



## **Access to the Written Text of the Deaf Signer Students: A Review of the Research**

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The first bilingual education curriculum for deaf children, consisting in the use of sign language and spoken language as a vehicle for communication and instruction, was implemented in Sweden in 1983 [1]. In Catalonia (Spanish State) the bilingual education model was introduced in 1996. It was not until 2010 that a bilingual Catalan-deaf language project started in order to develop a sign language curriculum which shall include the teaching objectives, teaching content and teaching methods in the area of Catalan Sign Language (LSC). This goal is crucial for the normalization of sign language in society and in education in particular.

To optimally implement a curriculum in this area, we need to further investigate the implications of deafness and the use of sign language as the vehicle of instruction. Linguistic research on sign language started last century, with the publication of Stokoe's paper "Sign Language Structure: An Outline of the Visual Communication Systems of the American Deaf" on 1960 [2]. Therefore, the knowledge in this field, and more specifically in the use of sign language on education, is at its beginning. In this context, one of the greatest concerns is the literacy skills of deaf children, since they do not achieve the same reading and writing skills than their hearing peers [3, 4].

The hypothesis of the actual PhD project is that metalinguistic awareness and metalinguistic activities play a decisive role in the process of language acquisition, in particular with regard to reading and writing. As Mayer [5] pointed out, in this field "it would help to determine the merits of various types and combinations of metalinguistic approaches for the teaching of reading and writing".

It is expected that the results are of significance for the bilingual teaching community and researchers in order to increase the knowledge on the literacy learning process of signing deaf students, and to implement it in the classrooms.