Syllabus

Unit I   Linguistic and socio-cultural background of ISL

- Overview of ISL and deaf communities in India
- Legislative provisions for ISL in India
- Use of ISL in the deaf education system in India
- Current developments in media and technology in relation to ISL
- Language contact involving ISL and other languages

Unit II Receptive skills in ISL

- Understanding different text types in ISL
- ISL videos with generic content
- ISL in live conversations

Unit III Productive skills in ISL

- Producing different text types in ISL
- Introduction to academic signing in ISL
- Synchronous production (live) and asynchronous production (edited video)

Unit IV The grammar of ISL

- Topics in ISL morphology (indicative list):
    o Compounding
    o Repetition
    o Fingerspelling in signs
- Topics in ISL syntax (indicative list):
    o Word order
    o Questions
    o Negation
    o Possession and existence
- Topics in ISL discourse (indicative list):
    o Signing space and discourse organisation
    o Time lines and tense at discourse level
- ISL grammar in comparison with other sign languages

Unit V Sign languages in research contexts

- Introduction to the use of sign languages in research contexts
- Types of sign language data in research (observation, corpora, linguistic stimuli, etc)

Course Objectives and Outcomes

Prerequisites: Good level of fluency in a sign language other than ISL OR basic level of fluency in ISL

Course objectives:

- To gain a comprehensive understanding of the context of Indian Sign Language and deaf communities in India.
- To practice comprehension of generic texts in ISL.
- To improve productive skills in ISL across different text types including signed academic presentations at a basic level.
- To understand the grammatical structures of ISL at morphological, syntactic and discourse levels.
- To become aware of the role of sign languages, sign language data, and deaf participants in research contexts.

Course outcomes:

- Understanding the background of Indian Sign Language and its user community from a range of different perspectives.
- Increased confidence in using ISL in live conversations and in interacting with sign language users.
- Improved comprehension of ISL with respect to accuracy and range of contexts.
- Achieving a good level of knowledge in ISL grammar at morphological, syntactic and discourse levels.
- Acquiring a metalinguistic vocabulary to describe basic grammatical structures of ISL.
- Awareness of the role of sign language data and work with deaf participants in research contexts.

Skills:

- Improved ISL production and comprehension.
- Comprehension of academic literature on sign languages.
- Ability to produce different types of texts in ISL.
- Ability to understand both generic texts signed in ISL
- Basic video editing skills to produce a signed video asynchronously
- Presentation skills in ISL
- Skills in academic writing about sign languages and ISL

Assessment:

15-minute presentation in ISL about a topic from Unit 1,

with edited video of the presentation   40%

Annotated log of ISL videos with generic content watched   20%

Written paper about selected topics in ISL grammar (1,500-2,000 words) 40%

References:

National Institute of Open Schooling: Secondary / Senior Secondary course in Indian Sign Language. Indian Sign Language (230): The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

Content from ISL video channels: ISH news (Youtube channel), MBM Vadodara (Youtube channel)

Sign Language Typology Series (De Gruyter Mouton & Ishara Press) Vols. 1, 2, 4 and 6 available at Sign Language Typology [SLT] and OAPEN Home | OAPEN

Dictionary of Indian Sign Language, ISLRTC. Available at https://divyangjan.depwd.gov.in/islrtc/

Other resources as recommended by supervisors