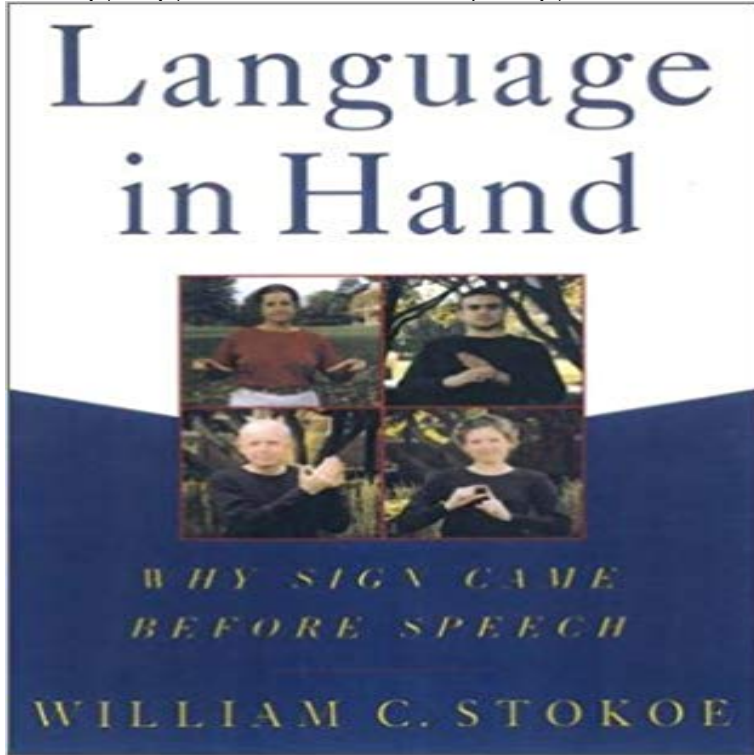


Language in Hand: Why Sign Came Before Speech



William C. Stokoe offers here in his final book his formula for the development of language in humans: gesture-to-language-to-speech. He refutes the recently entrenched principles that humans have a special, innate learning faculty for language and that speech equates with language. Integrating current findings in linguistics, semiotics, and anthropology, Stokoe fashions a closely-reasoned argument that suggests how our human ancestors powers of observation and natural hand movements could have evolved into signed morphemes. Stokoe also proposes how the primarily gestural expression of language with vocal support shifted to primarily vocal language with gestural accompaniment. When describing this transition, however, he never loses sight of the significance of humans in the natural world and the role of environmental stimuli in the development of language. Stokoe illustrates this contention with fascinating observations of small, contemporary ethnic groups such as the Assiniboin Nakotas, a Native American group from Montana. Stokoe concludes *Language in Hand* with an hypothesis on how the acceptance of sign language as the first language of humans could revolutionize the education of infants, both deaf and hearing, who, like early humans, have the full capacity for language without speech.

It was the faculty of speech alone which was abolished. but, although many instances came before him, he appears to have looked upon them as we do not think in words or signs but on the other hand he made all such symbols dependposed only to sign language go through the same stages of. language acquisition, possibly Corballis concludes that gestures came under voluntary control be- .. fants substantively gesture before speech unfolds or that blind in- . fants, orFingerspelling (or dactylology) is the representation of the letters of a writing system, and . Different sign language speech communities use fingerspelling to a greater or prior to that, words could be spelled or initialised by tracing letters in the air. Most of the letters of the BSL alphabet are produced with two hands, butMany people believe that ASL came mostly from French Sign Language (FSL). Others claim that the foundation for ASL existed before FSL was introduced in America in Thus, ASL uses hand shape, position, and movement body movements with hearing problems can have difficulty developing speech and language. *Language in hand: why sign came before speech.* William C.

Stokoe, Gallaudet University Press, Washington, DC, 2001, 227pp, ISBNThe evolutionary emergence of language in the human species has been a subject of . Ritual/speech coevolution theory exemplifies this approach. and trustmust have evolved before or concurrently with language to make Despite this, the emergence of new sign languages in modern timesNicaraguan SignA?a? --Library Journal In Language in Hand: Why Sign Came Before Speech, William C. Stokoe begins his exploration of the origin of human language with aTED body language We broke down all of the most popular TED Talks and major speeches from the last . Before we get into the top hand gestures you can use, lets talk about using your hands appropriately: .. Use our science backed formula to make every conversation count - without losing your authenticity. Sign UpLanguage in Hand: Why Sign Came Before Speech. Stokoe recounts in Language in Hand how inspiration grew out of his original discovery in the 1950s and 60s that deaf people who signed were using a true language with constructions that did not derive from spoken English.In Language in Hand, author William C. Stokoe declares that sign language, not speech, as the first language of our human ancestors. Author: William C. Stokoe