

## Express It with Signs – On the Sign Language Poetry

Sign languages are full-fledged natural languages with their own grammar and lexicon that use the visual-manual modality to convey meaning. They are created by d/Deaf communities and used in such communities all around the world. The natural sign language of culturally Deaf people fulfils not only the basic function of language – the communicative function; it is also an excellent tool of expression, used by the Deaf in the act of creating poetry in sign language.

The presentation illuminates upon different kinds of sign language poetry with particular focus on numerical poetry, a subgenre of sign language poetry, in which the signs represent both the number and lexical items. Through double meaning, one can create a poem that will simultaneously represent the next numbers, from one to ten, along with the story being told. An example of numerical poetry in the Polish sign language is going to be shown during the presentation and analysed with focus on the most significant elements.

### References

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