

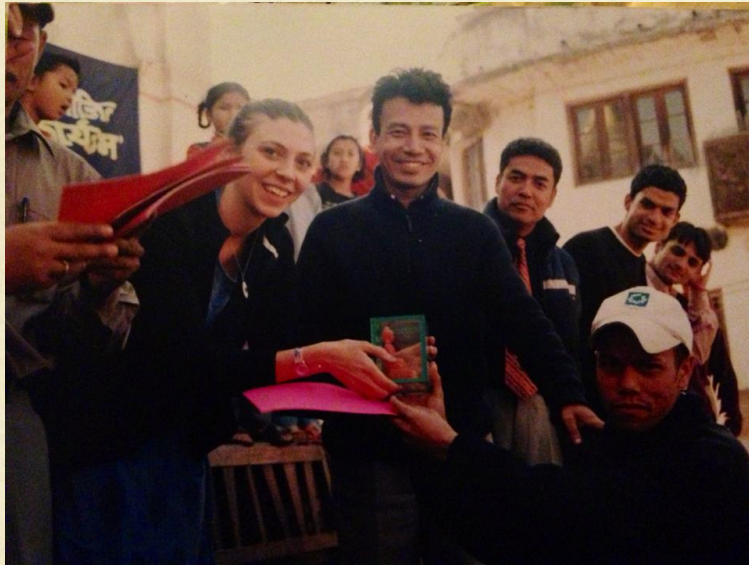
**Writing Bodies, Blurring  
Boundaries:**

SignWriting practices reflecting and  
producing new analyses of language

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# I'm a linguistic anthropologist, studying:

Nepali Sign Language



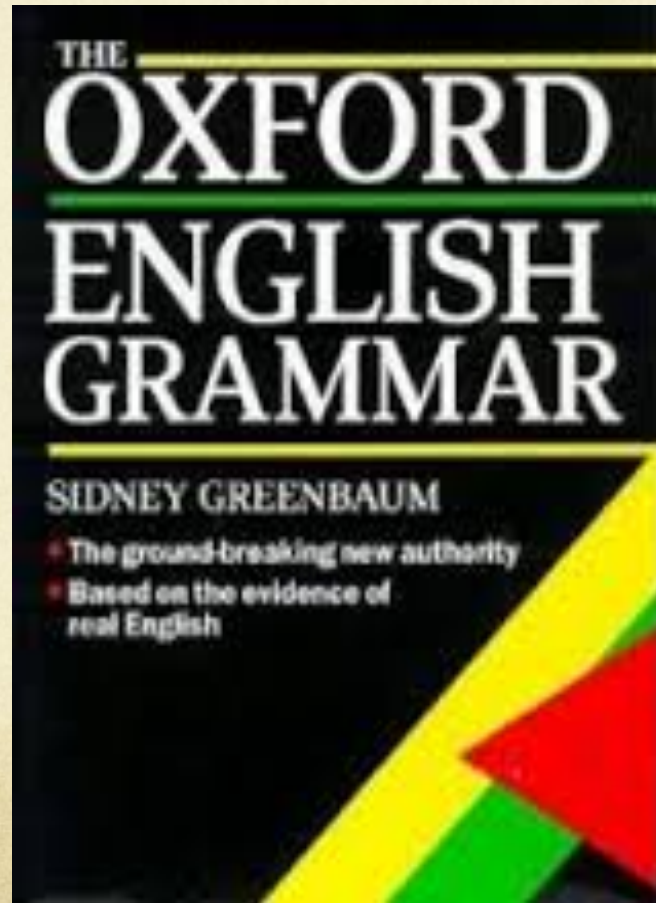
SignWriting



# Linguistic Anthropology

- Language use in context
- Communicative ecologies
- Language ideologies

Writing systems and practices reflect and produce language ideologies



9 Janis: Now *plea* [::] *se?*

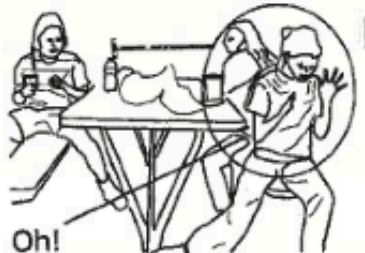
10 Aretha: Oh that's dis *gus* ti [::] ng! ((closes eyes))

((Angela Eats with Tongue))

11 (0.6) She has chocolate pudding again-

12 Aretha: *Ew* [::] [::] [::] [::] [::] [::]

13 Janis: *Ew* [::] [::] [::] [::] [::] [::] U h !



14 Janis: Oh!

15 Aretha: **ANGE** [::] [::] [::] LA!= ((slaps hands to lap))

16 Janis: **OH** my god. ((raises hands to head lowers head with eyes shut))

17 Aretha: You just-

18 Lisa: Can I- \_\_\_\_\_



ire 9.14 *Makal o joyul* 'closed or surrounded'

7) "Enclosed tree"

nakal o joyul ta- ta mak-te'  
 CLOSED or SURROUNDED by by FENCE  
 't was enclosed by a fence.

