

## *Contents*

List of Illustrations	ix
List of Tables	xiii
Foreword	xvii
Acknowledgments	xxi
1. Introduction	1
2. The Sociohistorical Foundation of Black ASL	14
3. Research Methods	49
4. Signers' Perceptions of Black ASL	64
5. Phonological Variation	75
6. Variation in Syntax and Discourse	109
7. The Effects of Language Contact	126
8. Lexical Variation	136
9. Conclusions	161
References	167
Index	183