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.

**Grammar & Description**

Enoch Aboh, Vadim Kimmelman, Ulrika Kloom, 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.

**Sign Language Acquisition**

Eveline Boers-Visker, Beppie van den Bogaerde

- **How do deaf mothers and their deaf and hearing children combine spoken and signed language?**
  - **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
      - Both signs and words are necessary for complete message.

**Bimodal Bilingualism**

- 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?

**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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