

Conventional Gestures: Meaning and Methodology

PREFACE

I GESTURES and COMMUNICATION

A. Conventional gestures	1
B. Conventional gestures compared to some other nonverbal behavior	
1. Wearing apparel and how we present ourselves	5
2. Body language	5
3. Communicative postures	6
4. Communicating with oneself	6
5. Objects used in non-verbal communication	6
6. Stylized emotions	7
7. Speech markers	8
8. Illustrative gestures	10

II THE METHODOLOGY of IDENTIFYING GESTURES

A. Saitz and Cervenka	11
B. Johnson, Ekman, and Friesen	12
C. Problems with messages and with collecting gestures as an anthropological or psychological study	14
D. On the background of those collecting gestures	18
E. Our backgrounds	19

III THE MEANING of a GESTURE

A. The message of a gesture	21
B. Gestures are complete utterances	24
C. Meaning and context	25
D. The difficulty of giving the meaning of a gesture	28
E. Meanings and descriptions of gestures in our gestuary	29

IV A GRAMMAR of AMERICAN CONVENTIONAL GESTURES?

A. Combinable gestures	32
B. Pointing	33
C. Combining gestures sequentially	37
D. Emphatics and diminutives	38
E. Gesture markers	39
F. A grammar of conventional gestures?	40

V SOME CLASSIFICATIONS of CONVENTIONAL GESTURES

A. Homonyms, synonyms, antonyms	42
B. Touch gestures	42
C. Reciprocal gestures	42
D. Refusals	42
E. Sarcastic gestures	43

F. Status-restricted gestures	43
G. Gender-restricted gestures	43
H. Sexual and obscene gestures	45
I. Obscene humiliations	45
J. Iconic gestures	45
VI ARE THERE UNIVERSAL CONVENTIONAL GESTURES?	48
VII THE EVOLUTION of GESTURES	50
VIII DESCRIBING and ORGANIZING GESTURES in a GESTUARY	
A. Describing gestures	
1. Purely verbal descriptions	52
2. Photographs	52
3. Films and video	53
4. Sketches	53
5. Contexts	54
B. Arranging entries in a gestuary	55
An ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY of COLLECTIONS	
of CONVENTIONAL GESTURES	58
BIBLIOGRAPHY	129
Index	143