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):
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:

  - **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?

  - **Body-anchored verbs:** (examples from NGT)

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

**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

**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?