

GENERAL LINGUISTICSDOI <https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-26-261-6-45>**THE DEFINITE PLURALITY OF PERSONAL PRONOUNS
IN UKRAINIAN SIGN LANGUAGE****ВИЗНАЧЕНА МНОЖИНА В ОСОБОВИХ ЗАЙМЕННИКАХ
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In Ukrainian sign language, as in most other sign languages, different plurality forms form two large groups of plurals – indefinite and definite [2, p. 47]. An indefinite plurality is a form of sign when it is clear from its structure that it is about more than one object, i.e. a plurality, however, it is not clear what the exact number of these objects is. In contrast, a definite plurality is a form of plural when the structure of the sign makes it clear not only that it is about more than one object, but also indicates the exact number of objects the speaker is talking about [1, pp. 50-56].

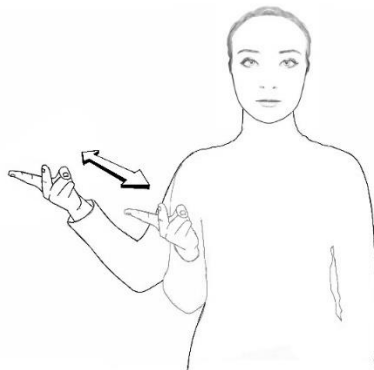
A definite plurality of Ukrainian sign language can change the structure of the sign in such a way as to convey the quantitative value of two to ten objects [3, p. 269]. However, it should be noted that each part of the language has its characteristics and limitations of ways of transmitting a definite plurality. So, if for a noun the definite plurality can reach the number of ten objects, then for pronouns, in particular personal pronouns, the maximum number of objects that a definite plurality can convey is limited to the number of five. This limitation is caused by the fact that all personal pronouns in Ukrainian sign language are one-handed signs, and the change of grammatical categories of personal pronouns usually occurs while preserving the parameter of one-handed signs.

So, the exact quantity in personal pronouns can be conveyed in two main ways: using hand configuration; using movement.

Changing the configuration of the hand is the most common way to convey quantity.

Most personal signs in the singular or indefinite plurality are formed using the index finger as a configuration that is a structural element of the sign. This configuration is borrowed from the quantitative numeral ONE and denotes either the number one or unity as a group of identical elements. For example, in the sign, THEY denote a certain integrity – a group of persons to which the speaker does not belong. Even though the meaning of the sign THEY indicates a plurality, it is about one group of people which is why the configuration of the index finger is used.

If we need to convey a different number of up to five people, we can change the configuration by borrowing it from the corresponding quantitative numerals TWO, THREE, FOUR, and FIVE. At the same time, there is a change in the orientation of the palm. If the sign THEY are an indefinite plurality form the palm is oriented downwards, then in the same sign of the definite form of the plurality the orientation of the palm changes to the opposite – oriented upwards. Along with this, in the sign in the form of the double THEY BOTH (see Fig. 1), the movement is borrowed from the sign THEY as an indefinite form of the plurality.

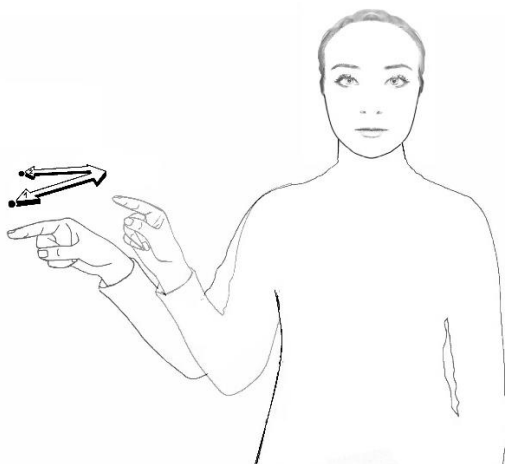


THEY (BOTH)

Fig. 1 Personal pronoun ‘THEY’ Definite plurality – double based on handshape

But in the signs, **THEY** (THREE/FOUR/FIVE) the movement of the hand will take place in a horizontal circle as if separating in such a way a certain group of people.

In addition to changing the configuration of the hand in the sign, there is one more way to express a definite plurality of personal pronouns – this is a change of movement, this movement becomes zigzag with a clear fixation at the points that complete the phases of the sign (see Fig. 2).



THEY (BOTH)

Fig. 2 Personal pronoun ‘THEY’ Definite plurality – double based on movement

With this method, the configuration of the hand with the index finger is preserved, as in the sign **THEY** of the indefinite plural form. At the same time, this method is used only for two varieties of the definite form of plural – for double and triple. This limitation is related, in our opinion, to the fact that sign languages evolve, and signs are preserved in them, which are ergonomic – convenient for a person when the speaker can spend less energy while expressing information accurately and comprehensively. If the same method of creating a definite double was applied to a fifth, it would require the speaker to repeat the same movement five times, which would overload the sign too much and exhaust the speaker.

It is interesting that in Ukrainian sign language, in contrast to Ukrainian spoken language, a definite form of plural has been preserved, which was once characteristic of Ukrainian spoken language double and triple have disappeared in it now.

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**SUBFRAME FILLING OF WORD-FORMING SEMANTICS
OF DENUMERATIVES WITH MODIFICATION
AND TRANSPOSITION TYPES OF DERIVATION**

**СУБФРЕЙМОВЕ НАПОВНЕННЯ СЛОВОТВІРНОЇ
СЕМАНТИКИ ДЕНУМЕРАТИВІВ ІЗ МОДИФІКАЦІЙНИМ
ТА ТРАНСПОЗИЦІЙНИМ ТИПАМИ ДЕРИВАЦІЇ**

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