Hope Barnhart

Comparative Essay

 ASL stands for American Sign language. American sign language is most similar to French sign language. ASL stems from old French sign language and has its own grammatical structure different from sign English. ASL is most used by people who were born deaf who do are not able to speak or know they English speaking sentence structure. One of the leading people in implementing American sign language was Thomas Gallaudet, he was also helped to open the America’s first school for the deaf. In ASL there are unique signs for different objects and actions that may be but not always used in pidgin. Unlike pidgin, ASL has its own grammatical structure and format.

 Pidgin is a combination of American Sign Language and Standard American English. Many people who learn sign language later in life, use pidgin instead of ASL because it is closely related to English and easier to understand and use. Pidgin mostly follows the English language’s sentence and grammar structure unlike ASL. Most people you see using sign language will be using pidgin instead of ASL due to the structure.

 Standard American English can refer to the English taught in schools or the English spoken. One major difference between Standard American English and ASL is that ASL’s sentence structure goes from more general to specific. For example, in English when asking someone what they want to eat we would say, “What would you like to eat?” but in ASL we would say, “You eat want what?”

 Overall, pidgin and English are very similar in their sentence structure and grammar. ASL is more different than English because English is its own language whereas pidgin is a mix of the two. Out of the three types of sign language, ASL has the most unique sentence structure that is not normally found in many other languages.