



<b>TITLE</b>
How do languages express features?
<b>UMBRELLA KEY IDEA</b>
Words/signs can be divided into groups.
<b>TEXT KEY IDEA</b>
To describe people, things and activities we use special words/signs as well as movement, classifiers and facial expressions.
<b>CONSPECTUS</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Umbrella key idea: Words/signs can be divided into groups.</li><li>2. Introduction: We observe basic features of people, things and activities with our senses.</li><li>3. Text key idea: To describe people, things and activities we use special words/signs as well as movement, classifiers and facial expressions.</li><li>4. Examples: Examples of different features expressed both in spoken and sign languages.</li><li>5. Conclusions: Separate words/signs from group 3 that we use to express features are called adjectives and adverbs.</li></ol>
<b>REFERENCES</b>
<p>Twardowska, E. (ed.) (2008) <i>Stan badań nad polskim językiem migowym</i>, Łódź, Polski Związek Głuchych Oddział Łódzki.</p> <p>Saloni, Z. (1974) <i>Klasyfikacja gramatyczna leksemów polskich</i>, Język Polski, LIV, pp. 3–13, 93–101.</p> <p>KORPUSOWY SŁOWNIK POLSKIEGO JĘZYKA MIGOWEGO [WWW], Available from: <a href="http://www.slownikpjm.uw.edu.pl/">http://www.slownikpjm.uw.edu.pl/</a> [Accessed 27/01/19]</p>
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>
<p>You can <b>recognize</b> features in a sentence.</p> <p>You can <b>list</b> examples of features of people, things and activities.</p> <p>You can <b>group</b> different features into categories.</p>
<b>FULL TEXT</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Umbrella key idea</li></ol>



All words/signs from one language we call a dictionary of this language. Words/signs in a language dictionary we can divided into groups. Words of group 1 refer to objects (both concrete like monkey and abstract like dragon and describing different types of feelings and ideas like love or liberty). Words of group 2 refer to activities (something is happening with an object or object by itself is doing something). Words of group 3 refer to features (both of objects and activities). In some languages (sign languages, English) some signs/ words from the 1 and 2 groups look the same. There is an extra 4 group with words which do not belong to any of the above groups. Words in this 4 group play different roles: replace, connect or indicate types of relation between words from 3 above groups.

## 2. Introduction

We use features to describe people, things and activities. We observe basic features of people, things and activities with our senses. We see, hear, smell, taste and touch what people, things and activities are like.

## 3. Text's key idea

When we describe people, things and activities we observe what they are like. To do this we use our senses. Our senses make us able to see, hear, smell, taste and touch. Our senses enable us to describe basic features of people, things and activities. For example, most people can see whether a person is tall or short. Most people can hear whether a sound is loud or quiet. Most people can smell whether a perfume is intense or soft. Most people can taste whether a coffee is bitter or sweet. Most people can touch and tell whether a tea cup is hot or cold.

We can put features in groups. For example, to describe colour we can use features like: red, brown, black, blue. To describe shapes we can use features like: long, short, narrow, wide. To describe tastes we can use features like: sweet, bitter, sour, salty. To describe temperatures we can use features like: cold, cool, warm, hot. If we want to describe speed we can use features like: slow, fast, quick. Sometimes two features express something opposite. For example cold and hot express something opposite.

Sometimes two features express something similar. For example cold, chilly and cool express something similar.

To express these features we use special words/signs as well as movement, classifiers and facial expressions. In sign languages sometimes there are separate signs that express features. For example a separate sign BEAUTIFUL can express a feature of a garden.

In sign languages we use also classifiers, body movement, space, as well as facial expressions to express a feature. For example if we want to say how tall a person is we use space and we put the sign on a certain height in the space. Sometimes to describe a person, thing or activity we do not use a separate sign to express a feature. A feature is expressed in the manner we sign a person, thing or activity. For example if you want to express a feature of a belly (big) it is expressed in a manner that you sign the sign BELLY (you sign BELLY and with your face and your body you imitate a person with a big belly). Important part of sign languages are classifiers – we use them to express features of things, people and activities.

In spoken languages there are usually separate words that express features. We add them in a sentence close to the words meaning things, people and activities. In some spoken languages we change endings of these words depending on whether we describe a woman or a man; a thing or an activity.

When describing two or more people, things or activities we can compare them. For example, we can compare: how old two people are; how big two apartments are; how fast two people are running. When comparing two or more people, things or activities we modify a sign, we use facial expression, body movement and space. In spoken languages when we compare two or more people, things or activities sometimes we add some words and sometimes we modify a word that expresses a feature. Sometimes we do both: we add words and we modify words.

#### 4. Examples



*[In English, each partner will put examples in their sign and spoken languages]*

My brother is very tall.  
The music is too loud.  
I don't like strong perfume.  
Do you prefer sweet or sour pancakes?  
Be careful! The water is hot!

I have a younger sister and an older brother.  
My friend has an apartment bigger than mine.  
I can run faster than her!

*[more examples in sign language will be given by Deaf consultants]*

Separate signs to express features: BEAUTIFUL

Facial expression:

Body movement:

Space:

Handshape:

Classifier:

## 5. Conclusion

When describing people, things and activities we use features. To express features in sign languages we use separate signs as well as classifiers, body movement, space and facial expressions. To express features in spoken languages we usually use separate words. These words are called adjectives and adverbs. We can put features in groups (for example a group of features expressing the temperature) and we can pair them to show similarities or opposites. We can describe two or more people, things and activities and we can compare them.