

## “Sign Language of the Netherlands [dse] (A language of [Netherlands](#))

- **Alternate Names:** Dutch Sign Language, Nederlandse Gebarentaal, NGT, SLN
- **Population:** 7,500 in Netherlands (2014 EUD). 45,000 deaf, 495,000 hard of hearing (2005 NVVS - National Hearing Foundation). 7,500 sign language users (2014 EUD). 10,000–13,000 deaf or severely hard of hearing (Dovenschap brochure). 86,500 deaf (2014 IMB). L2 users: 15,000 in Netherlands.
- **Location:** Scattered.
- **Language Status:** 5 (Developing).
- **Dialects:** Seven recognized dialects. Five developed around the original five deaf schools: Groningen, Amsterdam, The Hague, Rotterdam, and Brabant (Stoop 2014). One is associated with the unique home for deaf elderly people, and one is the standardized variety. Fingerspelling system similar to French Sign Language[[fsl](#)].
- **Typology:** One-handed fingerspelling.
- **Language Use:** Deaf schools. Deaf associations. All ages.
- **Language Development:** New media. Theater. TV. Dictionary. Grammar.
- **Other Comments:** 400 working sign language interpreters (2014 EUD). Organizations for SLN teachers and interpreters. A sign center (Nederlands Gebarencentrum) develops NGT teaching materials and studies NGT lexicography. Research on NGT done at University of Amsterdam and Radboud University. Although NGT recommended for official recognition by a special committee, the Dutch government has not recognized the language (Schermer 2012). Taught as L2 (e.g. parents of deaf children). Teachers at deaf schools and interpreters have official college-level training. Secular, Christian (Protestant), Christian (Roman Catholic).”

Lewis, M. Paul, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.)  
2015. Ethnologue: Languages of the World, Eighteenth edition. Dallas, Texas: SIL  
International. Online version: <http://www.ethnologue.com>.

### **Related Readings**

Crasborn, Onno, and Els Van Der Kooij  
2013 The Phonology of Focus in Sign Language of the Netherlands. *Journal of Linguistics*  
49(3): 515-565.

Bank, Richard, Onno Crasborn, and Roeland van Hout  
2015 Alignment of Two Languages: The Spreading of Mouthings in Sign Language of the  
Netherlands. *International Journal of Bilingualism* 19(1): 40-55.

Hoop, H. de, J Ros, E. van der Kooij, and O.A Crasborn  
2009 Topic Agreement in NGT (Sign Language of the Netherlands). *The Linguistic Review*  
26(2): 355-370.

Crasborn, Onno, Roeland van Hout, and Richard Bank

2011 Variation in Mouth Actions with Manual Signs in Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT). *Sign Language & Linguistics* 14(2): 248-270.

Ormel, Ellen, Onno Crasborn, and Els van der Kooij

2013 Coarticulation of Hand Height in Sign Language of the Netherlands is Affected by Contact Type. *Journal of Phonetics* 41(3-4): 156-171.

van der Kooij, Els, and Onno Crasborn

2008 Syllables and the Word-prosodic System in Sign Language of the Netherlands. *Lingua* 118(9): 1307-1327.

Kooij, E. van der, C. de Vos, and O.A Crasborn

2009 Mixed Signals: Combining Linguistic and Affective Functions of Eyebrows in Sign Language of the Netherlands. *Language and Speech* 52: 315.

van der Kooij, Els, Onno Crasborn, and Wim Emmerik

2006 Explaining Prosodic Body Leans in Sign Language of the Netherlands: Pragmatics Required. *Journal of Pragmatics* 38(10): 1598-1614.

Zwitserslood, Inge

2004 Word Formation Below and Above Little X: Evidence from Sign Language of the Netherlands. *Nordlyd : Tromsø University Working Papers on Language & Linguistics / Institutt for Språk Og Litteratur* 31(2): .

van de Sande, Inge, and Onno Crasborn

2009 Lexically Bound Mouth Actions in Sign Language of the Netherlands: A Comparison Between Different Registers and Age Groups. *Linguistics in the Netherlands* 26(1): 78.

Schermer, Trude

2003 From Variant to Standard: An Overview of the Standardization Process of the Lexicon of Sign Language of the Netherlands over Two Decades. *Sign Language Studies* 3(4): 469-486.

Schermer, Trude

2012 Sign Language Planning in the Netherlands Between 1980 and 2010. *Sign Language Studies* 12(4): 467-493.

Verhoeven, L.T.W, D Hermans, and H.E.T Knoors

2009 Assessment of Sign Language Development: The Case of Deaf Children in the Netherlands. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education* 15(2): 107-119.

Dijk, Rick van, Eveline Boers, Ingrid Christoffels, and Daan Hermans

2011 Directionality Effects in Simultaneous Language Interpreting: The Case of Sign Language Interpreters in the Netherlands. *American Annals of the Deaf* 156(1): 47-55.

Last Updated: April 13, 2015