

SignWriting Discussion Group in Saudi Arabia December 29, 2008

Under the patronage of his Excellency Prof Sa'ad Al Shehry the dean of Community College in A Riyadh, a discussion circle was conducted on SignWriting on Monday 29th of December, 2008. There were representatives of the Special Education Department (Ministry of Education) , Saudi Association of Hearing Impairment, the Special Education Department at King Saud University, and some faculty members and students.

The discussion circle included:

1. Short speech by the Dean who welcomed and thanked participants.



Prof Sa'ad Al Shehry the Dean of Community College in A Riyadh

2. Speech by Art & Education Department chairman Dr. Khalid Al Hafy.



Art and Education Department Chairman Dr. Khalid Al Hafy

3. Short video by Valerie Sutton, SignWriting inventor.



Valerie Sutton created a short video by email, in La Jolla, California, welcoming everyone. The video was shown during the discussion.

4. Presentation on SignWriting by Dr. Mohamed Abushaira .included:

1. Definition of writing, relation between language and writing
2. The reality of Sign Language
3. The need (cause, benefit) of writing Sign Language
4. What is SignWriting?
5. History of SignWriting
6. Research on SignWriting
7. What has already been accomplished in SignWriting?
8. Arabic experience in SignWriting



Dr. Mohamed Abushaira

After that, a group discussion was conducted about SignWriting at the end. Participants decided on the following recommendations:

- More research must be conducted on SignWriting. **The representative of Special Education Department Mr Naser al Ibrahim said "they can cooperate to make research accomplished".**
- SignWriting courses for teachers are required.



Participants of the SignWriting Discussion Group, December 2008.

For more information:

SignWriting in Arabic Nations
<http://www.SignWriting.org/arabia>

King Saud University
http://faculty.ksu.edu.sa/m_abushaira/default.aspx

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