The International Summer School 2014:

Current Issues in Sign Language Linguistics (CISL)

Abstracts

Summer School Open

28th – 29th August 2014

9.00 – 9.30

Tom Humphries: *Meaning Making, Worlds, Dictionary Definitions, and Context Is Everything*

Meaning making is typified by cultural and social processes that construct "worlds of meaning", which when they interact, require careful negotiation and translation. Meaning is made within culture and across cultures. The ways that we construct and name ourselves and others and a recent dictionary experience are illustrative examples.

9.30 – 10.00

Radka Nováková: *Indirect Naming Units in Czech Sign Language*

"I", "you" in the Czech Sign Language (Path to Understanding)

The paper (based on the material provided by indirect naming units within the Czech sign language) shall address the issue of how the Czech Deaf (i.e. the "I" of the native Czech sign language users) conceptualize reality for varied "you", both in intra-cultural (within the Czech Deaf community) and intercultural communication (in communicating with majority culture members). The essence of the indirect naming units in the Czech sign language shall be defined (also in terms of their cultural particularity and difference from indirect naming units in the Czech language) and their types shall be outlined, which shall then be related to the issues of code switching/mixing and intercultural understanding particularly where the "I" and "you" are distinguished not only linguistically (spoken language vs. sign language) but also culturally (majority culture vs. Czech Deaf culture).

10.00 – 10.30

Petr Vysuček: *Deaf Signs in Czech Sign Language*

The paper summarizes current knowledge about deaf signs in the Czech sign language. It aims at describing similarity of meaning and relations of selected deaf signs with a focus on the appropriateness of their usage in a given language context. The conditions of their occurrence and the suitability of their use in context will be illustrated by specific examples of statements used by native speakers. The paper will also address the issue of translation of these deaf signs into spoken language and the frequency of their use by interpreters. Historical changes and generational diversification of deaf signs will also be mentioned.

11.00 – 11.30

Trevor Johnston: *Corpus-based SL Research: The Case of Mouth Actions in Auslan (Australian Sign Language)*

In this talk I give an example of corpus-based research. I describe a recent study of one type of non-manual in signed languages (SLs) — mouth actions. I examine the distribution and characteristics of mouth actions in Auslan (Australian Sign Language) to gauge the degree of language-specific conventionalization of these forms. I describe the coding schema for those non-manuals that are mouth-centred. All signs and all mouth actions are examined and the state of the mouth in each sign is assigned to one of three broad categories: (i) mouthings, (ii) mouth gestures (both of which we have already briefly characterized), and (iii) no mouth action. The data in this study has been drawn from the Auslan corpus of native or near-native signers. Fifty video clips were selected from the corpus, representing 38 individuals, 3 text types (monologue, dialogue, and elicited) during 5 hours and 58 minutes of the corpus, representing c. 17,000 manual sign tokens. The texts consisted of 25 monologues (narratives of which there were 25 retellings of two Aesop's fables); 10 dialogic texts (free conversation or responses to a series of interview questions); and 15 sessions of 40 elicited picture descriptions. Mouth actions that invariably occur while communicating in SLs have posed a number of questions for linguists: which are 'merely borrowings' from the relevant ambient spoken language? which are gestural and shared with all of the members of the wider community in which signers find themselves? and which are conventionalized aspects of the grammar or lexicon of some or all signed languages?

11.30 – 12.00

Adam Schembri: *Lexical Variation and Change in British Sign Language*

This presentation draws on work with Rose Stamp and other University College London colleagues on a corpus-based study investigating lexical variation and change in British Sign Language (BSL). Here, I report our findings from an investigation looking at BSL regional lexical variants for colours, countries, numbers and UK place names elicited as part of the BSL Corpus Project (Schembri et al., 2010). I discuss how we found that the signers' age, school location and language background (whether they had deaf or hearing parents) were significant factors driving the lexical variation we found in BSL, with younger signers using fewer traditional regional signs than older signers. This change appears to be happening faster in particular sub-groups of the deaf community (e.g., signers from hearing families, those educated outside the region in which they currently live) and semantic categories (e.g., signs for countries). Also, we find that for some UK place names, signers from outside the region use a different sign from those who live in the region. I discuss the implications of this work for an understanding of lexical variation and change in other sign languages.

12.00 – 12.30

Aurore Paligot: *A Corpus Study of Weak Hand Lowering Across French Belgian Sign Language Registers*

In connected signing, the location of a sign may be lowered or heightened when compared with the production of the sign in isolation (figure 1). Until now, sign lowering (SL) has been studied from a double perspective. Sociolinguistic studies (Lucas et al. 2002, Schembri et al. 2006) have emphasized the influence of both external (e.g. sex, age and gender) and internal factors (e.g. grammatical category, phonetic environment) on location variation, whereas phonetic studies (Mauk et al. 2008; Tyrone and Mauk 2010, Ormel et al. 2013) have focused on the role of internal factors (e. g. signing rate, phonetic environment and phonological distinctions) on variation. Russell et al. (2011) have reduced the methodological gap between the two approaches by analyzing natural conversational data specific to sociolinguistic studies with continuous measures of hand height, a technique of phonetic studies which enables a finer-grained analysis of SL phenomena.

By employing a similar approach, we propose to investigate two aspects of SL which have currently been unexplored. First, we focus on weak hand lowering (WHL) by analyzing location variation in symmetrical signs, such as the French Belgian Sign Language (LSFB) sign "HERE". As showed in figure 2, the weak hand of these signs may be articulated at the same height or lower than the strong hand in LSFB. Second, we investigate the correlation of WHL with register variation in LSFB. Based on the results of a small-scale study (Paligot and Meurant 2013), we expect that formal contexts will disfavor the use of WHL. By tackling these two aspects, we aim to get a better understanding of SL from both internal and external perspectives. We will focus on the following questions: (1) Which features of the phonetic environment contribute to WHL in LSFB? (2) How does the use of WHL vary across multiple settings?

Our corpus is made up of the recordings of four signers in four different settings that vary according to their formality level. The first two settings – a spontaneous dialogue and a narrative monologue – consist of studio recordings produced within the framework of the Corpus LSFB (Meurant and Sinte 2013) which have been selected in order to study the influence of interactivity on variation. The signers have also been recorded in two natural settings – an online video and a conference (two signers) or a course (two signers) – which vary according to the audience.

