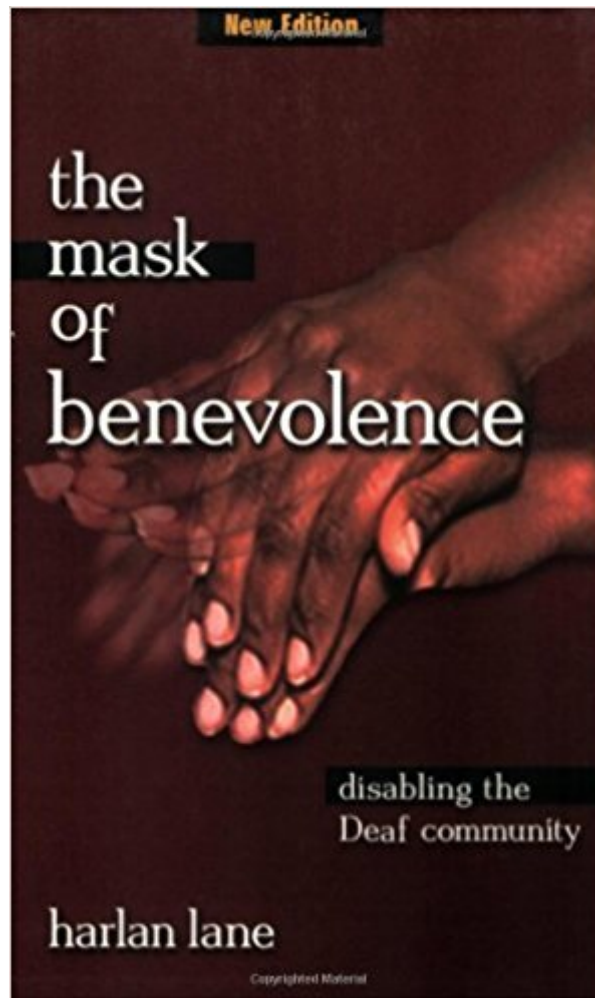




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# The Mask Of Benevolence: Disabling The Deaf Community



## Synopsis

A look at the gulf that separates the deaf minority from the hearing world, this book sheds light on the mistreatment of the deaf community by a hearing establishment that resists understanding and awareness. Critically acclaimed as a breakthrough when it was first published in 1992, this new edition includes information on the science and ethics of childhood cochlear implants. An indictment of the ways in which experts in the scientific, medical, and educational establishment purport to serve the deaf, *The Mask of Benevolence* describes how they, in fact, do them great harm.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Audism" is the term that psychology professor Lane, who is not deaf, uses in this forceful indictment of what he calls "the hearing establishment," which he portrays as a colonial power overseeing the needs of deaf subjects. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Written to stir both action and feeling, *The Mask of Benevolence* is thought-provoking in all areas of deaf studies. In particular, Lane focuses on the differences between the deaf as disabled and the deaf as a linguistic minority. He argues for a more coherent and compassionate society, one in which the deaf choose what is best for them--in areas such as education, politics, philosophy, and language. Specifically, Lane's research is about people who grow up deaf, acculturated to the manual language and the society of the deaf community. He writes again, as he did in his *When the*

Mind Hears ( LJ 10/15/84), of the historical perspective and positive conceptualization of deaf individuals. Lane is thorough, detailed, and intensive in relating the deaf world to the hearing, and he backs up his opinions with facts, research, and vivid detail. As there are no other current titles that so eloquently clarify the differences between the deaf and hearing worlds, Lane's book is highly recommended for all collections.- Emily Ferren, Carroll Cty. P.L., Westminster, Md.Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The book was highly readable, yet there were some weaknesses worth noting. While the author made very valid points, I thought the arguments were weakened in some cases by a lack of reliable citations. The only other criticism that I had was that in many cases, the author seemed to imply an intentional effort by hearing people to force deaf people into disability. In many places, the book compared the treatment of deaf people to cases of racism and slavery around the world. While undoubtedly some in the education system do look down on others, I thought that the specific examples shown in the book reflect more on the ignorance of the hearing doctors than an intentional decision to hurt the deaf community. With the exception of these problems, I thought the book was well written and gave an intriguing history of the problems facing people in the deaf community.

This book gives you a look at how the educational system stifles the Deaf students and tries to "FIX" them. The Deaf are not broken. They do not need fixing. What they need is compassion and patience and people who are dedicated to facilitating their ways into the mainstream. We allow ESL learners to use their native language, why not allow ASL which happens to be a language as well

great book!

Excellent purchase, thank you !!

Its an easy read and takes times to read because its saying a lot. This is a great read

Amazing read gave new insight into other cultures.

For an ASL class. Good to help understand the deaf culture.

As a person who has a congenital deafness of unknown etiology, I sometimes put up with people

who are either misguided, ignorant, well-intended but wrong-approached, and likes when it comes to the deafness. This book is absorbingly poignant and very eye-opening revelation of what has happened to the deaf people who are "victims" of medical procedures by the doctors who wanted to claim their fame as "curing the deafness" in the 1700s and 1800s as well as of badly planned and executed deaf education since the infamous Milan Conference of 1880. It extrapolates what is wrong with the deaf people today and what causes them to experience the indignity, disrespect, and so forth from the hearing people. To this day, they are still disenfranchised... A Texas senator who pushed for 185-million dollar fund to rebuild almost entire Texas School of the Deaf snapped back at the group who thought he was insane to push for rebuilding the deaf institute when it was popular trend to close the special institutes for the people with disabilities. He said this beautifully, "If you don't understand the deafness, back off!" Exactly the reason for reading this book!

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