Habituals in Sign Language of the Netherlands: a corpus-based study

van Boven, C.M.J.; Oomen, M.

Publication date
2021

Document Version
Final published version

Citation for published version (APA):
1 Research aims

• Investigate (non-)manual habitual marking in NGT in corpus data;
• Compare the findings to those reported in previous studies [1; 2].

2 Background & Methodology

Previous studies on habitual marking (elicited data):
• [1]: slower elliptical modulation of the verb, various NMMs
• [2]: reduplication of the verb, left-to-right body and head movement

Our study: investigate habitual marking in natural corpus data
→ Corpus NGT [3]: 106 habitual constructions

3.1 Results: manual markers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Adverb</th>
<th>No adverb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduplication</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No reduplication</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

→ Importance of combining different data types

3.2 Results: non-manual markers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-manual markers</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Left-to-right body movement</td>
<td>27.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brow raise/lowering</td>
<td>29.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrowed eyes</td>
<td>25.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pursed lips</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Other NMMs attested (<10%): back-and-forth body movement, head nod, protruding tongue
• Examples without any NMMs: N=28 (26.4%)

4 Discussion & Conclusion

The corpus data display more variation than the previously elicited data [1; 2]:
• Reduplication present in fewer than 50% of sentences in a habitual context
• Elliptical modulation not evident in most reduplicated forms (cf. [1])
• Left-to-right body movement not common (cf. [2])

→ Importance of combining different data types

References: