

Terminology Guidelines for Cued Speech Materials **(Approved by the NCSA Board of Directors, September 25, 1994)**

Producers of instructional and other materials on Cued Speech (CS) should give careful attention to the following terminology guidelines:

1. Reference to Cued Speech should never be made in such a way to imply that the process of cueing equates with CS. In other words, CS in its complete form includes both cueing and speaking.
2. Care must be taken to avoid statements that imply that a specific cue represents a specific sound. The cues represent groups of sounds, not individual sounds. The hand configurations represent groups of consonants, from which the individual consonant is selected by use of what is seen on mouth. The placements represent groups of vowels, from which the individual vowel is determined by use of what is seen on the mouth. Such statements as: "The sound of /m/ is represented by handshape 5." are correct, and should be replaced by statements such as "The sound of /m/ cued with handshape 5." or "The sound /m/ is one of the group represented as a group by handshape 5."
3. Definitions of Cued Speech cited or written in CS materials should be in accord with the resolution adopted June 4, 1989, by the NCSA Board of Directors, and as modified September 25, 1994, as follows:

Resolution Regarding Definitions of Cued Speech

Whereas, the National Cued Speech Association recognizes its responsibility for supporting and maintaining accurate perceptions of Cued Speech, and for hedging against confusion and misunderstanding, and

Whereas, the NCSA has become aware of the diversity of stated definitions of Cued Speech, many of them incorrect or misleading,

Be it resolved that the Association issue the following guidelines regarding the nature of Cued Speech, and definitions thereof:

A definition of Cued Speech, in order to describe it accurately and to distinguish it from all other systems developed for the benefit of hearing-impaired persons, must include at least the three basic ideas in the following statement:

Cued Speech is a communication system which (1) utilizes hand configurations (eight in English) in locations (four in English) near the mouth, (2) to supplement the normal visual manifestations of speech, (3) in such a way as to render the spoken language clear through vision alone.

Sample Definitions

1. "Cued Speech is a communication system which (in English) utilizes eight hand configurations and four hand placements near the mouth to supplement the visible manifestations of simultaneous speech. Each 'cue' (hand configuration or placement identifies a special group of two-to-four speech sounds within which each sound looks different from the others, on the mouth. The combination of cues and mouth movements makes all the essential speech sounds appear visibly different from each other, so that the spoken message is clarified with or without the aid of residual hearing, which can increase the redundancy of the system."
2. "Cued Speech is a combination of cues and speech designed to make spoken language clear through vision, with or without the aid of residual hearing. In English it utilizes eight hand shapes and four hand placements near the mouth to supplement the normal visible manifestations of speech in such a way as to make all the essential speech sounds that look the same on the mouth look different from each other on the hand, and all the sounds which look alike on the hand look different on the mouth."
3. An excellent example which has the advantage of brevity, but still contains the points essential in a definition of Cued Speech, appeared as a "filler" at the bottom of page 2 of the January, 1989, issue of *CENTER LINES*, published by the Cued Speech Center, Raleigh, North Carolina:

"Cued Speech is a simple, sound-based system, which uses eight hand shapes in four different positions ('cues'), in combination with the natural mouth movements of speech, to make all the sounds of the English language look different and clearly understandable to hearing-impaired people of all ages."

Clarifying Statements

The following are clarifying statements that can be used in explanation. Some can also be part of a definition when brevity is not essential. They will help prevent misunderstanding and confusion about Cued Speech:

1. The hand configurations and locations are called **cues**. They are not Cued Speech, which is the combination of the cues with the normal visual manifestations of speech. A common error is to refer to the **cues** as Cued Speech, contributing to the misconception that the cues are readable alone. It is misleading to say that the cues make the spoken language clear, without including the clause "in combination with the information visible on the mouth."
2. When Cued Speech is used, sounds and syllables which look alike on the mouth look different on the hand, and sounds and syllables which look alike on the hand look different on the mouth. Each sound or syllable is thus read from the combination of hand and mouth, which is unique for that sound (phoneme) or syllable.
3.
 - a. Each hand configuration identifies a **group** of consonant phonemes, whose members are visually distinct from each other on the mouth. A common error is to say that the hand configurations represent consonants (rather than groups of consonants), contributing to the misconception that the cues can be read alone.
 - b. Each hand location identifies a **group** of vowel phonemes, whose members are visually distinct from each other on the mouth. A common error is to say that hand locations represent vowels (rather than group of vowels.)
4. Cued Speech (the cues in combination with the mouth movements) renders spoken language clear at the levels of phonemes, syllables, and their durations, stress, and contributions to rhythm.
5. Cued Speech can, if desired, incorporate an indication of approximate voice pitch for each syllable uttered. This is essential in tonal languages, such as Thai, Cantonese, Mandarin, Igbo, and other languages in which the pitch pattern of a word can change its morphemic significance. For example in Cantonese the syllable **ma** can mean **mother, scold, horse, or Right?**, according to whether the pitch is high, high-falling, low-rising, or middle.

Tone cueing is also desirable in any language in speech therapy, when the objective is to develop good intonation patterns, and at home in teaching and supporting good intonation patterns.

Tone cueing is accomplished by changing the inclination of the cueing hand to indicate changes in pitch. The normal angle, from about 45 degrees in the side location to 30 degrees in the throat location, is changed toward the vertical for higher pitch, and toward the horizontal for low pitch, in the process of cueing.

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