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William Stokoe is the epitome of what it means to be resilient against all pressure. Stokoe philosophy not only challenged the way that people saw the Deaf community but it also challenged the notion that Deaf people are cognitively incapable of functioning like their hearing peers. This chapter delves into a deeper understanding of what Stokoe really did with his endeavors.

In his research, Stokoe had a lab where he was able to focus on studying American Sign Language and what the Deaf culture was all about. In this research, he ensured he had the inclusivity of like minded people both Deaf and hearing individuals. He collaborated with scholars who instilled a creative research that was individualized. This was called the “plenty model.” Essentially, he gave the people who were in his lab, researching, the ability to go anywhere with the research that they deemed would benefit their findings.

The “plenty model” was in contrast to the “scarcity model”. The scarcity model is exactly what you think it is, it is when there is a limit to what you can find. This was typically under strict hierarchical supervision and does not allow for creative exploration about a specific research topic. “I followed my own heart, and that's what I let the other people in the lab do. They came up with an idea and it looked like a good idea to me or looked like an idea that might turn out to be good if they put some work behind it.” The importance of blended minds in the

search of respect and inclusivity for the Deaf community and students at Deaf institutions was crucial.

Stokoe had many inspirations like Judy Williams, Charlotte Baker-Shenk, and Robbin Battison in his research which helped bring to life the discourse circling around the importance of understanding and respecting American Sign Language as a true and fully developed language with the community containing a diverse and unique culture. If it had not been for Stokoe pushing himself to continue with his research even after he had major setbacks, there would not be the ever evolving resilience to continue to uphold the Deaf community at a respected level.

The goal of the research is to provide as much information as possible to prove that ASL is a real language with a real culture. This would in turn create a better environment to Deaf children to learn the language and kick out oralism from the teachings. Stokoe proposed an "untried" experiment which is the bilingual education system for Deaf students but only allowing Deaf people to run it. This enhanced the learning material to shift from auditory ones to more visual ones. It helped give Deaf students a sense of individuality and identity.

I think it is extremely important to celebrate one's culture and language starting with respect and understanding. "They worked with him as part of a group of people who contributed to one another's knowledge and together changed the way that both deaf and hearing people perceived American Sign Language. Bill Stokoe was the catalyst for this group; his prestige brought in outside funding while the group laid the foundation for what eventually would be known as 'the deaf culture movement.'" Stokoe's work truly transformed and changed the way that research was done and the perception of the Deaf community. He not only helped shift to a

better research strategy but in turn, it gave people a different view on what it means to integrate both culture and ASL for a better outcome in an educational sense.