Elements in Sign Languages
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CREATIVE SIGN LANGUAGE

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Abstract: This Element describes creative sign language in deaf literature. To showcase the exciting developments in Latin American deaf literature, the authors focus upon creative Libras as it is used by the Brazilian deaf community while emphasising aspects of Libras literature that can be seen in similar productions and performances in sign language literatures around the world. Throughout the Element, the authors refer to examples of Libras poems and stories to give readers a practical experience of appreciating works of creative sign language. They describe Libras literature within its historical and social contexts and consider questions of performance, filming and editing, and the potential for written Libras literature. Drawing on anthologies of Libras poems, jokes, and stories, they use close-reading techniques to show how the literary effects are created while reminding the reader that sign language literature cannot be separated from the deaf community.

This Element also has a video abstract: www.cambridge.org/creativesignlanguage

Keywords: sign language literature, deaf literature, creative sign language, sign language performance, deaf culture

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