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Research group Sign Language Grammar & Typology
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Citation for published version (APA):

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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:

  - 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

**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\(^\text{\textendash}\)FIRE (NGT or NL word order)
    - words: you walk to campfire

  - Mainly signed, with words produced simultaneously
    - signs: YOU WALK TO CAMP\(^\text{\textendash}\)FIRE (usually NGT word order)
    - words: fire

  - Mainly spoken, with signs produced simultaneously
    - signs: WALK CAMP\(^\text{\textendash}\)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 “SCHN/SCC: preserving, researching and fostering the linguistic, historical and cultural heritage of European Deaf signing communities with an integral resource”, funded by European Commission Horizon2020 grant no. 693949.

+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.

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