Signing Thoughts in Austrian Sign Language (ÖGS)

‘Expressing modality in sign languages’
Signing Thoughts in Austrian Sign Language (ÖGS)

Research procedure
Signing Thoughts in Austrian Sign Language (ÖGS)

Research procedure

- Phase 1
  - Recording
Signing Thoughts in Austrian Sign Language (ÖGS)

Research procedure

- Phase 1
  Recording

- Phase 2
  Identifying/Annotating nonmanuals
Signing Thoughts in Austrian Sign Language (ÖGS)

Research procedure

- Phase 1
  Recording

- Phase 2
  Identifying/Annotating nonmanuals

- Phase 3
  Analyzing nonmanuals
Phase 1
Recording signed thoughts

Setting, location:
- In Deaf club
  - visible to everyone
  - instructions clear
  - comparable data
  - natural signing
Phase 1
Recording signed thoughts

Setting, location:
- Camera
  - 2-3 cameras, front/side/90°
Phase 1
Recording signed thoughts

Setting, location:
- Camera

sitting  standing
Phase 1
Recording signed thoughts

- **Sequence of recording**
  1. Instructions on signing thoughts
  2. Signing informal and formal stories, then thoughts ~ 20min

- **Recordings**
  5 hours in total
  40min - short stories with signed thoughts
Phase 1
Recording signed thoughts

Instructions for signing thoughts
a) long ongoing action such as hiking, driving, etc.

RH: line of thought
LH: buoying the ongoing action
Phase 1
Recording signed thoughts

b) thinking about a situation and describing this situation
Phase 1
Recording signed thoughts

c) expressing different attitudes

CERTAIN

UNCERTAIN
Phase 1
Recording signed thoughts

- **Outcome of the recordings**
  - 6 out of 9 signers really produced thoughts
  - comparable topics (e.g. hiking in the mountains)
  - Lines of thoughts included
    - declaratives, interrogatives, conditionals
    - various epistemic modality
Phase 2
Identifying nonmanuals

Annotation procedure

- ELAN
- 4-5 annotators per recording
- ELAN-tiers:
  - 1 tier for each non-manual articulator
  - 1 tier for each head and body position along a body axis
  - each annotator separate list of head/body tiers
  - glossing tier was visible to everyone
  - tiers compared afterwards
    - accordance of 3 were taken for analysis
Phase 2

Identifying nonmanuals
Phase 2
Identifying nonmanuals

- **Results of annotation procedure**
  1. different annotators identified the same nonmanual movements/positions
## Phase 2

### Identifying nonmanuals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head forward</td>
<td>head forward</td>
<td>head forward</td>
<td>head forward</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Klagenfurt, April 12, 2014  
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Phase 2
Identifying nonmanuals

Results of annotation procedure

1. different annotators identified the same non-manual movements/positions

2. annotators determined same starting and ending points of non-manual movements/positions in association with the lexical entries
Phase 2
Identifying nonmanuels

non-manual marker hf is associated with the syntactic constituent

marker ‘head forward’
Phase 2
Identifying nonmanuals

Results of annotation procedure show

1. different annotators identified the same non-manual movements/positions
2. annotators determined same starting and ending points of non-manual movements/positions in association with the lexical entries
3. according to the annotators’ feedback, each non-manual element showed the following characteristics
Phase 2
Identifying nonmanuals

Characteristics of each nonmanual

- ‘movement’ or ‘position’
  ('hfs’ vs. ‘hf’)

- body/head movements allocated to one of the body axes
  ('hf’ vs. ‘hb’)

- intensified performance / size of performance
  (hf-large; hs-large)

- speed of performance
  regular, fast, slow (hs-fast :: hs :: hs-slow)

- further aspects
  e.g. degree of body tension
Phase 3
Analyzing nonmanuals

- Results of analyzing trains of thoughts with regard to modality
  1. various nonmanuals coding modality meaning
     (primarily epistemic modality)
Phase 3
Analyzing nonmanuals

1.1 Expressing conviction/assertion
Phase 3
Analyzing nonmanuals

1.2 Expressing non-assertion
Phase 3
Analyzing nonmanuals

1.3 Turning something over in one’s mind; expressing doubts

I HIKE    KNOW-NO    I INDECISIVE    PU
Phase 3
Analyzing nonmanuals

1.4 Expressing concern/worry
Phase 3
Analyzing nonmanuals

Where to is the gaze directed?
Phase 3
Analyzing nonmanuals

2. Indicating to a higher place in the signing space
Conclusions

Our research procedure for identifying means of coding modality

- Phase 1
  Recording

- Phase 2
  Identifying/Annotating nonmanuals

- Phase 3
  Analyzing nonmanuals
Thank you!

to all participants
Thank you!
References


