Signs of the arctic: Typological aspects of Inuit Sign Language

Schuit, J.M.

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Acknowledgements

The idea for this project, which became this thesis, germinated after I read a document by Jamie MacDougall on the access to justice for deaf persons in Nunavut. After contacting Jamie in 2005, I was invited to travel to Iqaluit the following year to attend a focus group discussing the status of Inuit Sign Language and whether this language should be included in Nunavut’s language legislation. This fascinating experience with an undocumented sign language was not only the trigger for setting up this project, but it was also the first time I met with my (future) sign language informants. Jamie, your support and work on Deaf Inuit and Inuit Sign Language have been important for my own research and I thank you for sharing information with me in the early stages of my project.

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The best bed & breakfast that I ever stayed at was in Rankin Inlet. Run by Colleen and Sandy Napier, Tara’s B&B was my home away from home and anyone going to this area should stay here. My final trip to Rankin in 2012 was an experience of all things Arctic jammed into two weeks. Although “stuck” inside the B&B for a few days because of a blizzard, the other guests and I enjoyed ourselves immensely which was partly due to Colleen’s exquisite cooking. Even when the pipes had frozen, the mood stayed positive, and I secretly preferred the coffee to the melted snow. Thank you, little Cylas, for
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