

## **INSIGHTS FROM SIGN LANGUAGE TYPOLOGY: METHODOLOGIES IN CROSS-LINGUISTIC RESEARCH ON SEMANTIC FIELDS**

**SAGARA Keiko**

(National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka)

The underlying aim of typology is to chart linguistic diversity by identifying patterns of variation, and language universals (characteristics that languages have in common). Sign language typologists use theories and frameworks from language typology to analyse samples of many different sign languages, in order to uncover previously hidden patterns. This involves building upon the documentation of diverse sign languages, combining primary data collection and subsequent comparative analysis.

This presentation aims to provide an overview of methodologies used in research on the expression of three semantic fields (color, numerals, and kinship terms) across sign languages. The presentation addresses general methodological issues in sign language typology, including a discussion of some of the key decisions that must be made when conducting a cross-linguistic typological study. These concern the choice of research domain, the identification of parameters for investigation, and the collection and analysis of data from a wide range of sign languages. Issues of sampling and field linguistics with sign languages, including research ethics, are also explored.

The presentation concludes with some thoughts on the potential further development of sign language typology research towards a cross-modal typology that includes both signed and spoken languages.