Research group Sign Language Grammar & Typology
Aboh, E.O.; Boers-Visker, E.M.; van den Bogaerde, E.M.; Kimmelman, V.; Klomp, U.; de Lint, V.; Oomen, M.; Pfau, R.

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: http://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.

UvA-DARE is a service provided by the library of the University of Amsterdam (http://dare.uva.nl)
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.

**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.

**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:
    - ngd loves ngd him
    - He loves ngd me

**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

**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
      - words: you walk to campfire
    - Mainly signed, with words produced simultaneously
      - signs: YOU WALK TO CAMP \^ FIRE
      - words: fire
    - Mainly spoken, with signs produced simultaneously
      - signs: WALK CAMP \^ FIRE
      - 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.

**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?