Commentary

Importance of Sign Language in Communication and its Down Barriers

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DESCRIPTION

Sign language is a unique and powerful means of communication that uses a combination of hand gestures, facial expressions, and body language to convey meaning. Unlike spoken languages that rely on auditory cues, sign language is visual and can be used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing to communicate effectively with others. The history of sign language dates back centuries, with evidence of early forms of sign language being used as early as ancient Greece and Rome. However, it wasn't until the 18th century that sign language began to be recognized as a legitimate language with its own grammatical structure and vocabulary. Abbreviation American Sign Language (ASL) is a complex language with its own syntax, grammar, and vocabulary that is distinct from English and other spoken languages.

Sign language has many advantages over spoken language, particularly for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. For one, it allows them to communicate with others more easily and effectively, without the need for assistive devices like hearing aids or cochlear implants. It also allows them to participate more fully in social interactions, including conversations, group activities, and even performances and presentations.

Moreover, sign language can be used in situations where spoken language is not practical or possible, such as in noisy or crowded environments, underwater, or in situations where silence is required. Sign language is also more visual than spoken language, which makes it easier for people to remember and understand. While sign language has many benefits, it also has its challenges. For one, there are many different sign languages, each with its own vocabulary, syntax, and grammar. This can make it difficult for people who are fluent in one sign language to communicate with people who use a different sign language.

Another challenge is that sign language can be difficult to learn for people who are used to using spoken language. This is because sign language requires not only the ability to make specific hand gestures, but also to use facial expressions and body language to convey meaning. Moreover, the grammatical structure of sign language can be quite different from that of spoken languages, which can take some getting used to. Despite these challenges, sign language is an important and valuable means of communication for many people. It has its own rich history and culture, with its own literature, poetry, and art forms. Moreover, sign language is an important tool for promoting inclusivity and accessibility, particularly for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

There are many resources available for people who want to learn sign language, including classes, books, videos, and online courses. Many schools and universities now offer sign language courses as part of their curriculum, and there are also many community organizations that offer sign language classes and events. For people who are deaf or hard of hearing, sign language can be a lifeline that connects them to the world around them. It allows them to communicate with others, express themselves, and participate more fully in social interactions.

For people who are not deaf or hard of hearing, learning sign language can be a way to broaden their understanding of the world and become more inclusive and empathetic towards others. Sign language is a unique and powerful means of communication that has many advantages over spoken language. It is an important tool for promoting inclusivity and accessibility, particularly for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. While it has its challenges, there are many resources available for people who want to learn sign language, and it can be a valuable skill for anyone to have.

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