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.

**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:
    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

  - 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?

---

*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 European Commission Horizon2020 grant no. 693349.

#This project is carried out in collaboration with the Deaf Studies research group at the HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht.

#These projects are part of the project "Argument structure in three sign languages: typological and theoretical aspects", funded by the Dutch Science Foundation (NWO), grant no. 360-70-520.