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.

**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)
      - LOVE
      - RELIEVED
      - EAT
    - 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

**SIGN LANGUAGE ACQUISITION**

**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^{FIRE} (NGT or NL word order)
    - words: you walk to campfire
  - Mainly signed, with words produced simultaneously
    - signs: YOU WALK TO CAMP^{FIRE} (usually NGT word order)
    - words: fire
  - Mainly spoken, with signs produced simultaneously
    - signs: WALK CAMP^{FIRE} (usually NL word order)
    - words: you walk to campfire

**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?