A first annotation of the tokens of symmetrical (non-alternating) signs is conducted with ELAN. Each token is then coded for the distance between the hands which is determined manually by reporting the difference between the heights of each hand in pixels. The preceding and following signs are coded for the number of active hands (one-handed vs. two-handed signs).
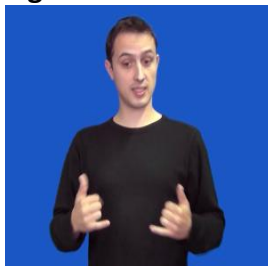
Figure 1
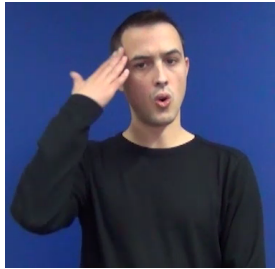
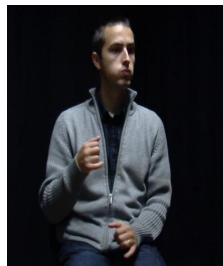*OTHER produced in isolation*

OTHER produced in connected signing

Figure 2

HERE produced with both hands at the same height

HERE produced with the weak hand lower than the strong hand

References

Crasborn, O. 2011. The other hand in sign language phonology. In M. van Oostendorp, C. J. Ewen, E. Hume and K. Rice (eds.), *The Blackwell Companion to Phonology*, Vol.1, 223-240. Malden, MA and Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Lucas, C., R. Bayley, M. Rose and A. Wulf. 2002. Location variation in American Sign Language. *Sign Language Studies* 2, no. 4: 407– 440.

Mauk, C., B. Lindblom and R. Meier. 2008. Undershoot of ASL locations in fast signing. In J. Quer (ed.), *Signs of the time: selected papers from TISLR 8*, 3–24. Seedorf: Signum Verlag.

Meurant, L. and A. Sinte. 2013. Towards a corpus of French Belgian Sign Language (LSFB) discourses. In C. Bolly and L. Degand (eds.), *Across the line of speech and writing variation. Corpora and language in use – Proceedings 2*, 199-212. Louvain-la-Neuve: Presses Universitaires de Louvain.

Ormel, E., O. Crasborn and E. van der Kooij. 2013. Coarticulation of hand height in Sign Language of the Netherlands is affected by contact type. *Journal of Phonetics* 41, no. 3-4: 156-171.

Paligot, A. and L. Meurant. 2013. *Register variation in LSFB: the influence of the metalinguistic function*. Poster presented at the 11th Conference on Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR 11), London, 10-13 July.

Russell, K., E. Wilkinson and T. Janzen. 2011. ASL sign lowering as undershoot: a corpus study. *Laboratory Phonology* 2, no. 2: 403–422.

Schembri, A., T. Johnston and D. Goswell. 2006. Name dropping: location variation in Australian Sign Language. In C. Lucas (ed.), *Multilingualism and sign language : from the Great Plains to Australia*, 121-156. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet University Press.

Tyrone, M. and C. Mauk. 2010. Sign lowering and phonetic reduction in American Sign Language. *Journal of Phonetics* 38, no. 2: 317–328.

12.30 – 13.00

Paweł Rutkowski: *Corpus Data in Linguistic Research: The Case of Polish Sign Language (PJM)*

Polish Sign Language (*polski język migowy*, usually abbreviated as PJM) is a natural visual-spatial language used by the Polish Deaf community. It emerged around 1817, with the foundation of the first school for the deaf in Poland. Up until recently, the hearing linguistic community in Poland devoted very little attention to PJM. The aim of this paper is to present a new large scale research project aimed at documenting PJM. Its main goal is to create   an extensive and representative corpus of video material that will further form the basis of detailed grammatical, lexical and cultural analyses. The PJM corpus project was launched in 2012 and its first phase will conclude in 2015. The underlying idea is to compile a collection of video clips showing Deaf people using PJM in a variety of different contexts. The first phase of the project will involve approximately 100 informants. As of May 2013, more than 70 people have already been filmed. When the project is completed, some 500 hours of footage will be available for research purposes. The PJM corpus is diversified geographically, covering more than 10 Polish cities with significant Deaf populations. The group of signers participating in the project is well balanced in terms of age and gender. Data is collected exclusively from signers who either have deaf parents or have used PJM since early school age. They come from different social and educational backgrounds (respective sociological metadata is an integral part of the corpus). Recording sessions always involve two signers and a Deaf moderator. The procedure of data collection is based on an extensive list of tasks to be performed by the two informants. Typically, the signers are asked to react to certain visual stimuli, e.g. by describing a scene, naming an object, (re-)telling a story, or explaining something to their partner. The elicitation materials include pictures, videos, graphs, comic strips etc., with as little reference to written Polish as possible. All the necessary instructions are given in sign language exclusively; they have been pre-recorded and, like the elicitation materials, are presented to the participants on computer screens. The participants are also requested to discuss a number of topics pertaining to the Deaf. Additionally, they are given some time for free conversation (they are aware of being filmed but no specific task is assigned to them). The latter two parts of the recording session scenario are aimed at collecting spontaneous and naturalistic data. When designing the above   procedures,   we took into account the challenges and problems encountered in similar projects conducted for other languages, in particular for German Sign Language (DGS), Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT) and Australian Sign Language (Auslan). For instance, we attempted to make use of elicitation materials that had proved successful in the other projects. The raw material obtained in the recording sessions is further tokenized, lemmatized, annotated, glossed and translated using the iLex software developed at the University of Hamburg. The annotation conventions we employ have been designed especially for the purposes of PJM. The aim of the present paper is to give a detailed overview of the above procedures and show sample clips extracted from the PJM corpus in order to illustrate the most important

advantages and disadvantages of the methodological choices that we have made. We also want to emphasize the societal role of this project in the signing community of Poland (as it is the first-ever attempt at collecting an extensive archive of the language and culture of the Polish Deaf).

13.30 – 15.30 (Poster session)

Kang-Suk Byun: *Repair Sequences in Cross-signing*

Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen, the Netherlands

The study reported here involves communication between deaf sign language users with highly divergent linguistic backgrounds who have no signed or written language in common. Unlike the semi-conventionalised contact language International Sign (e.g. Supalla & Webb 1995), I look at the earliest, least conventionalised stages of improvised communication, called "cross-signing"(Ulrike2013). My interest lies in the shared conversational infrastructure, as well as metalinguistic abilities, that allow signers to co-construct meaning across linguistic and cultural boundaries in this type of ad hoc communication.

