

Jade Matos Carew – Conference proposal for ProSign 2019

The provision of BSL courses for adult learners in the UK needs to increase to expand the use and awareness of BSL to offer much needed support to the Deaf community in education and society generally, and in the long term, fulfil the potential to deliver a BSL GCSE nationally.

The time is right to find out exactly what is happening in the classrooms of a largely unregulated industry. Are learners receiving the quality language instruction they should be?

This informal case study will investigate this at a grassroots level, providing a snapshot of a typical Level 2 course from the learner's viewpoint. The results of a small focus group discussion will explore learner motivation, the effectiveness of teaching methodology, class materials and curriculum, their self-reflection of progress, and the impact/washback of assessments. This will be balanced against my own professional observational opinion as an English language teacher trainer and BSL learner.

The study will give strength to the argument for national professional formation of BSL teachers and an accessible industry standard qualification which incorporates language teaching methodology to ensure teachers are equipped to teach BSL as a language and have the capacity to equip others to communicate in BSL.

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