

## **Psycholinguistic Methods for Assessing Word Processing in the Deaf Population**

Reading is a fundamental skill in modern society and a widely researched topic in psycholinguistics. Word recognition forms the foundation of reading, with numerous studies using lexical decision tasks and eye-tracking techniques to compare how deaf and hearing readers process written words. In this session, we will explore the application of these psycholinguistic methods to study word recognition and reading in deaf adult readers. Additionally, we will discuss key findings from this research, offering insights into the unique cognitive and linguistic processes involved in reading among the deaf population.

### **References**

- Bélanger, N. N., & Rayner, K. (2015). What Eye Movements Reveal About Deaf Readers. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 24(3), 220-226. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0963721414567527>
- Rowley, K. (2018). Visual Word Recognition in Deaf Readers: the interplay between orthographic, semantic and phonological information. (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). <https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10048381/1/Visual%20Word%20Recognition%20in%20Deaf%20Readers%20FINAL.pdf>

## **Using Sign Language Corpora to Examine Language Attitudes**

Language attitudes shape how we use and perceive language, influencing linguistic behavior and change. In this session, we will discuss our use of thematic analysis to examine language attitudes within the British Deaf community. Drawing on data from sign language corpora, we identified key themes related to regional and age variation, language change, and the influence of English on BSL.

## References

- Rowley, K., & Cormier, K. (2024) "Shorter but richer versus longer with less information: linguistic differentiation between British Sign Language and sign supported English"; *Multilingua*, vol. 43, no. 6, 2024, pp. 723-750. <https://doi.org/10.1515/multi-2023-0177>
- Rowley, K., & Cormier, K. (2023) Attitudes towards age variation and language change in the British deaf community, *Language & Communication*, 92, 15-32. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.langcom.2023.06.001>
- Rowley, K., & Cormier, K. (2021). Accent or not? Language attitudes towards regional variation in British Sign Language. *Applied Linguistics Review*, 14(4), 919-943. <https://doi.org/10.1515/applirev-2020-0144>