

ABSTRACT
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Using SignWriting for the Peruvian Sign Language (LSP) Dictionary

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This talk will discuss the possibilities of using SW as a tool to represent lexical entries in a Peruvian Sign Language Dictionary (Diccionario Anotado de Lengua de Señas Peruana, LSP). Currently, no published LSP dictionary exists; in fact, there is almost no research on LSP, and very few systematically gathered data on the language. We plan to elaborate the first annotated

dictionary on LSP (DALSP). The DALSP will have the following characteristics for each lexical entry: (i) A recorded video of the sign in citation form (provided by native speakers), (ii) a gloss in Spanish, (iii) a translation to Spanish, (iv) a morphosyntactic description, (v) a phonological description, (vi) a recorded video with a sample sentence in LSP containing the sign (provided by native speakers), (vii) gloss and translation for the LSP sample sentence, (viii) a SignWriting transcription for the sign and the sample sentence. It will be published online.

In designing the DALSP, we decided to include the SW transcription for several reasons. First, SW practices and conventions will allow us to have a deeper awareness of LSP signs phonological features, since we will need to identify them clearly in order to make the proper transcription. Second, using SW in the Dictionary will visualize a hardly known property of sign languages, i.e. the fact that they can be written in a phonological fashion, in the same way oral language is. This is important because in our country, even if LSP is already an official language (since 2010), LSP is still fighting for social and cultural recognition across different sectors of the society, including the education system, and even the Deaf families. Third, we will train our team in the conventions of SW, and potentially we will be able to attract the interest of Peruvian Deaf community in a writing system for LSP.

In the talk, we will discuss the features of DALSP, with some examples already assembled, as well as the possibilities and challenges of using SW in Peru, given the situation of our Deaf community.