My data set consists of the first encounters between two dyads of signers of Korean Sign Language, Sign Language of the Netherlands, and Russian Sign Language (totalling 60 minutes of signed video data). I here focus on Other-Initiated Repair (OIR) sequences that target the use of novel signs, a three-turn structure including the problem source turn (T-1), the initiation of repair (T0) and the turn offering a problem solution (T+1) (Dingemanse et al. 2013). Ongoing analyses have identified 40 OIRs in our data set.

I find that in most cases of T-1, signers use repetition, gestural holds, prosodic lenghtening and eye gaze at the addressee as *try markers* (cf. Moerman 1988). These try markers make relevant a contingent response from the interlocutor such as a nod indicating recognition. In some cases, the absence of backchanneling, also resulted in a problem solution being offered. Overall, OIRs were twice as likely to be preceded by a T-1 with try marking, than one without, suggesting that sign-producers may frequently anticipate trouble. This shows that, via try-marking, sign-producers might actively mobilize an OIR which is an otherwise marked turn.

Sign language users may face communicative problems that arise from the absence of a conventional language and are thus specifically associated with cross-signing. To resolve this communicative problem, signers capitalise on repair: a sequential infrastructure that is accessible to all, partially independent of language (Levinson 2013). Repair sequences are central to understanding the cooperative process of language creation in cross-signing settings. At T0, addressees frequently responded by repeating the sign that is the problem source, thus initiating restrictive repair. In the absence of linguistic convention, signers then use a wide range of semiotic resources to resolve reference at T+1: including logical inference, iconic depiction, and paraphrase.

One general consideration arising from these data sets involves the role of meta-linguistic skills. Preliminary findings show variation in both the success rate in resolving reference and the diversity of metalinguistic structures that are used. It remains to be investigated how this

may correlate with individual backgrounds such as age of sign acquisition, being fluent in multiple sign languages, and having international deaf social networks.

References

Dingemanse, M., Torreira, F., & Enfield, N. J. (2013). Is "Huh?" a universal word? Conversational infrastructure and the convergent evolution of linguistic items. PLoS One, 8(11): e78273

Moerman, M. (1988). *Talking Culture: Ethnography and Conversation Analysis*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania.

Levinson, S. C. (2013). Action formation and ascription. In T. Stivers, & J. Sidnell (Eds.), *The handbook of conversation analysis* (pp. 103-130). Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

Supalla, T. & Webb, R. (1995) The grammar of International Sign: A new look at pidgin languages. In Emmorey, K. and Reilly, J. (eds.) *Sign, Gesture and Space.* Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Zeshan, U.(submitted). "Making meaning" - Communication between sign language users without a shared language.

Liu Hongyu: *A Study of Verbal Aspect of Shanghai Sign Language in Comparison to Tibetan Sign Language*

The purpose of this research is to examine the pattern and regularity of verbal aspect of Shanghai Sign Language, in particular, its aspectual markings and categories. Based on the dataset of Shanghai Sign Language and in comparison to Tibetan sign language, we try to identify the significant features of verbal aspects of Shanghai Sign Language. Specifically in this study, we use a wordlist of 105 verbs and three video clips to elicit verbs/verb phrases in isolation and aspect-loan verbs in discourses of sign stories.

From the wordlist-elicited data, we notice that Shanghai Sign Language shows a significant use of WAN (*finish*)-post verbal affixation to show perfect of completion. To show perfect of experience, Shanghai Sign Language uses both temporal anchoring sign BEFORE and WAN (*finish*). Tibetan Sign Language, in contrast, uses YOU (*have*)-post verbal lexical sign and temporal anchoring sign BEFORE to show perfect of experience, instead of using WAN (*finish*). To show perfect of completion, Tibetan Sign Language also uses WAN (*finish*) in its post verbal affixation position. In discourse, however, we identify few WAN (*finish*)-post verbal affixations in Tibetan Sign Languages.

From the sign-story data, also based on a larger corpus of Shanghai Sign Language, we identify some frequently used aspectual markings of verbal aspect of Shanghai Sign Language. They include the verb final affix FINISH, stressed hold, repetition, a lengthened hold, and other movement variations. The prominent aspectual categories identified so far are continuous aspect, progressive aspect, perfect aspect, and iterative aspect. The verb final

affix FINISH and stressed hold are used to mark perfect aspect. Lengthened hold is used to show continuous aspect. Repetition and movement variations signify progressive aspect. Repetition can also be used to show iterative aspect.

Two other interesting phenomena of aspectual markings in Shanghai Sign Language are the non-manual expressions coded as -le- and -m- used as perfect markers , and the verb sign of COMPETE following the diagonal time line from right shoulder to left downward space used to show continuous aspect, quite different from the already defined timeline in the literature.

When comparing the two sign languages in terms of aspectual categories, we notice a relatively rich expression of perfect verbal aspect in Shanghai sign language In Tibetan Sign Language, however, continuous aspect and perfect aspect conveyed respectively by lengthened hold and stressed hold are more abundant than post-verbal affixation of WAN.

Joanna Filipczak, Piotr Mostowski, Sylwia Łozińska, Paweł Rutkowski: *The Role of Lexical Iconicity in the Interpretation of PJM Signs*

Iconicity in language is a mimetic relation between a form (a word or a sign) and its denotation. Sign languages are well--known for highly iconic strategies of representing referents with hand configurations. However, current research shows that iconicity in sign languages is not a simple one--to--one matching process (based on visual similarity). Pizzuto and Volterra (2000), Taub (2001), Pietrandrea (2002), Grote and Linz (2003), among many others, show that iconic signs can be seen as mental/cultural models of objects, actions and states transferred into language, rather than mere manual copies of particular shapes and movements of the referents. The aim of this paper is to show that, although we can see some similarities in the interpretation of iconic signs between the Deaf and the hearing, there is a clear difference between general (plain) non--linguistic iconicity and lexicalized iconic structures and signs found in PJM (*polski język migowy*, Polish Sign Language).

