

Contents

Acknowledgements — VII

Olivier Le Guen, Marie Coppola and Josefina Safar

Introduction: How *Emerging Sign Languages in the Americas* contributes to the study of linguistics and (emerging) sign languages — 1

Part I: Emerging sign languages of the Americas. Descriptions and analysis

John Haviland

Signs, interaction, coordination, and gaze: Interactive foundations of “Z”—an emerging (sign) language from Chiapas, Mexico — 35

Laura Horton

Representational strategies in shared homesign systems from Nebaj, Guatemala — 97

Josefina Safar and Rodrigo Petatillo Chan

Strategies of noun-verb distinction in Yucatec Maya Sign Languages — 155

Emmanuella Martinod, Brigitte Garcia and Ivani Fusellier

A typological perspective on the meaningful handshapes in the emerging sign languages on Marajó Island (Brazil) — 203

Ben Braithwaite

Emerging sign languages in the Caribbean — 251

Olivier Le Guen, Rebeca Petatillo and Rita (Rossy) Kinil Canché

Yucatec Maya multimodal interaction as the basis for Yucatec Maya Sign Language — 287

Marie Coppola

Gestures, homesign, sign language: Cultural and social factors driving lexical conventionalization — 349

Part II: Sociolinguistic sketches

John B. Haviland

Zinacantec family homesign (or “Z”) — 393

Laura Horton

**A sociolinguistic sketch of deaf individuals and families from Nebaj,
Guatemala — 401**

Josefina Safar and Olivier Le Guen

Yucatec Maya Sign Language(s): A sociolinguistic overview — 413

Emmanuella Martinod, Brigitte Garcia and Ivani Fusellier

Sign Languages on Marajó Island (Brazil) — 425

Ben Braithwaite

Sociolinguistic sketch of Providence Island Sign Language — 431

Kristian Ali and Ben Braithwaite

Bay Islands Sign Language: A sociolinguistic sketch — 435

Marie Coppola

**Sociolinguistic sketch: Nicaraguan Sign Language and homesign systems
in Nicaragua — 439**

Language Index — 451

Subject Index — 453