



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



VOCATIONAL SIGN LANGUAGE ON TOURISM
TURİZMDE MESLEKİ İŞARET DİLİ

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Introduction

Welcome to the Vocational Sign Language Tourism Project. European Erasmus+KA2 Vocational Education and training” framework within Strategic Partnership and Cooperation project.

Turkish National Agency has been funded this project. This project’s main objective prepare distance learning system help tourism employees learn the sign languages of different countries. The Project has been designed under the title of “KA202 – Cooperation for innovation & exchange of good practices.

This project, initially, computer engineering studies were carried out system created called LMS (Learning Management System). All training content and assessment and evaluation tools to be designed and prepared will be uploaded to the LMS.

Within the scope of our project, sign languages handled - German, Portuguese, English & Turkish.

We will design and produce both A1 & A2 level sign language teaching curriculums, tourism-oriented sign language teaching curriculum, teaching contents for these syllabus which will be measurement & evaluation tools for each partner sign languages. Upon completion of the project, we will also have presented a tourism terminology sign language dictionary containing the terms that tourism sector most commonly & frequently used.

This is a two year project and the coordinator institution is the Izmir Chamber of Tourist Guides, Turkey. Other partners - Blue Window Special Education Association and IMPARK from Turkey, Doncaster Deaf Trust from England, RWB Essen from Germany, NCA from Portugal.

For further and detailed information about our project, please visit our website
www.vslontourism.com

Common Misconceptions About Sign Language

1. Sign languages are the same all over the world.

This is wrong! Each country has a sign language with its own vocabulary and grammar unique. The deaf people from different countries to understand one other's sign languages. It is not so easy.

In a specific country if a hearing person learns sign language, they cannot easily understand the sign language in another country & they must learn the other sign language of that country as well. Within a country, from region to region, sign language can vary (Dikyuva & Zeshan 2008).

2. Sign language is not a complete and fully operational language. It's just a combination of pantomime or gestures, and it has no idiosyncratic grammar.

This is also wrong! Sign languages are complete languages. Anything expressed in the spoken language can also be expressed in sign language. You can talk about abstract thoughts, the past, what might happen when you do something, and you can even come up with words for new things you want to talk about. It is true that Sign Language partners does not have a word for everything, but this is true for every language, voice or sign as well. No language has a word for everything that can be thought. What matters is that a language can generate or improve new words for things when necessary. Sign languages can do this just as spoken languages can. In addition, just as there are no words for some British expressions in BSL, some BSL signs do not have words in English either.

In both cases, the meaning of the word is expressed in a sentence, or people create a new word.

Apart from that, that BSL have no set of grammar rules, it is not true. All sign languages have detailed and difficult grammar and one of the objectives of this course is that you learn BSL. Hand gestures, head movement, and facial expressions used by the hearing people are also used in Sign Language. However they are used in a very different way and are only a very small part of a sign language. Sign language is much more than a combination of mime and gestures. There are many publications explaining the grammatical structure of BSL. Remember that sign language grammar should be learned in the same way as the grammar of another language is learned.

3. Sign language depends upon the spoken language. It is the demonstration of the spoken language by the hands.

This is also wrong! Every country sign language has its own unique structure. This structure is quite different from the structure of the vocal language spoken in the same country. Sign Language is in no way dependent upon the spoken language and is not the display of the spoken language by hands. Many BSL structures that you will learn in this course are different from English spoken language and during the course we will explain what these differences are. When you pay special attention to these differences, you will also find out some of the reasons why deaf people in Britain have difficulty learning English, because BSL use for communication is structurally quite different from English.

4. Sign language is just the language of the hands.

This is wrong! That hands are important in any of the sign languages, it is true. But there are other things much more important than just hands in signing. You also make sense with your face and your whole body, and these are also important elements in sign language. If you cannot learn to use your eyes, face, head, and body, you will not be able to sign and express yourself properly. This is very important not only for the meaning but also for the grammar. For example, if you are signing a negative sentence, you will need to lift your head back most of the time. If you are signing a question, sometimes you have to nod and frown. If your face always stays the same, your sentences are not complete.

