Research group Sign Language Grammar & Typology

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Citation for published version (APA):
**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:
    - [Image]

**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\(^\text{FIRE}\) (NGT or NL word order)
      - words: you walk to campfire
    - Mainly signed, with words produced simultaneously
      - signs: YOU WALK TO CAMP\(^\text{FIRE}\) (usually NGT word order)
      - words: fire
    - 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)
    - [Image]
  - **2. Elicitation study** (n=14, longitudinal) into classifiers and agreement verbs
    - [Image]
  - **3. Intervention study** (2018) - does explicit instruction help?
    - [Image]