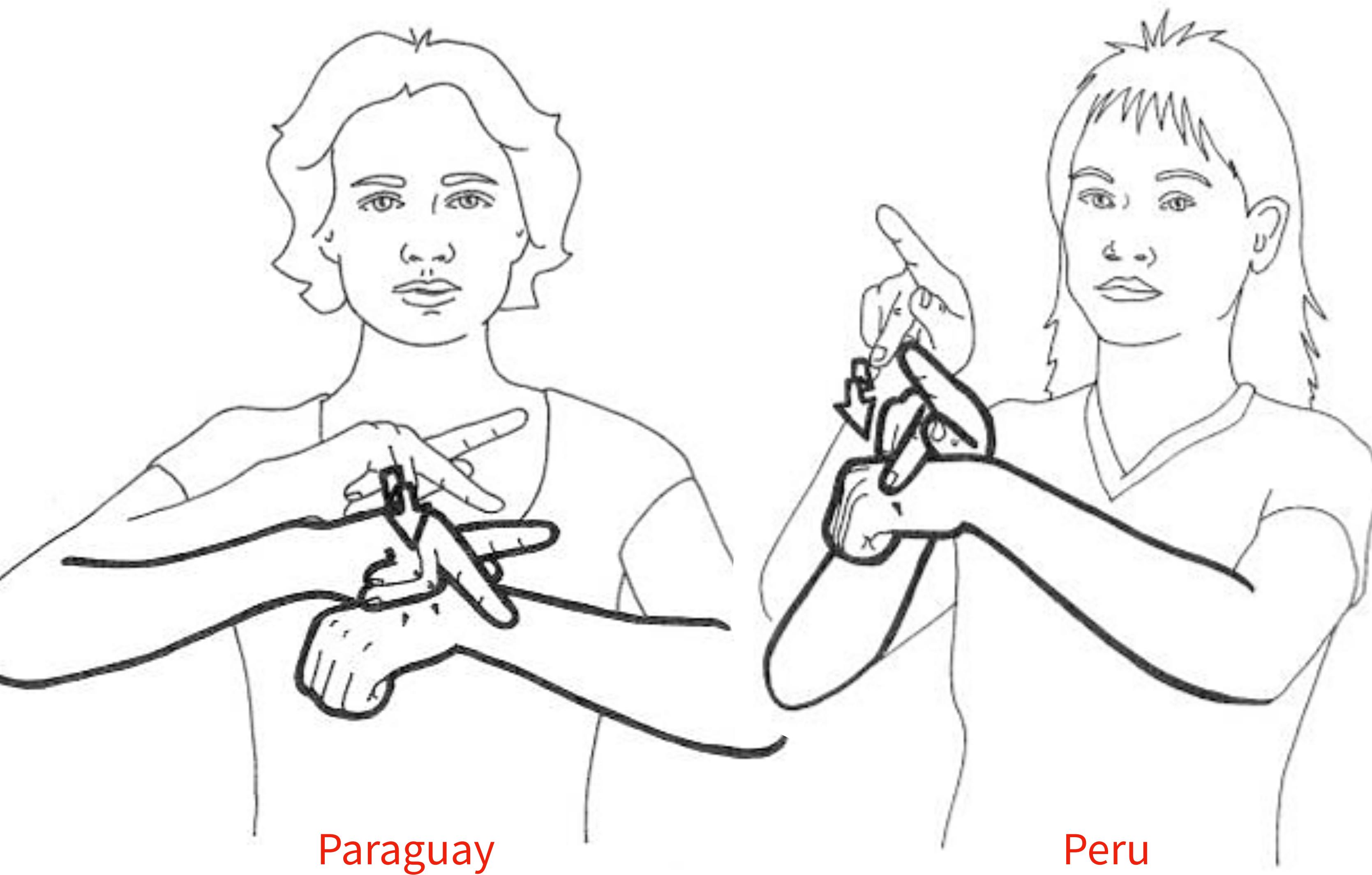
?

