

## INFORMATION SHEET OF THE SUBJECT

|                                                                                                              |                                                                                                    |                                                        |                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Code:</b> XSJKNB009                                                                                       |                                                                                                    | <b>Name:</b> Phonetics and Phonology of Sign Languages |                                 |
| <b>Cover:</b> Department of Slovak Language and Literature                                                   |                                                                                                    |                                                        |                                 |
| <b>Type of educational activity:</b> Lecture, Seminar                                                        |                                                                                                    | <b>Number of credits:</b> 5                            | <b>Recommended semester:</b> ST |
| <b>Scope of educational activity (in hours):</b><br><b>Weekly:</b> 2/1<br><b>For term of study:</b> LS 60,30 |                                                                                                    |                                                        | <b>Study grade:</b><br>Bachelor |
| <b>Method of educational activity:</b> Combined                                                              |                                                                                                    |                                                        |                                 |
| Recommended semester                                                                                         | Study programme                                                                                    |                                                        |                                 |
| 1.year ST                                                                                                    | Slovak for Deaf Sign Language Users (XSjvKN-D1)<br>Slovak for Deaf Sign Language Users (XSjvKN-E1) |                                                        |                                 |

### Underlie subjects:

### Conditions for passing the course:

**Method of evaluation:** Completion by taking an examination

**Continuous evaluation:** The student will take 1 practical test and 3 subtests. The practical test focuses on 4 basic types of shifts (one-handed shifts, two-handed symmetrical shifts with two active hands, two-handed symmetrical shifts with one active hand, two-handed asymmetrical shifts with one active hand). It is a practical demonstration of individual shifts by means of video recordings (max. 10 points).

The written tests focus on:

- the phonetic and phonological structure of individual consonants (max. 10 points),
- mouth position (max. 10 points),
- verbal description of the individual parameters of the manual and non-manual components of the signing (max. 10 points).

If the student does not score at least 50% in each part (practical test, 3 written tests), it is not possible to pass the final test.

A condition for completing the subject is also the implementation of the non-contact part of the subject - self-study, especially the recommended literature.

**Final evaluation:** After fulfilling the requirements of the interim assessment, the student will take a final written test (max. 60 points; minimum 31 points must be obtained), which will test the student's mastery of the theoretical knowledge of the phonetics and phonology of sign language.

A minimum of 91 points is required for an A grade, a minimum of 81 points for a B grade, a minimum of 71 points for a C grade, a minimum of 61 points for a D grade and a minimum of 51 points for an E grade.

### Finished:

### Learning outcomes:

A student can:

VV 1: explain and describe the basic concepts of phonetics and phonology of sign language in a comprehensible way,

VV 2: analyze lexical units of Slovak sign language on individual parameters as the smallest building blocks,

VV 3: find the minimum pairs of individual consonants,

VV 4: demonstrate the 4 basic types of shifts (one-handed shifts, two-handed symmetrical shifts with two active hands, two-handed symmetrical shifts with one active hand, two-handed asymmetrical shifts with one active hand),

VV 5: describe the individual parameters of manual and non-manual components of signing by verbal description,

VV 6: identify mouth positions as part of signing,

VV 7: identify phonological processes in the stream of post-sounding - epenthesis (insertion), elision (omission), reduction (weakening), metathesis (slippage), assimilation (under-improvement),

VV 8: explain the historical changes in the form of signing - the transition of signing from iconicity to arbitrariness, change in place of articulation, change in hand/hand movement, change in hand/hand shape, change from two-handed to one-handed signing, change from compound signing to single signing, loss of contact with the place of articulation,

VV 9: fully interpret the functions of non-manual means in all linguistic levels of sign language.

### Schedule of subject:

- Phonetics and phonology of sign languages - phonetics, phonology, sign language phonetics, sign language phonology, minimal pair, disjunctive features.
- Typology of sign languages - definition of terms (active hand, passive hand, dominant hand, non-dominant hand), typology of sign languages.
- Phonological constraints on forms of signing - linguistic constraint, physical constraint.
- Historical changes in the form of signing - transition of signing from iconicity to arbitrariness, change of place of articulation, change of hand/hand movement, change of hand/hand shape, change of two-handed signing to one-handed signing, change of compound signing to single signing, loss of contact with the place of articulation.
- Phonological processes in the stream of sentencing - segmental phenomena in the language, epenthesis (insertion), elision (omission), reduction (weakening), metathesis (slippage), assimilation (under-impression).
- Parameters of signing in Slovak sign language - place of articulation, hand shapes, hand/hand movement, palm and finger orientation, contact, mutual position of two hands.
- Mouth movements in sign language - spoken component, oral component, mouth positions and movements.
- Motivation, iconicity and metaphor in sign languages - cognitive linguistics, motivation, iconicity, metaphor, visual symbolism.
- Prosody, functions of non-manual means - suprasegmental phenomena, non-manual means and their functions.