5. Sign language was invented by other people so as to help the deaf people.

This is also wrong! Wherever Deaf people meet Sign languages naturally developed. No one has invented it for the deaf people, but Deaf people have created sign languages themselves. Many countries after schools and federations for the deaf were established, Deaf people began to meet regularly. After that, sign languages started to develop spontaneously, because Deaf people were communicating with each other. We don't know much about the early history of sign language because sign language was not written or recorded in a way. ***This is just like vocal languages without a writing system. Some sign languages have a history of hundreds or even thousands of years. Turkey, 500 years ago the Ottoman palaces, deaf and hearing people used sign language. These were written down by people who travelled to Turkey during those times. But sign language may have a much longer history than that, we just do not know the whole history. What we do know is that Deaf people created their own language, not others***

A1 LEVEL

Unit 1: Meeting People/Basic and Common Phrases

1.1. Vocabulary / Meeting people

	TURKISH	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	PORTUGUESE
1		Good morning how are you?		
2		You hearing?		
3		Me hearing		
4		You deaf?		
5		Me deaf		
6		All my family deaf		
7		You sign		
8		Yes Brisith Sign Language (BSL)		
9		Name me Ann		
10		Local tour guide today		
11		I know a little sign language		

12		Please sign slowly		
13		Hello name you what		
14		You tourist from where		
15		From London England		
16		Flight arrived when		
17		Arrived yesterday		
18		With who		
19		Are with family and friends		
20		Here for work or holiday?		
21		Are you here to go sight seeing		
22		Turkey a lovely place		
23		Have a lovely holiday		
24		Lots of activities		
25		Sorry I do not understand		
26		Again please		
27		Thank you		
28		Good afternoon you ok		
29		Have a nice evening		
30		Enjoyed meeting you all today		
31		See you tomorrow		
32		Seen new places?		
33		Good places to eat here		
34		Depart the hotel 0930		
35		Enjoy the bus tour		
36		Have a nice day		
37		How can I help you		
38		Any questions you need to know		
39		The city is beautiful		
40		What attractions would you like to see		
41		Have a nice weekend		
37		Stay safe		

1.2. Grammar /Basic Phrases

English Grammar and grammar of the British Sign Language are different. It is important to explain and understand these differences in order to learn BSL. BSL Grammar rules British Sign Language is independent of the spoken English language and follows its own path of development. It also has its own grammatical structure and syntax.

BSL actually uses a grammatical structure commonly described as a **Topic Comment Structure**. English is normally subject-verb-object. This means that the topic is stated first and then a comment about that topic is stated and explained afterwards.

In BSL it's **topic-comment**. The easiest way to see how this works is by translating a sentence to BSL

English

BSL

What is your name ?

Name what ?

Why are you learning BSL

Learn BSL why?

1.3. Hand Alphabet

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

Activity 1

1.4. Deaf Culture / Sign Names

In deaf culture; deaf individuals are given any of the proper names in the country that they live in when they are born. These individuals use this name in their official transactions. This is not just in our country, but in the whole world. Every deaf individual has also a sign name, which consists of a certain sign. When hearing individuals start to spend time in the deaf community, they are called signs according to their personal or physical characteristics.

1.5. Deaf Culture / Pointing out by hand

Showing or pointing something/somebody out by hand is quite common in the deaf culture. Although it is perceived as a rude gesture for hearing individuals to show someone with their hands during a conversation, deaf individuals frequently resort to this method in the use of pronouns. Therefore, there is a grammatical function for a deaf individual to point at someone by hand. Among hearing individuals, showing hands in public is perceived as a rude behavior. On the other hand, it is important in terms of grammatical function of deaf individuals to show something or somebody by hand. It should not be taken as a rude behavior for hearing individuals. This is the culture of deaf individuals.

1.6. General Travel Vocabulary Meeting people

	TURKISH	ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	PORTUGUESE
1		Travel where?		
2		Where fly from ?		
3		Which airport		
4		Do you like the hotel		
5		Why don't you like the beach		
6		Is this information useful		
7		Are you happy with the children,s club		
8		Why are you sad?		
9		What time is lunch		
10		Late check in ?		
11		Choose which activities		
12		Same day two different activites		
13		Different places to visit		
14		Which do you prefer ?		
15		Meet me outside hotel		
16		Happy to agree to meet at 1pm		
17		Anyone need toilet?		
18		Yes come with us		
19		No not today		
20		Maybe tomorrow		
21		There is a gift shop		
22		Cheap to catch bus back		

23		Expensive trips		
24		I find ou how much		
25		History is true		
26		Information is false		
27		Different culture here		
28		Free bottles of water		
29		Toilets downstairs		
30		About five minutes away		
31		Train station close to our hotel		
32		Castle is far away		
33		Need to exchange money		
34		Pay with cash or card		
35		Turn mobile off		
36		Diving not allowed		
37		Learn about culture		
38		What do you want?		
39		Problem what		

Activity 2

Activity 3