

## **Documenting and analysing phonology and variation in HSL**

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### **Abstract**

Sign languages are marginalised in linguistic research and threatened globally due to historical oppression, negative attitudes towards deafness, and lack of research. Sign languages in Hawai'i are no exception; under threat and under-documented, their communities are currently underserved. There is only one remaining user of what is presently referred to as Hawai'i Sign Language (HSL) and less than forty users of Creole Hawai'i Sign Language (CHSL) worldwide, all of whom are elderly and language transmission is disrupted. Therefore, as a believed isolate and already under strong influence from ASL, research on HSL is necessary, extraordinarily topical and time-sensitive.

My current research aims to assist in efforts to continue HSL's documentation by exploring phonological variation across deaf signers. By preserving knowledge, my research will lend insight into language use within the community and enhance our understanding of linguistic theories across language modalities.

### **Biodata**

Lisa Petersen is a PhD student at Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia, under the supervision of Professor Cliff Goddard, Dr Samantha Rarrick, and Dr Samantha Siyambalapitiya. Lisa's research interests lie in documenting and describing endangered sign languages of minority communities. With a background in various areas of education, Lisa saw the importance of providing equitable access and opportunities for all. Lisa became drawn to the linguistic field after many years of teaching languages to students of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Taking a collaborative approach to linguistic research, Lisa aims to assist communities in documenting and reclaiming their languages. Lisa's current PhD focuses on describing phonology and variation in HSL, a critically endangered sign language in Hawai'i.