Arbitrary/temporary country signs (Valli, 2006)



?

Arbitrary/temporary country signs (Valli, 2006)



continuing education



facebook.com Sign Language of the Deaf World

Deaf signers rendering
indigenous country and city signs

Sign Language of the Deaf World

The Facebook page features a world map where each continent has a video thumbnail of a deaf signer. The map is overlaid with a globe and colorful hand icons. The page includes a sidebar with links to Home, About, Reviews, Photos, Videos (which is selected), Posts, Shop, and Community. A search bar at the top right allows users to search for videos. Below the map, there are several video thumbnails with titles and view counts.

Video Title	Length	Views	Date
Info: 14.4.2018 Czech Republic - Brno (Theater + Party)	3:52	3K	Yesterday
Info: 14.4.2018 Czech Republic - Brno	1:29	2.8K	February 20
Greenland 3	4:21	4.2K	February 18
Info: Cards on Sign (230 countries)	4:21	3.9K	February 18
TICKET Theater + Party 14.4.2018 Czech Republic - ...	2:20	3.9K	February 8
Greenland 1	1:33	3.7K	February 3
Greenland 2	1:50	10K	February 2
Where we are here	5:10	3.4K	February 2
Info: Theater + Party - 14.4.2018 Czech Republic - Brno	1:07	2.5K	January 21
Info 2: Volleyball + Theater + Party - 14.4.2018 Czech...	3:56	2.5K	January 20
Info: Volleyball + Theater + Party - 14.4.2018 Czech Republic - ...	5:10	10K	January 20
Volleyball mixed: Czech Republic - ...	5:20	5.2K	January 20

spreadthesign.com

Spread the Sign

Several indigenous signs for
and from multiple countries

The screenshot shows the homepage of spreadthesign.com. At the top, there's a banner with the text "SPREAD THE SIGN 10 YEARS!" and a yellow stylized 'X' logo. To the right of the banner, there's a photo of fireworks over a city at night. Below the banner is a navigation bar with links for "Home", "About us", and "Alphabet". A search bar is present with the placeholder "Type what you want to search - Word, sentence, or number". Underneath the search bar, there's a dropdown menu set to "Europe" with a "View all" button next to it. The main content area lists various locations with their corresponding flag icons:

- Åland Islands
- Albania
- alps
- Amsterdam
- Anatolia
- Andorra
- Anguilla
- Ankara
- Ascension Island
- austria
- Barcelona
- Belarus

Each location name is followed by a row of small flag icons representing different countries.

aslresource.net

ASL Resource

Several indigenous signs for
and from multiple countries

Country Signs

Country signs are organized alphabetically. Major cities are categorized under the letter of their country.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W Y Z

[Namibia »](#)

[Nauru »](#)

[Nepal »](#)

[The Netherlands »](#)

[New Caledonia »](#)

[New Zealand »](#)

