Code-blending in Early Hong Kong Sign Language

3.3 Code-blending in Hong Kong Sign Language

3.3.1 Situation of the deaf in Hong Kong

Hong Kong is a region of China where the deaf are a linguistically diverse group, with the Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL) being the most widely used form of sign language. HKSL is the primary form of communication for the deaf in Hong Kong, although Punjabi Sign Language (PSL) is also used by some Punjabi deaf individuals.

3.3.2 Pilot studies in Hong Kong Sign Language

In early deaf studies, the sign language of the deaf was not well understood, and researchers often relied on the deaf themselves to communicate with them. This led to a lack of accurate data on the signs used by the deaf.

3.3.3 Adult code-switching in Chinese

The code-switching phenomenon is a common occurrence in the deaf community, where two or more languages are used in a single conversation. This code-switching is often a result of the deaf community's need to communicate with both hearing and deaf individuals.

3.3.4 Previous studies of language mixing

Research on code-switching in Sign Language has been conducted in various regions, including Hong Kong and China. However, these studies have often been limited by the availability of competent and fluent sign language interpreters.

4. Methodology

4.1 Background of the child CC

The child CC, a deaf child with profound hearing loss, began to learn sign language at the age of two years and four months. By the age of three years, five months, CC had a vocabulary of approximately 40 signs.

4.2 Data collection methods

The data collected for this study includes CC’s sign production, as well as interviews with CC’s parents and teachers. These methods were used to gain a better understanding of CC’s sign language abilities and development.

4.3 Results

4.3.1 Total signs of utterances: 2470

4.3.2 Sign type: 950

4.3.3 Sign related elements: 750

5 Discussion

5.1 Comparison of sign language systems

The comparison of sign language systems is a complex and ongoing process. Each sign language system has its own unique features and characteristics, and it is important to understand these differences in order to provide the best possible support for deaf individuals.

5.2 Future research

Future research in this area is needed to better understand the development and use of code-blending in sign languages. This research could include further investigations into the factors that influence code-blending, as well as the possible benefits and drawbacks of this phenomenon.

6 Conclusion

6.1 Implications for education

The implications of this research for education are significant. It is clear that sign language is a powerful tool for communication, and it is important to continue to develop and refine our understanding of this language in order to better support deaf individuals.

6.2 Implications for research

The implications of this research for research are also important. It is clear that further study is needed to better understand the development and use of code-blending in sign languages. This research could include further investigations into the factors that influence code-blending, as well as the possible benefits and drawbacks of this phenomenon.

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