In this paper, we discuss the results of an experiment on lexical iconicity in PJM, conducted recently by our team. The underlying idea was to explore to what extent hearing participants (non--signers) may be able to guess the meaning of iconic PJM signs solely on the basis of their form. The experiment alludes to Klima & Bellugi's (1979) work on American Sign Language. To our knowledge, this study is the first attempt at an experimental analysis of lexical iconicity in PJM. Our main goal was to ask 50 hearing (sign--naïve) participants to guess the meaning of twenty signs that were shown to them. Each of the signs referred to an animal, with a clear and uncontroversial iconic motivation. The study consisted of three parts: 1) 20 PJM signs presented out of context, 2) the same PJM signs presented in the context of a specific semantic field (here: animals), and 3) the same PJM signs accompanied by four Polish translations each (one of the translations being correct). The most important results of the experiment are given in Table 1:

TABLE 1			
PART OF THE EXPERIMENT	CORRECT ANSWERS	ALL ANSWERS	%
1	60	1250	4.8%
2	269	1250	21,52%
3	649	1250	51,92%

We can clearly see that iconicity does not make a sign's interpretation transparent to non--signers. Interestingly, even when the participants were asked to choose one of four options, their success rate was only around 50%. Let us have a closer look at the following three signs: SNAKE, SPIDER, and BIRD.

TABLE 2			
SIGN	PART 1	PART 2	PART 3
SNAKE	53%	97%	93%
SPIDER	40%	70%	87%
BIRD	23%	87%	80%

These signs seem to be significantly more transparent to hearing participants. They were interpreted correctly even when accompanied by an incorrect distractor (very similar in shape or articulation to the target). However, they seem to be exceptions that prove a rule. As shown in Table 3, a number of signs received no correct answers in the first part of the experiment and less than 20% of correct answers in the third part.

TABLE 3			
SIGN	PART 1	PART 2	PART 3
HORSE	0%	13%	13%
DUCK	0%	0%	20%
FROG	0%	0%	7%

We analyzed the participants' answers for each of such signs, and found out that the cognitive patterns that underlay their decisions were usually easily recognizable. Actually, some cases of mapping the mental model of a referent (or activity) onto a manual sign were very similar to those found in PJM. For instance, Table 4 lists the participants' responses to the sign CRAYFISH. It is interesting that, in Part 1 of our experiment, no participant interpreted the sign correctly. Still, the iconic motivation of the sign was quite clear:

TABLE 4	
CRAYFISH	CORRECT ANSWERS
PART 1	0%
PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSES	
scissors	21
to cut	19
crab	1
to shoot	1
to understand	1

We conclude that the iconic dimension of PJM signs, although clearly present, should not be treated as the underlying mechanism of semantic interpretation. Iconic signs are not convention--independent. It is only when one knows the meaning of a particular sign that its motivation becomes transparent.

REFERENCES

Pizzuto, E., Volterra, V. 2000. Iconicity and transparency in sign languages: a cross--linguistic cross--cultural view. In K. Emmorey, H. Lane (eds.), *The Signs of Language Revisited: An Anthology in Honor of Ursula Bellugi and Edward Klima*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum, 261--286

Taub, S. 2001. *Language from the Body: Iconicity and Metaphor in American Sign Language*. Cambridge University Press.

Pietrandrea, P. 2002. Iconicity and Arbitrariness in Italian Sign Language. *Sign Language Studies* 2/3: 296-- 321.

Klima, E., Bellugi, U. 1979. *The Signs of Language*. Harvard University Press.

Grote, K., Linz, E. 2003. The Influence of Sign Language Iconicity on Semantic Conceptualization."In W.G. Müller; O. Fischer. (eds.) *From Sign to Signing : Iconicity in Language and Literature 3. Symposium on Iconicity in Language and Literature.* Benjamins, 23--40.

Justyna Kotowicz: *Sign Language Reception Skills Test for Children in Polish Sign Language (PJM): Results of British Sign Language (BSL) Adaptation*

Sign Language is acquired by deaf children through stages of language development and this very important process should be monitored (Emmorey, 2002; Petitto, 1991). Currently, in Poland there is a great need for assessment to evaluate sign language skills in children,

because we don't have at our disposal tests to monitor the acquisition of Polish Sign Language (Polski Język Migowy, PJM) development. The lack of specially prepared assessment inspired us to start working at the adaptation of Receptive Skills Test (RST) from British Sign Language (BSL) to Polish Sign Language (PJM) with respect to the test adaptation's rules (Haug, 2008, 2011; Haug, Mann, 2008). The original test (RST BSL) was prepared by R. Herman, S. Holmes and B. Woll for use with children from 3 to 11 years of age. The RST BSL is one of the first standardised test of sign language with the norms for children from this age groups. The psychometric parameters of the RST BSL confirm its value as an assessment measuring sign language skills in children (the reliability of the test-0,87 (test- retest) and 0,9 (split half method) and validity- statistically significant correlation with Mosaic Snijders- Oomen Non-Verbal Intelligence Test) (Enns, Herman, 2011). We will present all steps of adaptation from BSL to Polish Sign Language (PJM): translation and modification of original items, preparation of computer version of test, cultural adaptation and new items proposition in Polish Sign Language (PJM).

Bibliography:

Emmorey, K. (2002), *Language, cognition and the brain. Insights from Sign language Research*. Lawerence Erlbaum Associates, Mahwah, New Jersey.

Enns, Ch, Herman, R. (2011), *Adapting the Assessing British Sign Language Development: Receptive Skills test Into American Sign Language*, Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Eduaction, 16(3),362-374.

Haug, T. (2008), *Review of Sign Language Assessment Instruments*, in (red.) A. Baker, B. Woll, Sign Language Acquisition, Amsterdam, John Benjamins Publishing Company Philadelphia, 51-86.

Haug, T. (2011), Adaptation *and evaluation of German Sign Language Test, A Computer-Based Receptive Skills Test for Deaf Children Ages 4–8 Years Old*, University Press, Hamburg.

Haug, T., Mann, W. (2008), *Adapting tests of sign language assessment for other sign languages- a review of linguistic, cultural, and psychometric problems*, Journal of Deaf studies and Deaf Education, 13(1), 138-147.

Pettito, L.A., Marentette*, P. (1991). Babbling in the manual mode: evidence for the ontogeny of language. Science*, 251, 1493-1496.

Paweł Rutkowski, Joanna Filipczak, Piotr Mostowski, Joanna Łacheta, Sylwia Łozińska, Magda Schromová: *The Polish Sign Language (PJM) Corpus Project: Current Status and Future Plans*

Polish Sign Language (*polski język migowy*, usually abbreviated as PJM) is a natural visual-spatial language used by the Polish Deaf community. It emerged around 1817, with the foundation of the first school for the deaf in Poland. Up until recently, the hearing linguistic community in Poland devoted very little attention to PJM. The aim of this paper is to present

a new large scale research project aimed at documenting PJM. Its main goal is to create an extensive and representative corpus of video material that will further form the basis of detailed grammatical, lexical and cultural analyses.