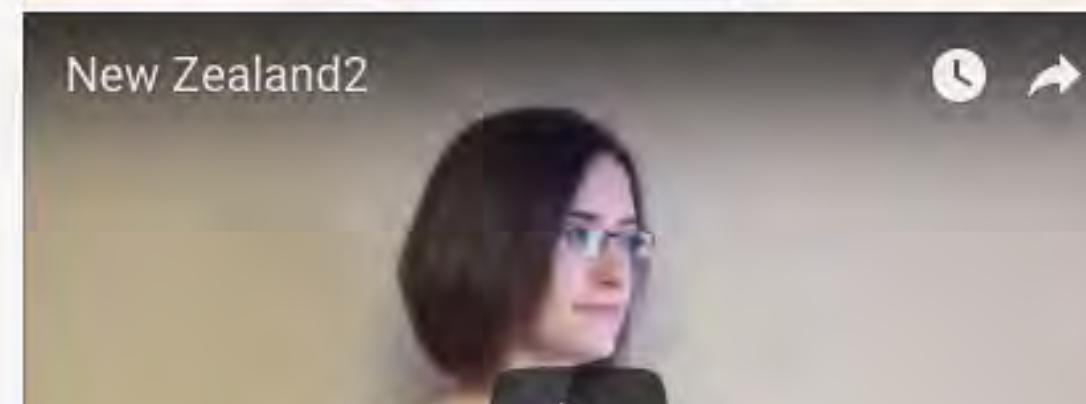


New Zealand (1) - Begin with "N" touching center of palm, then down, curves, bends, and comes back up into the center of left (This is essentially spelling N-Z in the two-handed BSL/Auslan n-

- ArabicSignLanguage. (2010, November 6). Arabic Sign Language [YouTube].

- Auslan Signbank. (n.d.). Auslan Signbank Dictionary. Retrieved from [Auslan Signbank](#).
- Hedberg, Tomas & Japan Institute for Sign Language Studies. (Country Name-Signs) [PDF] . (Yutaka Osugi, Ed.). Japan: World Deaf.

- Jordaan, Braam. (Director). (2011). Sipho the Lion [DVD]. South Africa: Sipho the Lion.
- Umberger, Larry (Deaf). Baylor University, Waco, Texas.
- Walker, Steven (Gallaudet Deaf Interpreter). (n.d.). American Countries and Geographical Areas. Retrieved from [Needs Outcomes](#).



New Zealand (2) - (Japanese sign) Make a fist with the right hand, thumb and index finger as if getting ready to pinch something, fingers in front of the nose with the palm pointing left and make a

intrpr.info/arabicsl

Arabic SL

Signs for Middle Eastern, North African, and Arabic countries

Arabic Sign Language (لغة إشارة)

Please note: this site requires additional communication with YouTube; extra loading time may be required.

Shown below are Arabian SL-based signs for various Middle Eastern, Northern African, and predominantly Arabic countries; at the bottom are additional signs for non-Middle Eastern/African but predominantly Muslim countries. It has been discussed that SL of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Iraq, and possibly Saudi Arabia have a great deal of overlap and cognate similarity; that stated, as there is no universal signed language, these signs may or may not represent universal usage throughout these geographic areas. This project/site has been created to 1) study overlap between Arabic SL and other Western (e.g., ASL, CASL, BANZSL) country/geographical sign representations and 2) to increase interpreter fluency (but not necessarily usage) with these lexical items.

Update: Dan Parvaz points out that these signs "look by and large like their indigenous country signs." However, he also corrects that this Arabic SL lexicon is the product of non-Deaf peoples attempting to homogenize the SLs of this area of the world; there are several variations on these signs that continue to be used by the indigenous Deaf peoples of these countries. Additionally, Dan explains that neighboring countries tend to share more commonalities in geographic signs, "say Jordan and Syria, have far more in common than distant ones, say Jordan and Tunisia."

Libya ليبيا	Iran إيران	Morocco المغرب
Arabic Sign Lan... لغة إشارة	Arabic Sign Lan... لغة إشارة	Arabic Sign Lan... لغة إشارة
Yemen اليمن	Saudi Arabia السعودية	United Arab Emirates الإمارات العربية المتحدة
Arabic Sign Lan... لغة إشارة	Arabic Sign Lan... لغة إشارة	Arabic Sign Lan... لغة إشارة



spreadthes

spreadthesign.com

International signs

Deaf signers rendering
indigenous country signs in
various SL

Home About us Alphabet

Type what you want to search - Word, sentence, or number

United States

Groups View all

united states

united states

sv förenta staterna

» Vanlig
» Inte så vanlig

1

YouTube Countries Sign Language

(DeafEyes777) n.d. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXxcsiB6mpY>



Countries Sign Language



DeafEyes777

Subscribe 123

5,436

+ Add to Share ... More

55 2

Share Embed Email



<https://youtu.be/UXxcsiB6mpY>

Start at: 1:57

YouTube

What is an appropriate sign for China?

