

Literacy in a Trilingual
Context using Sign
Writing: the Paraguayan
Experience



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Paraguay: a Bilingual country



- Paraguayan Sign Language (LSPy)
- 39.3% (65,3% rural area) Guarani monolingual
- 49% (24,5% rural area) type of bilingual
- 6.4% Spanish



Paraguayan Deaf population



- ❧ (a) the rural and isolated Deaf
- ❧ (b) the older generation of Deaf
- ❧ c) the semi-literate Deaf
- ❧ (d), and the well connected, urban Deaf

What about them?



- ❧ There are deaf people living in the rural areas isolated from Deaf schools who do not have the opportunity to learn Paraguayan Sign Language (LSPy).
- ❧ Those deaf people use home sign or gestures, and are illiterate in LSPy, Spanish and Guaraní.
- ❧ Another fact is that in rural areas, they do not have DVD players, or even access to electricity connection.

Deaf families



Homesign only



2010 Teaching LSPY in Friesland



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What is it? Sign Writing?



- ☞ Beauty Beyond Words (2008)
- ☞ SIL course (2009)
- ☞ SIL course (2010)

What is SignWriting?



- ⌘ SignWriting is a writing system which uses visual symbols to represent the handshapes, movements, and facial expressions of signed languages. It is an "alphabet" - a list of symbols used to write any signed language in the world.
- ⌘ <http://www.signbank.org/signpuddle/index.html#signpuddle2.0>

SignWriting Experience



- ☞ From “difícil” to “fácil”
- ☞ Deaf community participation
- ☞ Showing how to use and the benefits
- ☞ Let’s try it.

2011 Translation and Sign Writing Workshop

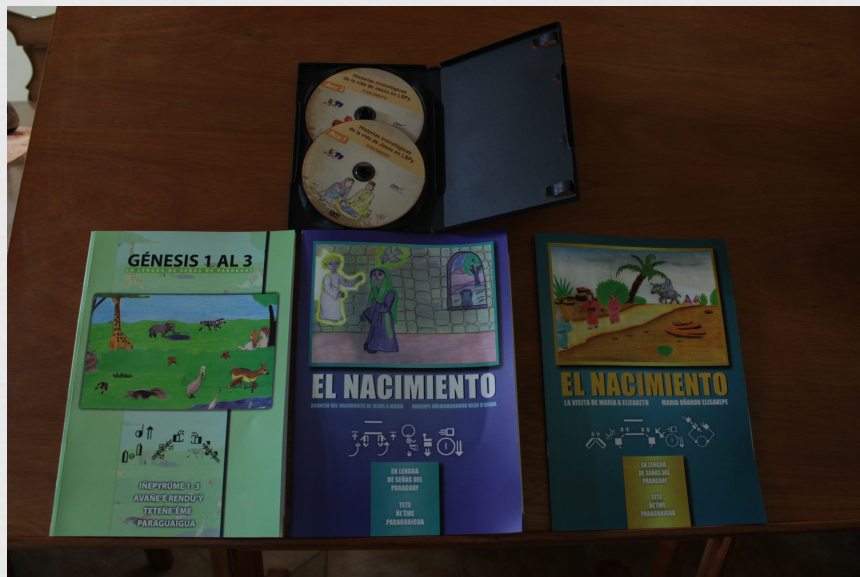
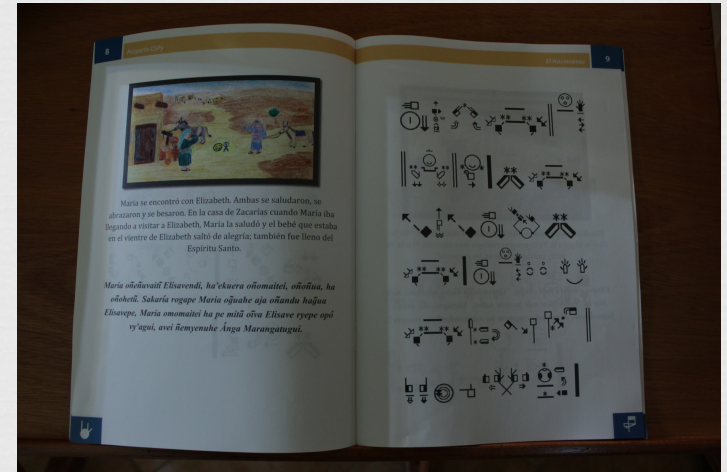
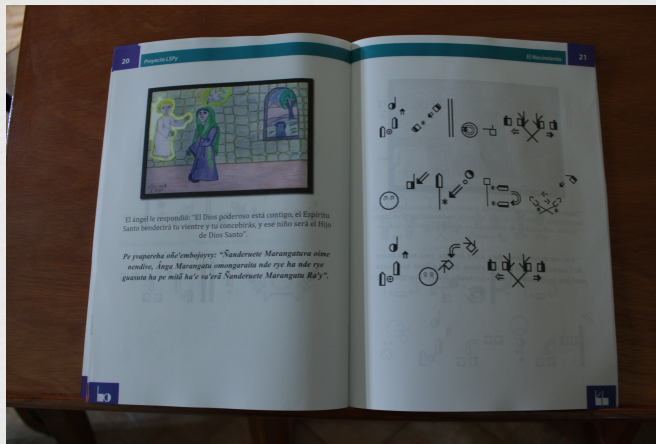




Deaf Literacy



Bible stories in Spanish, Guarani, and LSPy



The goals:



- ☞ Increase the literacy rate in LSPy, Spanish, and Guaraní.
- ☞ Increase mutual understanding between the parents and their deaf child.
- ☞ Help indigenous deaf people to learn LSPy (Paitabytera, Ache, etc.)