### Recommended reading:

- ARVENIS, M.: Semantic-syntactic and sociopragmatic peculiarities of Slovak sign language interpretation. Banská Bystrica : Belianum, 2017. 172 p.
- BAKER, A. - van den BOGAERDE, B. - PFAU, R. - SCHERMER, T. (eds.): The Linguistics of Sign Language: An introduction. Amsterdam,

Philadelphia : John Benjamins Publishing Co., 2016. 378 p.

3. BELÁKOVÁ, M.: Slovak language in primary education 1. Trnava : Faculty of Education, University of Trnava, 2013. 89 s. Available at: < <https://pdf.truni.sk/e-ucebnice/sjvvpv1/>>.

4. DİKYUVA, H. - MAKAROĞLU, B. - ARIK, E.: Turkish Sign Language Grammar. Ankara : The Republic of Turkey Ministry of Family and Social Policies, 2017. 318 p. Available at: < <http://turkishsignlanguage.enginarik.com/turkish-sign-language-grammar>>.

5. GARDELKOVÁ, B.: Conceptualization of emotions in Czech sign language (On the example of anger). Diplomová práce. Prague : Faculty of Arts, Charles University, 2017. 138 p.

6. FENLON, J. - CORMIER, K. - BRENTARI, D.: The phonology of sign languages. In The Routledge Handbook of Phonological Theory, 2017. Available at: < [www.researchgate.net/publication/326293270\\_Sign\\_language\\_phonology](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/326293270_Sign_language_phonology)>.

7. KLABANOVÁ, L.: Visual perception and phonological forms of Czech sign language lexemes (frequency analysis of selected parameters of signs). Bachelor thesis. Prague : Faculty of Arts, Charles University, 2012. 102 p.

8. KOUDELKOVÁ, Š. - TARCSIOVÁ, D.: Posunkuj s mnou: Basic signing vocabulary for children with hearing impairment. Bratislava : Iris, 2017. 202 p.

9. LACHMANOVÁ, D.: Changes in the pitch realization of Czech sign language signs due to coarticulation. Diploma thesis. Prague : Faculty of Arts, Charles University, 2016. 146 p.

10. LIŠKOVÁ, L.: Frequency analysis of hand shapes in selected Czech sign language dictionaries. Bachelor thesis. Prague : Faculty of Arts, Charles University, 2013. 126 p.

11. MAREŠ, J.: Oral components in Czech sign language. Bachelor thesis. Prague : Faculty of Arts, Charles University, 2011. 94 p.

12. OBERFALZEROVÁ, A.: Hand shapes of Czech sign language and its sign types (frequency analysis of communication of Czech deaf people). Bachelor thesis. Prague : Faculty of Arts, Charles University, 2015. 167 p.

13. OKROUHLÍKOVÁ, L.: Notation of sign languages. Prague : Karolinum, 2015. 302 p.

14. OKROUHLÍKOVÁ, L.: Signs for colours in the Czech sign language and their etymology. Prague : Faculty of Arts, Charles University, 2016. Available at: < <https://dspace.cuni.cz/handle/20.500.11956/96525>>.

15. QUER, J. - CECCHETTO, C. - DONATI, C. - GERACI, C. - KELEPIR, M. - PFAU, R. - STEINBACH, M.: SignGram Blueprint: A Guide to Sign Linguistic Grammar Writing. Berlin : Walter de Gruyter GmbH 2017. 896 p.

16. SANDLER, W.: The phonological organization of sign languages. 2012. Available at: < [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3608481/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3608481/)>.

17. TRSKOVÁ, H.: Visual symbolism in Czech sign language. Bachelor thesis. Prague : Faculty of Arts, Charles University, 2020. 59 p.

18. VLKOVÁ, J.: Speech components in Czech sign language. Bachelor thesis. Prague : Faculty of Arts, Charles University, 2018. 67 p.

19. VOJTECHOVSKÝ, R. (ed.): Posunky.sk: Prekladový slovník slovenského jazyka - slovenského posunkového jazyka [online]. Bratislava : Snepeda, 2018 - 2021. Available at: < [www.posunky.sk](http://www.posunky.sk)>.

**Language requirements:** Slovak

**Notes:**

**Course evaluation:**

Assessed students in total: 89

| A   | B   | C  | D   | E  | FX  |
|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|
| 37% | 15% | 9% | 12% | 8% | 19% |

**Lecturers:**

PaedDr. Bc. Roman Vojtechovský, lecturer, examiner, instructor

**Date of last change:** 01.09.2026

**Approved by:** prof. PhDr. Juraj Hladký, PhD.