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**(ФГБОУ ВО МГЛУ)**

**Аннотация**

к выпускной квалификационной работе

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**Key words**: sign language; Russian Sign Language (RSL); phonology; components of a sign; handshape; frequency; active hand; passive hand.

The paper aims at studying the phonological level of RSL, singling out distinct handshapes and calculating the frequency of each distinguished handshape in the language.

The **structure** of the paper includes Introduction, reflecting the subject of the research, its objectives and composition; twoChapters which offer the description of the phonology of sign languages and provide the results and findings of the analysis based on the dictionary of Russian Sign Language (2009); Conclusion and References. The paper is supported by different visual materials such as tables, figures and pictures in order to make the examples more illustrative and the theoretical and practical inferences more clear.

The **relevance** of this paper is conditioned by the lack of research done on the topic. The update of information on this issue will improve the current state of affairs with the insufficiently explored Russian Sign Language, enlarge its corpus and enhance its knowledge base.

The **object** of the present paper is ‘handshape’ as a significant component of a sign. Handshapes are considered the smallest distinctive units of signs; therefore a slightest inaccuracy in their production may drastically change the sense of what is being said. The **subject** of the present paper is the frequency of handshapes in Russian Sign Language.

The **material** of the work is based on the dictionary of Russian Sign Language (Moscow Organization of Russian Deaf Community, 2009). By means of overall selection we analysed the data from this source and visualised the obtained results in the form of tables and graphs in order to make them more explicit. Thus the main **methods** applied in the research are component analysis of a sign, elements of statistical analysis and linguistic interpretation.

On the basis of the obtained results we were able to make some **conclusions**, such as to determine the exact minimal number of the handshapes in RSL, to assess the frequency of their occurrence with regard to the active hand and the passive hand and to identify the frequency of occurrence of the one- and two-handed signs in the language.

The work has clear linguistic significance and is of scientific value as it contains a comprehensive theoretical study of the phonology of RSL, introduces new RSL handshapes terminology and provides the statistics on each distinguished handshape from different angles of the studied issue. The obtained results may be significant for future research of RSL and may facilitate the creation of new generation dictionaries based not on the alphabetical order of a spoken language but on the frequency of occurrence and characteristics of each component of a sign.

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