Biographical Sketch of Ted Supalla

Ted Supalla is a Deaf scholar who has been doing basic research for almost thirty years, first as a research assistant teaching sign language to chimpanzees at Reno, Nevada, and then as a graduate student working with Dr. Ursula Bellugi at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California on the structure of American Sign Language. In 1982 he received his Ph.D in experimental psychology from the University of California, San Diego. After graduate school, he became a full-time researcher at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, studying the structure and acquisition of ASL in collaboration with Dr. Elissa Newport with whom he continues to work with today in Rochester, New York. Currently Dr. Supalla is on sabbatical leave from the University of Rochester where he has the position of Associate Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences and of Linguistics. He directs the undergraduate American Sign Language Program and the Sign Language Research Center at the University.

Supalla's scholarship and research continues in five main areas: First, he is interested in the comparison between spoken language and signed language structure, to determine whether and in what ways the input-output modalities of language influence the nature of structural properties. Second, he is interested in universals of language, particularly with regard to cross-linguistic comparisons among sign languages of the world. Third, he is interested in the continuum from nonlinguistic gesture to gestural language, comparing gestures used by hearing people, “home sign” systems devised within individual families with deaf members, and full sign languages such as ASL, to determine where and how linguistic properties appear in the evolution from nonlinguistic to linguistic use of the same modalities. Fourth, he is interested in grammaticalization of gestural features during early stages in the evolution of signed languages. Fifth, he is interested in the online processing of ASL, including studies of sentence comprehension and memory as well as fMRI studies asking what parts of the brain are activated during visual-gestural language processing.

Prof Supalla has published a number of articles and chapters on the linguistic structure of American Sign Language and has begun a line of work comparing the structure of various sign languages of the world and comparing early and modern ASL. He has co-produced a documentary film Profile of Charles Krauel: A Deaf Filmmaker and has co-authored a book in press entitled Sign Language Archeology: Understanding History and Evolution of American Sign Language. He has been involved in producing prototype multimedia materials incorporating such linguistic data and utilizing the Internet technology to test their potentials. Dr. Supalla has spoken about his research at various conferences pertaining to Sign Language Research and Teaching, ASL Literature and Deaf History.

a. Professional Preparation

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<th>Institution</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tr>
<td>Portland State University</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>California State University at Northridge</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>B.A., 1973</td>
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b. Appointments
2009- Visiting Professor, Department of American Sign Language and Deaf Studies, Gallaudet University
1995- Associate Professor, Department of Brain & Cognitive Sciences and of Linguistics, University of Rochester
1988 Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Rochester
1987 Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and of Linguistics, University of Illinois
1984 Visiting Lecturer, Department of Linguistics, Stanford University
1982 Visiting Fellow, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Fellowship, Program in Cognitive Science, University of Pennsylvania
1980 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, Gallaudet University
1979 Research Associate, Department of Psychology, University of Illinois

c. Publications
(i) Five most significant publications

(ii) Five other significant publications
d. **Synergistic Activities**

Director/Co-producer of documentary film: *Charles Krauel: A Profile of a Deaf Filmmaker*.  
30 min., VHS, Color/b&w. San Diego, CA: DawnSign Pictures, 1994


Faculty: International Workshops for Deaf Researchers: Sweden, 1981; Germany, 1983; Denmark, 1985; France, 1987; Finland, 2004; Summer Linguistics Institute, University of New Mexico, 1995


Consultant: American Sign Language Literacy Project, San Francisco State University; Finnish Sign Language Dictionary Project, National Association of the Deaf in Finland; United States Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education grant, Vista College

e. **Collaborators & Other Affiliations**

(i) **Collaborators (within 48 months):** Elissa L. Newport, University of Rochester; Daphne Bavelier, University of Rochester; Peter Hauser, Rochester Institute of Technology; Yutaka Osugi, Tsukuba University of Technology, Japan; Ann Senghas, Barnard University; Marie Coppola, University of Chicago; Mrim Boultata, Brown University; Daniel Koo, Gallaudet University; Raylene Paludenviciene, Gallaudet University; Matthew Hall, University of California, San Diego

(ii) **Graduate and Postdoctoral Advisors:** Ursula Bellugi, Salk Institute, La Jolla (Doctoral); Lila Gleitmann, University of Pennsylvania (Post-doctoral)

(iii) **Thesis Advisor and Postgraduate-Scholar Sponsor**

Graduate Students: Yutaka Osugi, Associate Professor, Tsukuba University of Technology, Japan; Rebecca Webb, Adjunct Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Rochester; Marie Coppola, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Chicago; Mrim Boultata, Assistant Professor, Brown University; Daniel Koo, Assistant Professor, Gallaudet University

Postdoctoral fel lows: Karen Petronio, Associate Professor, East Kentucky State University; Ann Senghas, Assistant Professor, Barnard College; Peter Hauser, Research Associate, Rochester Institute of Technology; Raylene Paludenviciene, Gallaudet University