The PJM corpus project was launched in 2012 and its first phase will conclude in 2015. The underlying idea is to compile a collection of video clips showing Deaf people using PJM in a variety of different contexts. The first phase of the project will involve approximately 100 informants. As of May 2013, more than 70 people have already been filmed. When the project is completed, some 500 hours of footage will be available for research purposes. The PJM corpus is diversified geographically, covering more than 10 Polish cities with significant Deaf populations. The group of signers participating in the project is well balanced in terms of age and gender. Data is collected exclusively from signers who either have deaf parents or have used PJM since early school age. They come from different social and educational backgrounds (respective sociological metadata is an integral part of the corpus).

Recording sessions always involve two signers and a Deaf moderator. The procedure of data collection is based on an extensive list of tasks to be performed by the two informants. Typically, the signers are asked to react to certain visual stimuli, e.g. by describing a scene, naming an object, (re-)telling a story, or explaining something to their partner. The elicitation materials include pictures, videos, graphs, comic strips etc., with as little reference to written Polish as possible. All the necessary instructions are given in sign language exclusively; they have been pre-recorded and, like the elicitation materials, are presented to the participants on computer screens. The participants are also requested to discuss a number of topics pertaining to the Deaf. Additionally, they are given some time for free conversation (they are aware of being filmed but no specific task is assigned to them). The latter two parts of the recording session scenario are aimed at collecting spontaneous and naturalistic data.

When designing the above procedures, we took into account the challenges and problems encountered in similar projects conducted for other languages, in particular for German Sign Language (DGS), Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT) and Australian Sign Language (Auslan). For instance, we attempted to make use of elicitation materials that had proved successful in the other projects.

The raw material obtained in the recording sessions is further tokenized, lemmatized, annotated, glossed and translated using the iLex software developed at the University of Hamburg. The annotation conventions we employ have been designed especially for the purposes of PJM.

The aim of the present poster is to give a detailed overview of the above procedures. We will present the current status of our project, as well as plans for further data collection and annotation.

Hana Strachoňová, Jana Wagnerová, Roman Vojtechovský: *Processing of the General Vocabulary in the Monolingual Dictionary of Czech Sign Language On-line*

The paper deals with a monolingual dictionary of the Czech language and the Czech sign language, being developed in co-operation of several Czech universities and research centres. The primary conception of both parts of the dictionary is monolingual – it provides basic form of each lemma, its transcriptions, grammatical, stylistic and semantic characteristics, contextual quotes, and other information. Semantic links between Czech lexical units and their semantic equivalents in the Czech sign language make it possible to use the dictionary as a bilingual one as well. The paper summarizes the structure of a lemma, describes the work by the general vocabulary group and briefly shows some possible problems with treatment of general vocabulary lemmas. The presentation shall be performed in the Czech sign language.

Keywords: electronic on-line dictionary, Czech language, Czech Sign Language, general vocabulary, semantic definition

Alison Vere: *Bimodal Trilingual Language Acquisition*

- A case study looking at the linguistic development of a hearing child with Deaf parents.

This study seeks to investigate the bimodal trilingual language acquisition of a hearing child with Deaf parents in Malta. Video-recorded data was collected in naturalistic settings from age [2,9] to [3,10] and transcribed using ELAN (Crasborn & Sloetjes, 2008). Data collection sessions included the child's parents, grandparents and family friends.

The Maltese Deaf Community exists in a relatively unique context. Malta's history, culture and geographical location has resulted in a complex linguistic situation with the vast majority of hearing and deaf people being at least bilingual (Vella, 2013). The bulk of the research on language contact and language acquisition in Malta considers two spoken/written languages – Maltese and English.

Maltese Sign Language is a young and rapidly developing language which requires further analysis and investigation to build a body of literature comparable to more established sign languages (Azzopardi-Alexander, 2009). Previous studies with Deaf-parented families have taken place in Canada (Petitto et al., 2001), the USA (Pichler, Lee, & Lillo-Martin, 2014), the Netherlands (van den Bogaerde & Baker, 2005) , Italy (Bishop, Hicks, Bertone, & Sala, 2006) and Cyprus (Hadjikakou, Christodoulou, Hadjidemetri, Konidari, & Nicolaou, 2009) but as yet, no studies had looked at the Maltese context. In addition to code-mixing and code-switching bimodal bilinguals can engage in code-blending whereby a message (or elements of a message) can be produced both orally and in sign language making simultaneous use of both

modalities (Emmorey, Borinstein, Thompson, & Gollan, 2008). This study is the first to look at the acquisition of Maltese Sign Language as a first language. It is also the first to record child directed signing from Maltese Deaf adults and to consider the trilingual-bicultural context in which hearing children of Deaf parents develop.

The findings reveal that from age [2,9] the child was able to select the appropriate language for his conversational partner. He was observed to converse with a wide range of language users in Maltese, Maltese Sign Language and English on a range of topics and is well on the way to becoming a confident bimodal trilingual. During the study the child was able to harness this ability to code-bend to overcome linguistic obstacles.

The child successfully acquired Deaf cultural norms including tactile attention getting strategies and the use of sign names.

References:

Azzopardi-Alexander, M. (2009). Iconicity and the development of Maltese Sign Language. *Maltese Linguistics: A Snapshot; in Memory of Joseph A. Cremona (1922-2003)*, *1*, 93.

Bishop, M., Hicks, S., Bertone, A., & Sala, R. (2006). Capitalizing on simultaneity: Features of bimodal bilingualism in hearing Italian native signers. *Multilingualism and Sign Languages: From the Great Plans to Australia*, 79–118.

Crasborn, O., & Sloetjes, H. (2008). Enhanced ELAN functionality for sign language corpora. In *Workshop Programme* (p. 5).

Emmorey, K., Borinstein, H. B., Thompson, R., & Gollan, T. H. (2008). Bimodal bilingualism. *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition*, *11*(01). doi:10.1017/S1366728907003203

Hadjikakou, K., Christodoulou, D., Hadjidemetri, E., Konidari, M., & Nicolaou, N. (2009). The experiences of Cypriot hearing adults with Deaf parents in family, school, and society. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, *14*(4), 486–502. doi:10.1093/deafed/enp011

Petitto, L. A., Katerelos, M., Levy, B. G., Gauna, K., Tétreault, K., & Ferraro, V. (2001). Bilingual signed and spoken language acquisition from birth: implications for the mechanisms underlying early bilingual language acquisition. *Journal of Child Language*, *28*(2), 453–496.

