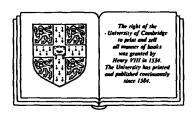
## Sign Languages of Aboriginal Australia

Cultural, Semiotic and Communicative Perspectives

ADAM KENDON



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE

NEW YORK NEW ROCHELLE MELBOURNE SYDNEY

## Contents

	t of illustr	rations	x
•	face		xi
)rt	hographi	c conventions and descriptive terms	xvi
1	Introduction		1
	1.0	Scope	1
	1.1	Primary and alternate sign languages	2
	1.2	The medium of sign language and linguistic structure	6
	1.3	Some terminological considerations	8
	1.4	Plan of the book	10
2	Aboriginal sign languages observed: a history		13
	2.0	Aboriginal sign language as a focus of study	13
	2.1	A history of observation of Aboriginal sign languages	17
	Note	es	29
3	Aborigi	inal sign languages observed: geographical reviev	V
	_	Introduction	30
	3.1	Geographical distribution of sign languages	33
	3.2	Tasmania, the South Coast, Southern East Coast and	
		Southern Riverina	33
	3.3	Northern East Coast, North East Coast and Rainforest	40
	3.4	Cape York Peninsula	44
	3.5	South Australian Gulf	47
	3.6	Lake Eyre	47
	3.7	Gulf	50
	3.8	North-East Arnhem Land and Wagait	52
	3.9	Western Desert	53
	3.10	North Central Desert	55
	3.11	Fitzmaurice and Kimberley	58
	3.12	Indian Ocean and Southwest Coast	59
		Sign language distribution and speech taboos	60
	3.14	Sign language and 'special language'	65
	Note	es	67

	<b>~</b>
V1	Contents

4 Nort	th C	Central Desert background	69
	1.0	•	69
4	4.1	Traditional culture	71
4	1.2	The contemporary situation	77
		History of European contact	78
		Interrelations between groups	82
		Linguistic relationships	83
		Ritual contexts of sign language use	85
4		Other contexts of sign language use	90
	4.8		93
]	Note		96
5 Sign	str	ructure	97
_	5.0	Introduction	97
4	5.1	Some principles for analysis	100
		Features of the notation system	103
:	5.3	Sign structure analysis: the sample	111
:	5.4	Body part involvement in sign production	112
:	5.5	Sign Actor organization	116
;	5.6	Sign Location	135
:	5.7	Sign Action	143
:	5.8	Conclusions	154
1	Note	es	158
6 Sign	ı fo	rm and sign meaning	160
(	6.0	Introduction	160
(	6.1	The form-meaning relationship: base and referent	164
	6.2	Techniques of base representation	166
1	6.3	Base selection	181
1	6.4	From representational gesture to sign	185
	6.5	Summary and conclusions	190
	Note	es	191
7 Sign	n or	ganization and word structure	193
_	7.0	Introduction	193
	7.1	Sign representation of phonetic characteristics	194
	7.2	Sign organization, Sign Action and word structure	198
	7.3	Reduplication	201
	7.4	Compounds	206
	7.5	Suffixed forms	209
	7.6	Signed verbs and verb morphology	212

Со	ntents		vii
	7.7	Sign expressions for non-traditional concepts	218
	7.8	Summary	222
	Note	S	224
8	Signing	spoken language grammar	226
	8.0	Introduction	226
	8.1	Nominal affixes	226
	8.2	Time	239
	8.3	Space	240
	8.4	Personal pronouns	244
	8.5	Summary and conclusions	250
	Note	S	253
	Appe	endix: Tables for chapter 8	254
9	Discour	se in sign and speech	262
	9.0	Introduction	262
	9.1	The narratives and their analysis	262
	9.2	Segmentation	263
	9.3	Comparisons between signed and spoken discourse	272
		R-units and P-units compared	273
	9.5	Sign order and word order compared	289
	9.6	Extra-manual components in signed discourse	291
	9.7	Conclusions	295
	Note	es	296
10	Signing	g and speaking simultaneously	298
	-	Introduction	298
	10.1	Circumstances of signing and speaking simultaneously	299
		The material for analysis	301
		Units of analysis	302
		Sizes of the samples analyzed	304
	10.5	An example	304
		Spoken meaning in the manual channel	309
		Unspoken meanings in co-speech signing	314
		Unspoken meanings: sign inflections	320
		Unspoken meanings: pointing	322
		0 Expressive gesture	324
		1 Conclusions	325
	Note	es	328

•••	<b>O</b> 44-
VIII	Contents

11	Signs o	f kinship	330
	11.0	Introduction	330
	11.1	Australian kinship terminology: some general principles	331
	11.2	Kin signs in the North Central Desert	333
	11.3	Signs and special features of kin terms	342
	11.4	Kin signs from elsewhere in Australia	344
	11.5	Body parts and kinship	350
	11.6	Signs for kin groupings	355
	11.7	Conclusion .	361
	Notes	<b>S</b>	365
12	-	ing Aboriginal sign languages	367
		Introduction	367
	12.1	Sign and spoken language differences within	
		the North Central Desert	368
		Comparison with other findings	381
		Sign and word diffusion compared	384
	12.5	North Central Desert signs and signs from elsewhere:	
		Aranda, Western Desert and Queensland	388
		Comparisons with northern Australia and Cape York	394
	12.7	Conclusions	397
	12.8	Summary	399
	Note	S	400
13	Australi	an Aboriginal sign languages and other semiotic	
	system	S	402
		Introduction	402
	13.1	Primary sign languages and spoken language influenced	
		sign systems	403
	13.2	Comparisons with other alternate sign languages	407
	13.3	Sign language among the Plains Indians of North America	410
	13.4	Monastic sign languages	423
	13.5	Sign language comparisons: conclusions	428
	13.6	North Central Desert sign languages as language codes	429
	13.7	North Central Desert sign languages and language codes:	
		conclusions	436
	13.8	General conclusion	437
	Note	s	439

Contents			
14 Aboriginal interaction and Aboriginal sign language	442		
14.0 Introduction	442		
14.1 Aboriginal sociality	444		
14.2 The Dreaming, sociality and speech taboos	447		
14.3 Some characteristics of Aboriginal interaction	451		
14.4 The fitness of sign	456		
Notes			
Appendix I Sign notation symbols	462		
Appendix II Two versions of a Warlpiri story References Index of signs			
		General index	

.

.

.