

# Pidgins, Creoles & Other Things



# ***Natural Pidgins and Creoles***

*Pidgins are organized human communication, created from multiple languages, which draw their vocabulary from one language, and their syntax and pronunciation from the remaining languages.*

**One *superstrate* language**

*Lg of power, but limited access*

**Many *substrate* languages**

*Lgs of migrant workers/refugees*

# Definition of Language (revisited)

*Language is the systematic use of symbols to express and perceive information between members of a community, in which the system is rule-governed, has infinite production possibilities, is intergenerational, and changes over time.*

A ***Creole*** is a pidgin that has been passed on to a second generation.

***Creolization*** is the process of birthing a new language.

## ***Esperanto, Gestuno and International Signing***

Esperanto created by Polish physician Ludwig L. Zamenhoff in 1887

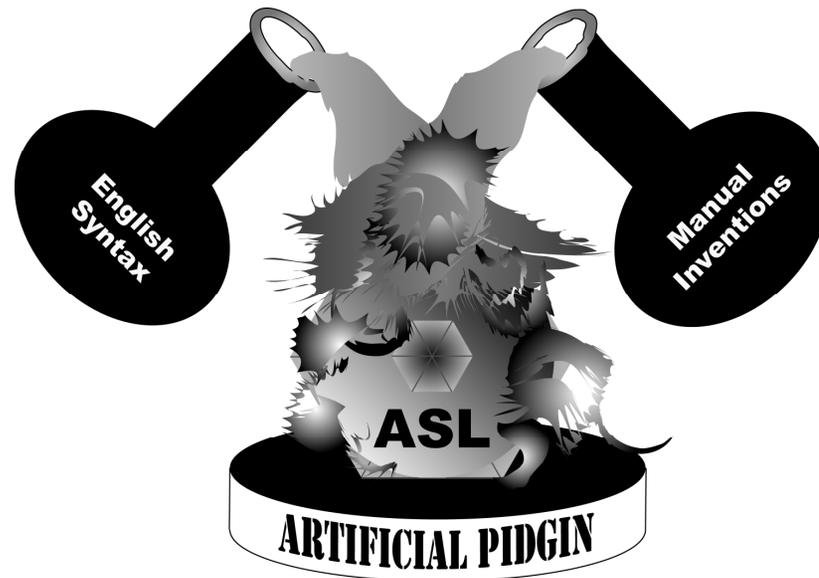
Gestuno created by World Federation of the Deaf committee in 1973

International Signing is the spontaneous pidginization of signed languages that occurs at international deaf gatherings. Some instances of International Signing are based on Gestuno

# ***Artificial Intermodal Pidgins***

Created for educational purposes, to teach English

Unfortunately, ASL serves as superstrate (vocabulary) while English and manual inventions serve as substrates (word order, pronunciation). Therefore human brains interacting with Artificial Intermodal Pidgins will work toward ASL features rather than English features, thus defeating the purpose of the AIPs.



# *Artificial Intermodal Pidgins*



# ***Artificial Intermodal Pidgins***

The value of the AIPs was not that they taught English, but that they ended oralism, and allowed the use of signing back into the education of deaf children.

Each AIP was careful to include the word “English” which eased the concerns of administrators.

SEE1 (Seeing Essential English) and LOVE (Linguistics of Visual English) both avoided using the word “Sign”.

SEE2 (Signing Exact English) was based more strongly on ASL morphology, and thus received greater acceptance over SEE1, which was actually more true to English phonology.

# Review Questions

1. How do natural pidgins develop?
2. What is the difference between a pidgin and a creole?
3. How are *Esperanto* and *Gestuno* similar to and different from pidgins?
4. When were *Esperanto* and *Gestuno* created?
5. How is *International Signing* different from *Gestuno*?
6. Which encoding mechanisms represent elements of *English* in manual/English Artificial Pidgins?
7. Which encoding mechanisms represent elements of *ASL* in manual/English Artificial Pidgins?
8. Who was the initial creator of American manual English codes?
9. What was the original name of the first American manual English code and what was it later changed to?
10. Why do manual English codes not actually encode English?

## Suggested Activities

1. Make up a (pseudo) pidgin language of your own. Take the vocabulary of a spoken language (such as French, German, or Spanish) and put them in English word order. Change the pronunciation to American English speech patterns.
2. Find a guidebook for either SEE1 or SEE2 (or another *Artificial Pidgin*) and figure out how to express the following sentences using them:
  - a. Yesterday I saw five goats.
  - b. I finished eating two hours before I swam.
  - c. The darkness of the coming night made us feel sheepish.