(1) Buzzards circling<sup>1</sup>  
 k'al lik'ote kere  
 When I got there - damn!

[right hand circles once][circles again]

1	2	3	4	5	6
		[downstroke]		[downstroke]	
		chamem	xa	te	xa setel xulem
		dead	already	circular	buzzard

*It was already dead; the buzzards were in a circle.*





○ SW practices create opportunities to reconsider commonly accepted boundaries between:

○ 1. linguistic and paralinguistic phenomena

○ 2. visual and aural modalities

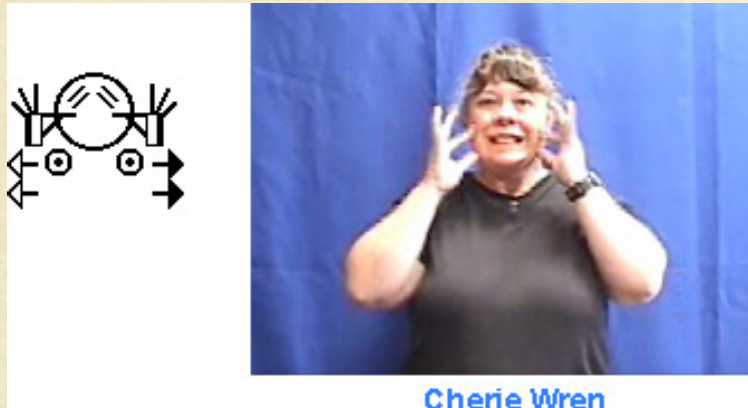
○ 3. different social groups

# The Cat in the Hat



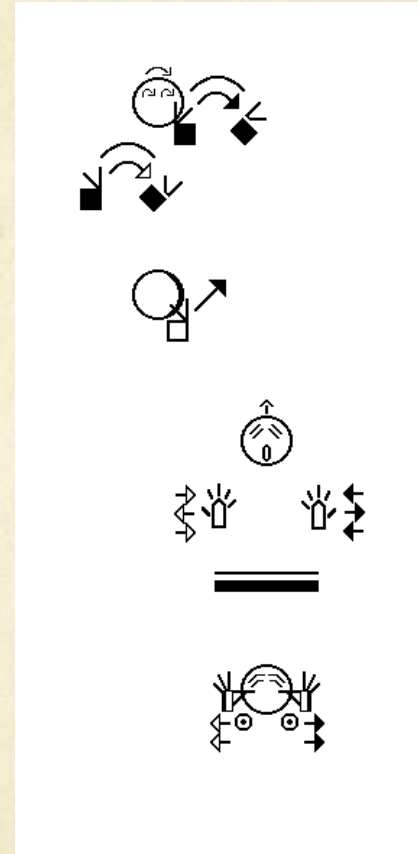
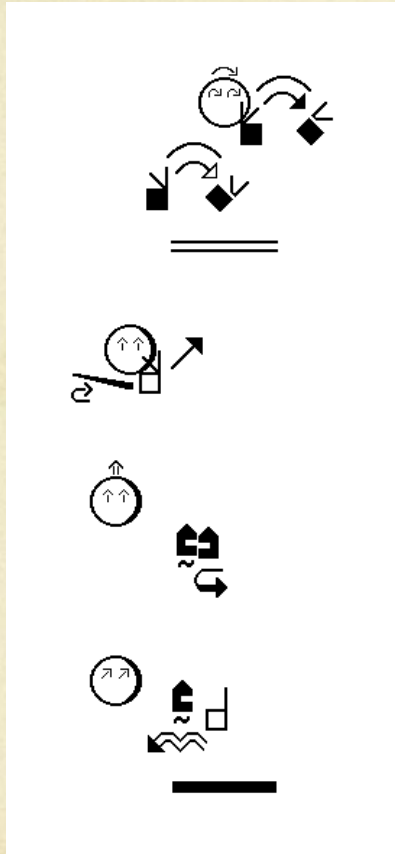


# The Cat in the Hat



- “How much of it needs to be written? ...I am looking at the door, and the cat coming in, and back to the audience several times in that very short sequence. This is something I struggle with on a regular basis. How much detail is too much, how much is necessary? I am trying to tease out the required grammatical bits”.

# Excerpt from The Cat in the Hat (encoding eyegaze to audience as well as figures in the story)



Looking through - and/or feeling - your face



die Handfläch  
das Handgelenk  
der Daumen  
der Legefinger  
der Mittelfinger  
der Ringfinger  
der kleine Finger  
fünf Finger





1

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2

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3

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4

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5

[Archive 2](#)  
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6

[Archive 1](#)  
Oct 1997 - April 1998