Pichler, D. C., Lee, J., & Lillo-Martin, D. (2014). Language Development in ASL–English Bimodal Bilinguals. *Multilingual Aspects of Signed Language Communication and Disorder*, *11*, 235.

Van den Bogaerde, B., & Baker, A. (2005). Code mixing in mother–child interaction in deaf families. *Sign Language & Linguistics*, *8*(1), 153–176. doi:10.1075/sll.8.1.08bog

Vella, A. (2013). Languages and language varieties in Malta. *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*, *16*(5), 532–552. doi:10.1080/13670050.2012.716812

Anna Kuder, Jadwiga Linde-Usiekniewicz, Małgorzata Czajkowska-Kisil: *Space and Movement as Elements of Narrative Strategies in Polish Sign Language (PJM): A Corpus-based Study*

In sign languages the space surrounding the signer as well as hand movements are meaningful ele-ments of the utterance. The aim of this paper is to investigate how space and movement are used in con-structing narration in Polish Sign Language (*polski język migowy*, hereafter PJM). Our study was inspired by Slobin's (1996, 2000, 2003) observations about the relation between grammatical properties of lan-guage and ways in which narrations are constructed. We assumed that if space and movement are grammatical elements of sign languages then they will also be used in constructing narrations.

We have examined the footage of 19 native signers re-telling a short comic-strip:
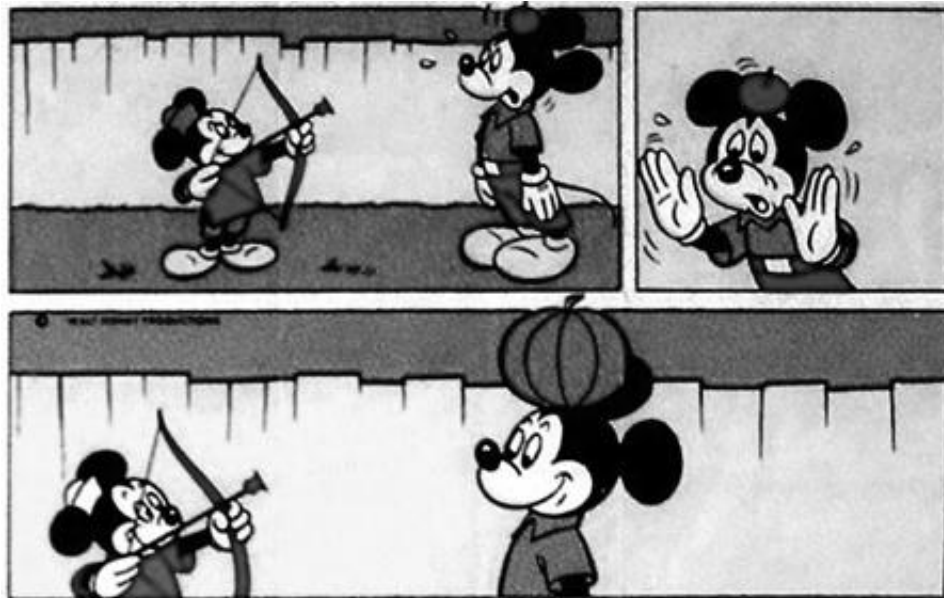
The footage was extracted from a corpus of PJM that is currently being compiled in Warsaw. The raw material obtained in the recording sessions was tokenised, lemmatised, annotated and glossed using the iLex software developed at the University of Hamburg (Hanke and Storz, 2008).

We focused on recognising five basic parameters of the examined narrations:

1. the structure of the narration (whether it was coherent with Soroko's (2010) schema: Entrée, Recog-nition, Plot Complication, Evaluation, Solution, Coda) or not;

2. the relative length and complexity of each of the stages;

3. the method of differentiating between the characters in the story;

4. the way of constructing and leading narration;

5. the presence of meta-text parameters as well as elements that are not parts of PJM.

As to the first point, the structure of narration did not correspond with Soroko's schema. We assume that it may be caused by the fact that the comic strip consists only of three pictures which correspond to Recognition, Plot Complication and Solution stages. Those three elements occured in all of 19 utter-ances. Entrée and Coda appeared a few times only, Evaluation did not apperar in any utterance.

As to the second point, the degree of complexity was the most differentiating element. Each part of the schema was expanded in another, specific way, all of which used space and movement. The most significant diversity occured in expanding Recognition.

As to the third point, differentiating between characters (the small and the big mouse) was con-structed in numerous ways from which three are the most important: by lexical signs, by classifiers and by role shift.

As to the fourth point, all of 19 informants used third-person narration. We have also observed some properties of the discourse that can be analogous to focalisation in spoken languages. Moreover, an important issue about constructing the narration concerns implementing utterances of the characters into the narration. In most cases it was done by narrating the utterance, not by quoting.

As to the fifth point, we found that meta-text parameters were very rarely present. We also found nu-merous cases of fingerspelling mouse's name (M.I.K.I. or M.I.C.K.E.Y.) as well as co-articulation of Polish words, which we classified as not parts of PJM.

Our starting hypothesis, that space and movement are important elements of constructing narriatives in PJM was confirmed by our discoveries.

We present an in-depth analysis of all those finding on our poster.

References

[1] Hanke, T. and Storz, J. (2008). iLex – A Database Tool for Integrating Sign Language Corpus Linguis-tics and Sign Language Lexicography. In: O. Crasborn, T. Hanke, E. Efthimiou, I. Zwitserlood and E. Thoutenhoofd (eds.), *Construction and Exploitation of Sign Language Corpora. 3rd Workshop on the Rep-resentation and Processing of Sign Languages*. Paris: ELDA, pp. 64–67.

[2] Linde-Usiekniewicz, J. (2012). From conflict through compromiese to collaboration: Semantics syn-tax and information structure in natural languages. Warszawa: Nakładem Wydziału Polonistyki.

[3] Quer, J. (2011). Reporting and quoting in signed discourse. In: E. Brendel, J. Meibauer, and M. Stein-bach *Understanding quotation*. Berlin/Amsterdam: Mouton de Gruyter, pp. 277–302.

