

S-I-L-I-C-O-N-E Inject-Ear | Silicone Injections

In American Sign Language (ASL) Gloss and English

Raymond Luczak

above-lights-open-down
f-l-u-o-r-e-s-c-e-n-t
audiology clinic {all-around}
e-e-r-i-e

The audiology clinic is fluorescent, a gray white light that breathes no shadow.

walls c-e-m-e-n-t floor
l-i-n-o-l-e-u-m
tall-plant corner fake

The walls are cement, the floor linoleum. Even the tall plant in the corner is fake.

audiology-person {wander-back-and-forth-by-my-side}
p-o-w-d-e-r something
l-i-q-u-i-d stir-stir-hard c-u-p

She moves in and out of my vision, stirring up powder and liquid in a plastic cup.

{scoop-up-mixture-from-cup
slender-cylinder
push-mixture-inside} audiology-
person {tilt-my-head}

She spoons and forces the gelled mixture into a large baster before she tilts my head.

{strains-hard-inject-mixture-into-ear-canal} feel cold
shiver-up-both-my-arms

The coolness of silicone injected deep into my ear canals shivers rivers.

me close-eyes suffer
i-c-e shock

I close my eyes and absorb the thrill of hypothermia.

me-awaken {try-wriggle-ears-
opening-mouth-moving}
ears feel warm same-same
m-i-t-t-s

Awakening, I wriggle my ears
back.
My ears are now warm as mitts.

me-wait-wait s-i-l-i-c-o-n-e
ear become hard
become e-a-r-m-o-l-d future

Minutes pass as the silicone
hardens,
future clamshells of what I should
hear.

audiology person {pull-back-
ear-careful-pull-out-silicone
wipe-off} e-a-r-w-a-x

She carefully pries out each
impression,
taking away remnants of
cerumen.

silicone-impressions} two
drop-inside b-a-g name mine
those-two gone fine

As she seals each in a tiny bag
with my name,
I say goodbye to these babies.

strange {impressions-stuck-
in-ears} hear nothing perfect
clinic cold but {ears-pressed}
hear nothing home warm

Cradled inside my ears, their coos
had been
the only thing breathing in the
clinic.

Note

ASL gloss is simply using English words and ASL idioms in the ASL sign order. Just to be clear: there is no standardized ASL gloss system at all. It is impossible to convey even a fraction of all the rich nuances of an ASL sentence on paper. For instance, there are no mentions of the location for each person (or animal) referenced in the signing space, the spatial relationships between these people, the sign dialects, and so on.

Redefining Disability

Edited by

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LEIDEN | BOSTON

Cover illustration: Artwork and photography by Megan Klenke

All chapters in this book have undergone peer review.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Bones, Paul D. C., editor. | Smartt Gullion, Jessica, editor. | Barber, Danielle (Sociologist), editor.

Title: Redefining disability / Paul D.C. Bones, Jessica Smartt Gullion and Danielle Barber.

Description: Leiden ; Boston : Brill, [2022] | Series: Personal/public scholarship, 2542-9671 ; volume 12 | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2022002197 (print) | LCCN 2022002198 (ebook) | ISBN 9789004512689 (paperback) | ISBN 9789004512696 (hardback) | ISBN 9789004512702 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: People with disabilities. | Sociology of disability.

Classification: LCC HV1568 .R395 2022 (print) | LCC HV1568 (ebook) | DDC 362.4--dc23/eng/20220120

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022002197>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022002198>

ISSN 2542-9671

ISBN 978-90-04-51268-9 (paperback)

ISBN 978-90-04-51269-6 (hardback)

ISBN 978-90-04-51270-2 (e-book)

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