Research group Sign Language Grammar & Typology
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We study aspects of the grammar of natural sign languages, their acquisition and diachronic change, and in how far sign languages differ from each other in various grammatical domains.

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**NGT Grammar**

- Project: Descriptive grammar of Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT). Implementing previous research & conducting original research, e.g. on conditional clauses:
- **Results:**
  1. Raised eyebrows seem optional (unlike in other sign languages);
  2. Head movement and/or tilt seems obligatory;
  3. When a manual marker is present, nonmanual markers are used less frequently.

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**Body-Anchored Verbs**

- How does *iconicity* (form-meaning relation) affect sign language structure?

- **Body-anchored verbs:** (examples from NGT)
  - LOVE
  - RELIEVED
  - EAT

- **Result:** only first person subject ('I') can be dropped due to iconic associations:

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**Classifier Predicates**

- Classifier predicates: verbs of movement/location; the handshape classifies an argument

- Research on ASL: systematic connection between argument structure and classifier type

- **Results:** classifier predicates in Russian Sign Language & 4 other sign languages have complex event/argument structures

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**Sign Language Acquisition**

**Grammar & Description**

- Enoch Aboh, Vadim Kimmelman, Ulrika Klopman, Vanja de Lint, Marloes Oomen, Roland Pfaud

**Sign Language Acquisition**

- Eveline Boers-Visker, Beppie van den Bogaerde

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**Bimodal Bilingualism**

- How do deaf mothers and their deaf and hearing children combine spoken and signed language?

- **Results:** utterances can consist of following combinations:
  - Fully signed and fully spoken
    - signs: YOU WALK TO CAMP^FIRE (NGT or NL word order)
    - words: you walk to campfire
  - Mainly signed, with words produced simultaneously
    - signs: YOU WALK TO CAMP^FIRE (usually NGT word order)
    - words: fire
  - Mainly spoken, with signs produced simultaneously
    - signs: WALK CAMP^FIRE (usually NL word order)
    - words: you walk to campfire

- Mixed signs and words are produced simultaneously, but content differs, e.g.
  - signs: HUGGING...........
  - words: you sweet rabbit

Both signs and words are necessary for complete message.

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**Second Language Acquisition**

- How do adults who acquire a sign language as a second language learn to use the signing space to express grammatical relations?

1. Case studies (n=2, longitudinal)

2. Elicitation study (n=14, longitudinal) into classifiers and agreement verbs

3. Intervention study (2018) - does explicit instruction help?