



Filipino

Sign

Language

What is FSL?

- Natural sign language of Filipino Deaf.
- Indigenous sign language especially of Deaf adult communities.



How did FSL begin ?

- Beginning of FSL -same way as the beginning of other natural sign languages of other countries.
- Through Filipino Deaf persons coming together and communicating with each other.

When did FSL begin ?

- Not certain (no recorded history)
- Before the establishment of the very first School for the Deaf in 1907
- As early as the existence of early Deaf adult communities

“FSL”, An Inferior Language?

- Early Filipino Deaf persons favored ASL (learned from the first American missionaries)
- Filipino Sign Language considered as “local” or “native”
- FSL was set aside

Late Recognition

- Name “ FSL ” - a recent development .
- Start of name “FSL”
 - early 90’s
 - awareness about own indigenous sign language for Filipino.
- Thru aware and enlightened Filipino Deaf and hearing professionals (with exposures to other natural sign languages of other countries).

Could you describe FSL?

- Has own linguistic features -vocabulary, word order and rules of grammar
- FSL features not yet fully explored and subjected to research
- Many FSL signs already identified.

Samples from FSL Vocabulary

1. "grabe"
2. "sawa" (turn off)
3. not include
4. eye throw/drop
5. dangerous (out of topic)
6. "bahala ka" (self)
7. "kuripot" (stingy)
8. "sobrang pagod" (too much tired)
9. "Mahirap" (hard work)
10. "sayang" (such a waste)
11. "think zero" (don't think)



Issues and Concerns Related to FSL

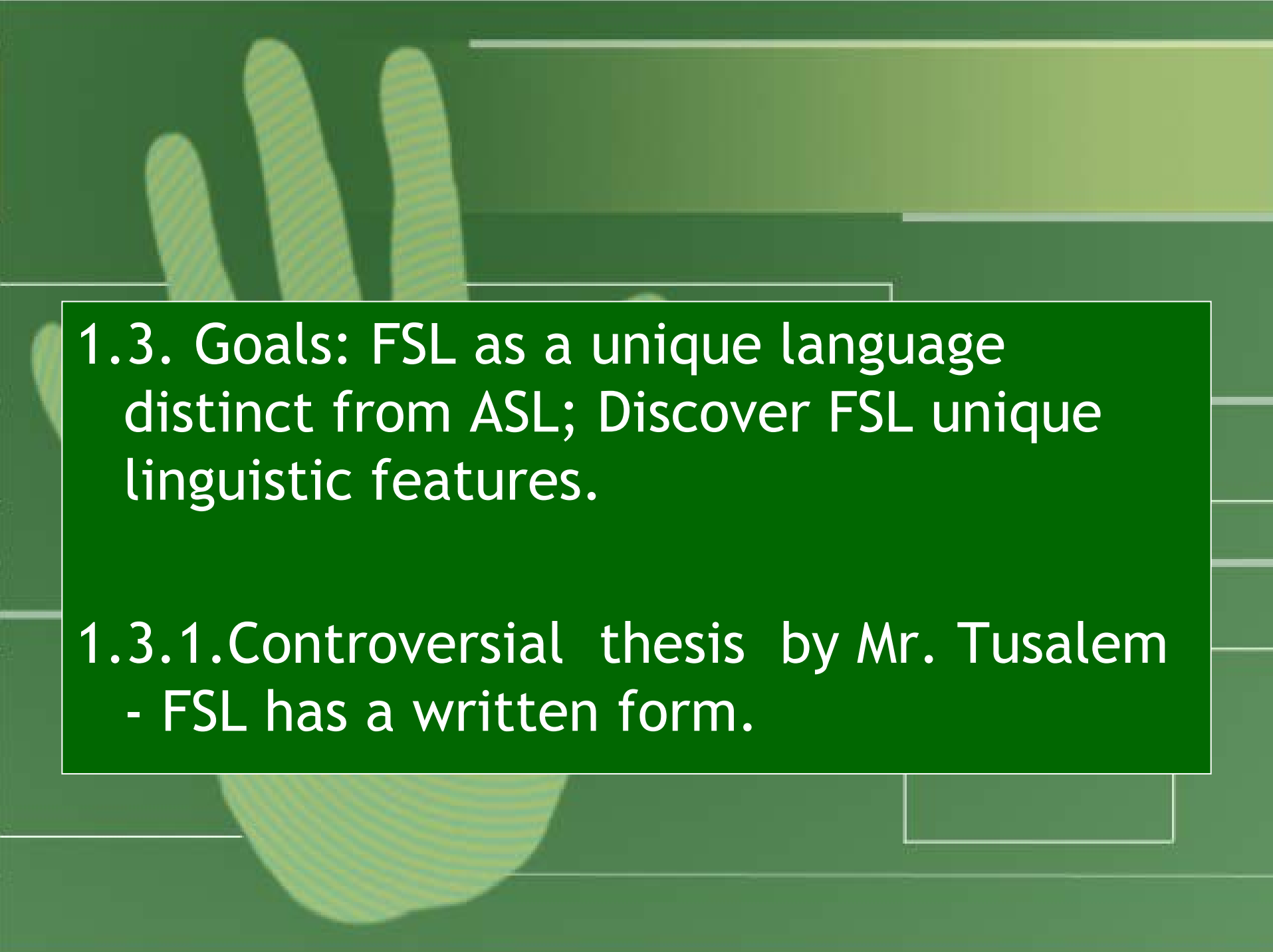
1. Research Efforts

1.1. Research - a very new development in Filipino Deaf History.

1.2. On-going separate researches on FSL

1.2.1 Dr. Liza Martinez (Philippines Resources for the Deaf, Inc.)

1.2.2. Mr. Jonathan Tusalem
(SDEAS, College of Saint Benilde)



1.3. Goals: FSL as a unique language distinct from ASL; Discover FSL unique linguistic features.

1.3.1. Controversial thesis by Mr. Tusalem
- FSL has a written form.

2. FSL V.S. Signed English

- Late 1990'S start of Advocacy of Deaf Communities thru PFD: USE FSL IN SCHOOLS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN
- Slow Response of Government Schools due to unsettled issues:

- Unsettled Issues:

2.1. Which would help improve the reading and writing skills of the Deaf? Is it FSL or signed English?

NO RESEARCH YET

2.2 Who would teach the deaf using Filipino Sign Language?

- Mostly hearing teachers
- Very few Deaf teachers
- Teachers' lack of training and exposures to FSL
- FSL researches not complete yet
- Who will give training on FSL?

2.3 FSL common to all Filipino Deaf or FSL for every Deaf community?


Philippine situation

- 7,107 islands (Deaf people found everywhere)
- More than 70 dialects spoken by hearing Filipinos reflecting the uniqueness of the culture



3. Filipino or English Language?

- Filipino Deaf don't know Filipino language (written form)
- Filipino Deaf more comfortable with English (exposed to English prints)
- Filipino Deaf are alienated from their own roots.



“The Filipino Deaf have a unique way of expressing themselves through their language and creativity.”



Maraming
Salamat
Po!

