

## **Amami Island Sign (A Language of Japan)**

- **Alternative Names:** Amami Oshima Sign, Amami O Shima Sign, AOSL
- **Location:** a village sign language, or languages, of Japan. Amami Island.
- **Comments:** The region has a high incidence of congenital deafness, which is dominant and tends to run in a few families; moreover, the difficulty of the terrain has kept these families largely separated, so that there is extreme lexical geographical diversity across the island, and AOSL is therefore perhaps not a single language.

### **Related Research**

Osugi, Yutaka, Ted Supalla, and Rebecca Webb  
1999 The Use of Word Elicitation to Identify Distinctive Gestural Systems on Amami  
Island. *Sign Language & Linguistics* 2(1): 87-112.

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