

“Paraguayan Sign Language [pys] (A language of Paraguay)

- **Alternate Names:** Lengua de Señas del Paraguay, Lengua de señas paraguaya, LSPY
- **Population:** 15,000 (2009 L. Parks), increasing.
- **Location:** Scattered.
- **Language Status:** 6a (Vigorous).
- **Language Use:** LSPY is the indigenous sign language of the Paraguayan deaf ethnolinguistic community. Deaf Paraguayans generally acquire LSPY from friends during school (outside of the classroom), in deaf associations, or religious meetings. Deaf associations and religious meetings use LSPY in their formal proceedings and deaf people use LSPY in their casual interactions. LSPY is the only sign language used by most deaf Paraguayans, although some living near the borders of Brazil also use Brazilian Sign Language [bzs] as L2.
- **Language Development:** Poetry. TV. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2011.
- **Other Comments:** Local deaf people indicate that Uruguayan Sign Language influenced early roots of LSPY.”

Lewis, M. Paul, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.)
2015. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Eighteenth edition. Dallas, Texas: SIL
International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com>.

Last Updated: March 16, 2015