

# **Transliteration of the Multidimensional Health Locus of Control into America Sign Language**

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# What is the MHLC?

- A psychometric instrument
- Designed by Barbara and Kenneth Wallston, 1976

# What is the MHLC?

- Allocation of Control:
  - Individual
  - Family, Friends, or Medical Professionals
  - Chance or Luck
- 1999, Addition of the God Locus of Control by Vanessa Malcarne
- Aids in adaptation to chronic illness

# Why the Deaf Community?

- Neglected Minority Group
- Long History of Negative Experiences
- Demonstrated Health Disparities
- Underrepresented in Research

# AIMS

- Transliterate the MHLIC into ASL
- Forward and backward focus group model
- Preserved on videotape
- Observe the transition from a verbal spoken language to a 3-dimensional picture language

# METHODS

1. Videotaped, standardized delivery of the instrument vs. on-the-fly interpretation
2. Interpreter vs. culture-based translation  
Example: Sign for “God”

# RESULTS

<b>Original English Item</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Focus Group ASL Gloss</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Focus Group Back Translation</b>
<b>When I get sick, I am to blame</b>	<b>Me sick? Blame self</b>	<b>It's my fault if I become sick.</b>
<b>Health professionals control my health.</b>	<b>Medical professionals, they control my health</b>	<b>Medical professionals control my health.</b>
<b>If I take care of myself, I can avoid illness.</b>	<b>Me take care of self, prevent sick can</b>	<b>If I take good care of myself, I will avoid illness.</b>
<b>No matter what I do, I'm likely to get sick.</b>	<b>Me will sick, no matter what do-do</b>	<b>I will get sick no matter what I do.</b>
<b>God is in control of my health.</b>	<b>God, He controls, my health</b>	<b>God controls my health.</b>

# RESULTS

- Examples of More Complex Transliterations
  1. “Contact with my physician”
  2. “Meant to be”
  3. “Accident”

# Complex Transliteration

<b>Original Item</b>	<b>Focus Group #1 (ASL Gloss)</b>	<b>Focus Group #2 Back Translation</b>	<b>Revised Item in ASL (ASL Gloss)</b>
If its meant to be, I will stay healthy.	If true business happen, will continue healthy	If something really happens, I will remain healthy.	True business? Lucky? Will remain healthy?
Most things that affect my health happen to me by accident.	Affect my health, me have no control	I have no control over what effects my health.	My health, even once in a while, hit, goes down, zero control

# ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

**First Focus Group  
Suggested Additional  
Questions (ASL Gloss)**

**Second Focus Group's  
Opinion**

**If follow "God will," will  
be healthy**

**Not accepted, merely  
spelling out an English  
expression**

**Follow my religious beliefs  
important for my health**

**Accepted**

# CONCLUSION

- Successful transliteration
- Necessity of focus group consensus
- Video recording was essential

# FUTURE GOALS

- Validate and norm the transliterated scale with local audience
- ASL MHLC on Internet
- Validate and norm scale on national audience
- Make scale available to health care providers and researchers on VHS and Internet

# Questions?

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