[4] Slobin, D. I. (1996). From "thought and language" to "thinking for speaking". In: J. J. Gumperz, S.C. Levinson (eds.), *Rethinking linguistic relativity.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 70– 96.

[5] Soroko E. (2010). Wywoływanie autonarracji w badaniach psychologicznych. Ocena (auto)narracyjności wypowiedzi [Eliciting of self-narratives in psychological research and diag-nosis. Assessment of the (self)narrativity utterances]. Poznań: Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM.

15.30 – 16.00

Carol Padden: *Studies of Sign Language Lexicons*

This course examines properties of sign language "words," and how they emerge in a new sign language. Our research group has been studying two new sign languages, one in southern Israel and another in Turkey. We have found interesting similarities and differences across these new languages. This course provides training in basic ideas about words in natural languages, and specifically in sign languages. What constitutes a word? When do words emerge in a new sign language? How are properties of words in new languages different from languages of seven or more generations of signers?

16.00 – 16.30

Ulrike Zeshan: *Sign Language Endangerment*

The notion that sign languages also feature among endangered languages is very recent, and research into this area has only just started. I present results from in-progress work conducted at the International Institute for Sign Languages and Deaf Studies (iSLanDS) in conjunction with the Foundation for Endangered Languages and UNESCO.

This project has developed a systematic methodology for assessing the vitality and degree of endangerment of sign languages based on the criteria used in UNESCO's Atlas of Languages in Danger, but taking account of modifications needed specifically for sign languages. In addition to the methodology and the initial results, I also discuss the various causes of sign language endangerment, ranging from small-scale sign languages in rural communities with hereditary deafness to larger urban communities faced with pressures of community fragmentation and the effects of Cochlear Implants.

16.30 – 17.00

Josefina Safar: *Village Sign Languages as Endangered Languages – An Analysis of Discourse about Chican Sign Language (Mexico)*

This paper examines how language attitudes and language ideologies about an endangered minority sign language are constructed and established through discourse. The focus of the study is the Chican SL, an indigenous sign language used both by deaf and hearing people in a Yucatec Mayan village with high incidence of hereditary deafness. The existence of a local sign language was discovered in the 1970s and, since then, the Chican SL has been studied by linguists and anthropologists under various aspects (e.g. Shuman 1980, Johnson 1991, Fox Tree 2009, Le Guen 2012, Escobedo Delgado 2012). Apart from scientific research, the village Chican has received a great deal of attention by local, national and international media, government bodies and NGOs. Several institutions have worked in the village, carrying out audiometry, distributing hearing aids and developing strategies to "improve" life in Chican.

By critically examining the ways the language and its community are represented in different contexts, one becomes aware of the diverging and often contradictory attitudes and values that stand behind them. Sign linguists and anthropologists recognise the widespread use of a unique and elaborated sign language as well as the absence of communication barriers for deaf people in Chican as a matter of fact and the village is seen as a "symbol" of an inclusive society. Parallel to that, the value of indigenous minority languages as a part of Mexico's multicultural heritage is highlighted by language policy makers. At the same time, media reports provide a platform where medical and pathological discourse and discriminating attitudes towards sign languages and deaf people still continue to thrive.

In my paper, I argue that the way of *talking about language through language* reflects different social interests and plays a crucial role for the vitality or endangerment of a language. Despite their relevance, respective studies about village sign languages have been scarce (see Kusters forthcoming 2014 for language ideologies in the shared signing community of Adamorobe, Ghana).

For my research project, a comprehensive text corpus was compiled, including scientific, legal-political and media representations of the topic between 1982 and 2014. Different discourses about the Chican SL in the dynamic sociopolitical landscape of a multilingual country have been analysed, considering how they have changed over the years. A sample of the media reports has been selected and further examined by applying Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) (Wodak 2001). Additionally, ethnographic data was gathered during my fieldwork in Chican and is used as a backdrop for the discourse analysis of the texts. I will show that the language and its community are objects of conflicting ideologies that do not necessarily coincide with local language practices.

References

Escobedo Delgado, C. E. (2012): Chican Sign Language: A sociolinguistic sketch. In: Zeshan, U. & De Vos, C. (Eds.): *Sign Languages in Village Communities: Anthropological and Linguistic Insights*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter & Ishara Press, 377-381.

Fox Tree, E. (2009): Meemul Tziij: An Indigenous Sign Language Complex of Mesoamerica. *Sign Language Studies 9*(3), 324-366.

Johnson, R. E. (1991): Sign language, Culture & Community in a Traditional Yucatec Maya village. In: *Sign Language Studies 73*, 461-474.

Kusters, A. (forthcoming in 2014): Language Ideologies in the Shared Signing Community of Adamorobe. In: *Language in Society 43*(2).

Le Guen, O. (2012): Exploration in the domain of time: From Yucatec Maya time gestures to Yucatec Maya Sign Language time signs. In: Zeshan, U. & De Vos, C. (Eds.): *Sign Languages in Village Communities: Anthropological and Linguistic Insights*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter & Ishara Press, 209-250.

Shuman, M. K. (1980): The Sound of Silence in Nohya: A Preliminary Account of Sign Language Use by the Deaf in a Maya Community in Yucatan, Mexico. In: *Language Sciences 2*(1), 144-173.

Wodak, R. (2001): The discourse-historical approach. In: Wodak, R. & Meyer, M. (Eds.): *Methods of Critical Discourse Analysis*. London: SAGE, 63-94.

Zeshan, U. & De Vos, C. (2012; Eds.): *Sign Languages in Village Communities: Anthropological and Linguistic Insights.* Berlin: Mouon de Gruyter & Ishara Press.

