

Current situation and challenges of college-level courses of
Japanese sign language:
Teaching the language and culture of minority community

Kazumi MATSUOKA, Kazumi MAEGAWA, Natsuko SHIMOTANI

As more people realize that Japanese Sign Language (JSL) is fundamentally different from Japanese, the number of university-level JSL courses has been gradually increasing. This article discusses the current situations and challenges of JSL courses offered at universities in Japan. Though much improvement is called for in terms of the hiring process, securing sufficient budgets, developing teaching materials and evaluation metrics, it is highly beneficial to have knowledgeable deaf instructors with a substantial understanding of JSL and deaf culture.