



Editor's page

It is with somewhat ambivalent feelings that I hereby write my last Editor's Page for this Journal of Deafblind Studies on Communication. I bid farewell as Editor in Chief of this journal. Proudly, I look back on a beautiful journal that we created and developed all the way from scratch. The Journal of Deafblind Studies on Communication has grown into a scientific journal that counts in science, not only in impact figures but especially in content concerning innovative applications of theoretical models in the practice of and with people with congenital and acquired deafblindness, as well as related target groups with communicative disabilities. Therefore, in my last issue as Editor in Chief, I would like to thank some people.

First, I thank all the readers for reading this journal over the years. Further, I thank the Editorial Advisory Board consisting of Marlene Daelman, Paul Hart, Anne Nafstad and Jaques Souriau. Without this group, the journal would not have been developed. After all, this journal is linked to the Master Program in Pedagogical Sciences "Communication and Deafblindness". I also thank the other lecturers who were previously associated with this master namely: Inger Rødbroe and Flemming Ask Larsen. I thank all the authors who entrusted their articles to this journal. In addition, I warmly thank all the reviewers who have made their contributions over the years in the form of reviewing the submitted articles. Besides the content people, I would like to thank especially the people at University of Groningen Press (UGP) who have supported our editorial team for many years to publish this journal, with special thanks to Dorien van Rheenen and Margreet Nieborg.

And finally, I thank the editorial team of this issue, volume 8, namely Saskia Damen and Fleur Yntema as associate editors. The good news is that under the leadership of this team and with Professor Dr. Saskia Damen as the new Editor in Chief, the Journal of Deafblind Studies on Communication will continue and be revived. The journal will also again be linked to the present Master Program in Pedagogical Sciences, "Deafblindness", of which Saskia is the content supervisor.

Having said that, I can proudly introduce the current issue. It consists of five articles as well as interesting features and comments.

The first article is written by Hellen Shakele, Kenneth Kapalu Muzata, Anne Nafstad & Jacques Souriau. Hellen is MSc. in Pedagogical Sciences, Communication and

Deafblindness, from Zambia, Africa. This article has a qualitative single case study design, which enabled a close analysis of the interaction between a child with congenital deafblindness and her mother and brother, by a reflective team. The aim of this study was to explore the effect of an intervention with a role model approach on the bodily tactile communication between the child and her family members. It was established that the intervention with the application of aspects of the Diamond Model was effective on face-to-face interaction, gestures and social interactions, and the application of aspects of the Dialogical Model enhanced the ability to reciprocate signs during the interaction. In addition, the study showed that only sign language is not enough. There must be a connectedness between signing and adapted interaction patterns.

The second contribution is from Annelies Braad, pedagogue and linguist at Bartimeus in the Netherlands, and MSc. in Pedagogical Sciences Deafblindness. This study used a systematic observation instrument to observe the non-linguistic and linguistic features of a child with congenital deafblindness. It resulted in a qualitative analysis of communicative expressions and signs made by the child with CDB. This article discussed that inconsistent signs can lead to difficulty with the signs by the communication partner. Difficulty with readability of signs of the child by the communication partner may negatively influence the language development of the child. Different possible causes of the incorrect and inconsistent signs of the child were discussed, such as the inability of the child with congenital deafblindness to access the linguistic features of the communication partner.

The third article is from Mariana Silva, MSc. in Pedagogical Sciences, Communication and Deafblindness, from New Zealand. This article is a qualitative and descriptive case study, utilizing video analysis and questionnaires. The aim was to understand the process of creating tactile communication. It focused on analysing the process of coining tactile signs for specific objects, between a person with acquired age-related deafblindness and her hearing and sighted partner. The results demonstrated three blended stages in the coining process, tactile exploration, information selection and negotiation of meaning. The coined signs were compared with their visual pair of NZSL [New Zealand Sign Language] finding several similarities in their components. This research had an expanding effect on the participant's perspective of tactile communication and the possibility of integrating it into their daily life.

The fourth article is written by Jamie Knecht, MSc. in Pedagogical Sciences Deafblindness, from the Netherlands. This study aimed to analyze the quality of the signs offered by one of the communication partners of an individual with congenital deafblindness and the effect of this quality on their interaction success. The results showed that even though the caregiver made some phonological and semantical errors and even though there were some discrepancies in her communication (between spoken and signed

utterances), this did not strongly affect the interaction success. Besides that, the discrepancies in communication had a more negative influence on the interaction success than the phonological and semantic errors.

The fifth and last article is from Marleen Janssen, Professor Emeritus, and still working for the UG Institute for Deafblindness, connected to University of Groningen. In this contribution, the valedictory lecture of the author is presented, in which she was focusing on new future perspectives on Deafblindness by looking back at the performed Ph.D. studies and master studies from an educational perspective, since her appointment as professor in 2008, preceded by a historical personal life story. Connected to this article are two interesting links which provide the Symposium Deafblindness organized on June 21, 2022 at the University of Groningen and a historical oral interview of the Emeritus on December 9, 2022, performed by Dr. Vittorio Busato, psychologist journalist for the ADNG (Archive and Documentation center of Behavior Scientists in the Netherlands).

We would like to thank Fleur Yntema in particular for the lay-out and successful publication of this issue, the authors, and the reviewers for their contributions, and we hope you enjoy reading!

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