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Understanding Ghanaian sign language(s): history, linguistics, and ideology

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Timothy Mac Hadjah, born on April 1, 1987, in Koforidua, Eastern Region, Ghana, completed his Junior High School education at Sarkodee L/A in Koforidua in 2002 and his Senior High school education at Ghana Secondary School - Koforidua in 2004. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Linguistics and Philosophy from the University of Ghana in 2010. Subsequently, he pursued a Master of Arts (MA) in Human Rights from the University of Education, Winneba, completing his thesis on "Exploring Challenges Faced by Deaf Students at Mampong Senior High School in Pursuit of Higher Education" in 2013. He continued his academic journey and attained a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree in Linguistics from the University of Ghana in 2016, focusing on "Number Marking in Ghanaian Sign Language". From 2016 until March 2018, Timothy served as a graduate assistant and resource person for the Office of Students with Special Needs (OSSN) at the University of Ghana, providing academic sign language interpretations. In 2018, he embarked on his PhD journey at Leiden University, becoming a member of the research project "From Gesture to Language," coordinated by Victoria Nyst. His PhD involves describing Ghanaian Sign Language using historical, linguistic, and ideological data. Additionally, Timothy founded the Centre for Sign Language and Deaf Literacy (CSLDL), an NGO in Ghana established to support and promote sign language and deaf individuals. Since June 15, 2022, he has been affiliated with Leiden University as a guest researcher, collaborating frequently with The Leiden HANDS!Lab.