(John Warren) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqMfcDMtDj0>



What is an appropriate sign for CHINA?



John Warren

Subscribe 448

6,732

+ Add to Share More

43 2

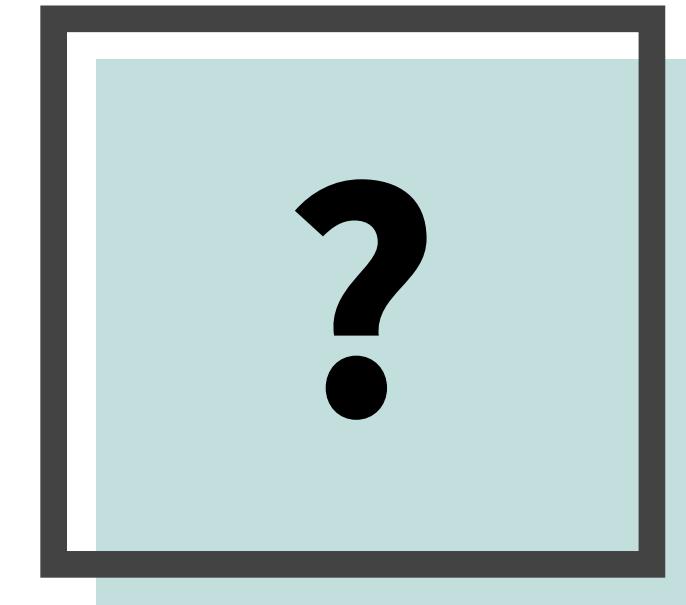
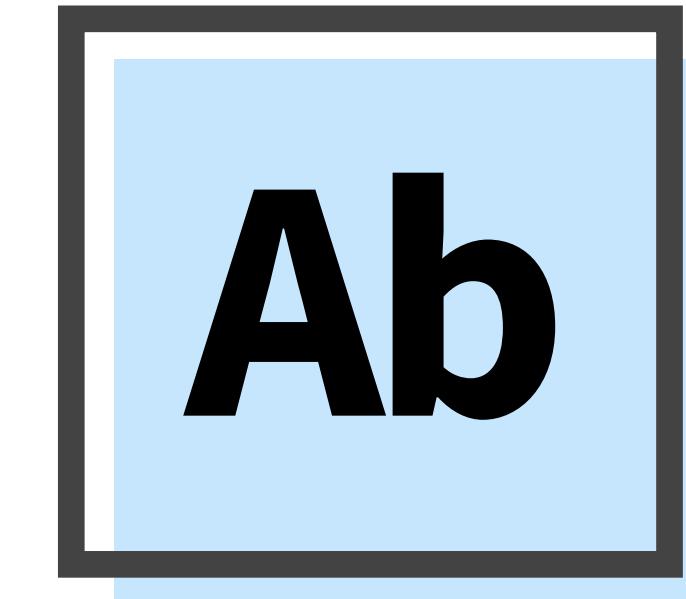
Published on Oct 4, 2012

To clarify the misunderstanding about which sign should be used for CHINA. Interesting information from two Deaf instructors and researcher from Hong Kong I have interviewed.

SHOW MORE

ALL COMMENTS (20)

Framework for geographic/country signs



vexillological

Sign describes a physical, symbolic, or conceptual characteristic of a nation's flag

geographical

Sign describes a physical, topographic, or geographical characteristic of a nation

ethnographical

Sign describes cultural, personal, or customal characteristics of a nation or people

abbreviatory

Sign is pronounced by using the initials of the nation's (English) name; reliable? valid?

arbitrary/ temporary

Current sign has anomalous pronunciation; reliable? valid? contact/pidgin?



Thank you.

intrpr.info

dstringham@gmail.com

@stringd