**SIGN LANGUAGE GRAMMAR & TYPOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP**

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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**GRAMMAR & DESCRIPTION**

Enoch Aboh, Vadim Kimmelman, Ulrika Klomp, Vanja de Lint, Marloes Oomen, Roland Pfau

- **NGT Grammar**
  - Project: Descriptive grammar of Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT). Implementing previous research & conducting original research, e.g. on conditional clauses.
  - What are nonmanual markers of conditionals in NGT?
    - **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?

- **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**

Eveline Boers-Visker, Beppie Van den Bogaerde

- **Sign Language Acquisition**
  - Project: Descriptive grammar of Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT). Implementing previous research & conducting original research, e.g. on conditional clauses.
  - What are nonmanual markers of conditionals in NGT?
    - **Results:** utterances can consist of following combinations:
      1. Fully signed and fully spoken:
        - signs: YOU WALK TO CAMP\(^{\text{FIRE}}\) (NGT or NL word order)
        - words: you walk to campfire
      2. Mainly signed, with words produced simultaneously:
        - signs: YOU WALK TO CAMP\(^{\text{FIRE}}\) (usually NGT word order)
        - words: fire
      3. Mainly spoken, with signs produced simultaneously:
        - signs: WALK CAMP\(^{\text{FIRE}}\) (usually NL word order)
        - words: you walk to campfire
      4. Mixed signs and words are produced simultaneously, but content differs, e.g.
        - signs: HUGGING............
        - words: you sweet rabbit

- **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?

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**Bimodal Bilingualism**

- How do deaf mothers and their deaf and hearing children combine spoken and signed language?
  - **Results:**
    - Full bilingualism
    - Mixed mode
    - Mixed corresponding
  - 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**

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*This project is part of the project “The SIGN-HUB: preserving, researching and fostering the linguistic, historical and cultural heritage of European Deaf signing communities with an integrated resource”, funded by the European Commission Horizon2020 grant no. 693949.

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