

“Thai Sign Language [tsq] (A language of Thailand)

- **Population:** 51,000 profoundly, prelingually deaf people in Thailand (1997 C. Reilly). 20% of deaf children go to school to learn it.
- **Location:** Major regional centers and Bangkok.
- **Language Status:** 5 (Developing).
- **Dialects:** None known. Signs used at the deaf school at Tak are reportedly very different.
- **Typology:** Finger-spelling system.
- **Language Use:** Total communication used in school: speaking and signing. Reported high mobility among most deaf people today. Sign language used in school and that used by deaf adults outside is different. Used by all deaf born since 1951; some older ones. Also use Thai [tha].
- **Language Development:** Literacy rate in L2: Less than 10%. The 1st deaf school began in 1951, with help from Gallaudet University. Uses a combination of indigenous signs and American Sign Language [ase]. Educated deaf people have limited Thai literacy skills. Taught in primary schools. TV. Dictionary.
- **Other Comments:** Buddhist.”

Lewis, M. Paul, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.)

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Related Research

Woodward, James

1996 Modern Standard Thai Sign Language, Influence from ASL, and Its Relationship to Original Thai Sign Varieties. *Sign Language Studies* 92: 227.

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1990 Spatial-locative predicates in Thai sign language. *Sign language research: Theoretical issues* (1990): 103-117.

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