9.00 – 9.30

Josef Fulka: *Construction of Sign Language as a Historical Object: Some Questions and Fallacies*

When Stokoe proved, in early sixties, that sign language is a linguistic system in its own right, not only did he inaugurate sign language linguistics, but, as a consequence, certain issues concerning the history of Deaf communities and their language were raised. Deaf communities came to be considered as linguistic minorities with their own cultural heritage and several attempts followed to trace back their history (Lane, Rée, and others). We propose to tackle the difficult methodological issue of how to interpret, in the light of those modern findings – which seem to represent, in themselves, an inevitable starting point for such research – historical materials and texts where the phenomenon of sign language may well be mentioned but where it is treated in a different way and in relation to different issues. In the first part, some general methodological questions will be posed. In the second part, two separate case studies will be presented, demonstrating how historical material may be distorted by taking an unduly modern perspective: 1) one of the most frequently stated reasons of the oppression of sign language is the Cartesian spirit of modern intellectual tradition. Authors like Brenda Farnell and William Stokoe himself argue that the Cartesian body/mind dualism, identifying language with the mind as opposed to the body, opens the way for excluding sign language from the realm of linguistic phenomena. We will attempt to show that Descartes' position is exactly the contrary and that sign language, for him, does have linguistic nature; 2) Edward Tylor's *Researches into the Early History of Mankind* (1865) have given rise, in the context of Deaf studies, given rise to extremely diversified interpretations, ranging from very positive to overtly negative. We will attempt to show that this seemingly incomprehensible diversity is due to the fact that sign language, as treated by Tylor, is a hybrid object comprising – according to modern standards – irreconciliable qualities (linguistic and non-linguistic nature, universality and particularity etc.) and resisting any univocal interpretation.

Bibliography

Descartes, R., *Discourse and Method and Related Writings*, trans., D. M. Clarke, Penguin, London 1999.

Esmail, J., *Reading Victorian Deafness. Signs and Sounds in Victorian Literature and Culture*, Athens, Ohio University Press 2013

Farnell, B. , *Do You See What I Mean? Plain Indians Sign Talk and the Embodiment of Action*, Austin, University of Texas Press 1995

Lane, H., *When the Mind Hears*, Random House, New York 1984

Rée, J., *I See a Voice. A Philosophical History of Language, Deafness and the Senses*, Harper Collins, London 1999.

Stokoe, W., *Language in Hand*, Gallaudet University Press, Washington

Tylor, E., *Researches into the Early History of Mankind*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London 1964

J. G. Kyle, B. Woll, *Sign Language: The Study of Deaf People and Their Language*, Cambridge University Press 1985.

9.30 – 10.00

Karel Redlich: *Plains Indian Sign Languages*

In my paper, I would like to clarify the origin and development of the Indian sign languages in North America and touch on Australian Aborigines' sign languages or those of other indigenous cultures. Professional literature affirms profusely that the indigenous languages are alternative languages (in contrast to primary deaf sign languages), which is not, however, an apposite perspective as users of the indigenous sign languages comprised the Deaf, too. It is also educative to realize that modern deaf sing languages are, to a certain extent, affected by spoken languages (contact varieties between a spoken and a sign language, methodical signs at schools for the Deaf, finger alphabet, initialization, using facial expressions etc.). Unlike the primary deaf sign languages, the alternative Indian sign languages fulfilled, at their time, their function of a lingua franca among individual Indian tribes (i.e. highly formalized requirements for international communication), and in certain Indian tribes the sign language also served for special communication among the tribe members (hunting, dance and storytelling).

The paper shall attempt to summarize previous research on the Indian sign languages by the major figures who participated in the research (Mallery, Kroeber, West, Stokoe). I strive to interconnect the knowledge of the Indian sign languages with the knowledge of the deaf sign languages. In this respect, I would like to point out especially the universal validity of selected principles within the sign languages and their potential use for the hearing community (Deaf/Sign Gain), thus marginally following in the thinker J. A. Comenius' footsteps, who searched for a universal language for mankind. The paper also aims to outline what potential this field poses for further research, which may bring interesting results not only for the research of the deaf sign languages but also for description of the spoken languages by linguistic disciplines such as philosophy of language, cognitive linguistics, theory of signs, the relation between the lingual and non-lingual (verbal and non-verbal, gestures / facial expressions and signs).

Paper-Related Bibliography:

AMSTRONG, D.F. Show of hands - a natural history of sign language. Washington D.C.: Gallaudet University Press, 2011.

DAVIS, J.E. Hand talk: sign language among American Indian nations. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

HOFFMANN, W.J. The graphic art of the Eskimos. Washington: Smithsonian Institution, United States National Museum, 1897.

KENDON, A. Sign languages in Aboriginal Australia: cultural, semiotic and communicative perspectives. Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1989.

KOMENSKÝ, J.A. Obecná porada o nápravě věcí lidských (III. Svazek - Panglottia) Praha: Svoboda, 1992.

KOMENSKÝ, J.A., FLOSS, P. Poselství J. A. Komenského současné Evropě. Brno: Soliton, 2005.

MALLERY, G. Introduction to the Study of Sign-language among the North American Indians as Illustrating the Gesture-Speech of Mankind (Introduction Series no. 3). Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, Government Printing Office 1880.

MALLERY, G. A Collection of Gesture-Signs and Signals of the North American Indians with Some Comparisons. Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, Government Printing Office 1880.

MALLERY, G. Sign language among North American Indians, compared with that among other peoples and deaf-mutes."In First Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution for 1879-1880, ed. J. W. Powell. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office 1881.

SETON, E.T. Sign talk - Universal Signal Code, Without Apparatus, for Use in the Army, the Navy, Camping, Hunting, Daily Life and Among the Plains Indians. New York: Garden City, 1918.

STOKOE, W.C. Language in hand: why sign came before speech. Washington D.C.: Gallaudet University Press, 2001.

TOMKINS, W. Universal Indian Sign Language of the Plains Indian of North America, 1926.

10.00 – 10.30

Josefina Kalousová: *Handshapes in Handling Classifier Constructions in Czech Sign Language*

Handling classifier constructions depict a way an object is handled or touched by using a specific handshape which categorizes the object into a more general class. According to the most basic way of dividing classifier constructions, the second group od classifiers represents whole objects (Shepard-Kegl, 1985 and Zwitserlood, 2003). Classifier constructions in sign languages are usually considered a part of the productive lexicon (Brennan, 1992), that is highly variable and weakly lexicalised.

The verbs EAT and DRINK in Czech Sign Language have frozen lexicalised forms, but the use of those verbs is still very variable. The verbs make use of handling classifier handshapes to incorporate information about the object being eaten, the utensil being used or the container from which a drink is being drunk.

The goal of this study was to document the many handshapes used incorporated in these verbs, collecting as many of them as possible by means of interviews with native signers. The elicited material was then compared with gestures used by hearing non-signers when describing eating or drinking to explore the similarities and differences between sign and gestures, especially observer viewpoint gestures and character viewpoint gestures (McNeill 1992).

The results of this study can contribute to reflection on iconicity in sign languages and the relationship between signs and gestures.

Literature

BRENNAN, M. An introduction to the visual world of BSL. BRIEN, D. (Ed.) *Dictionary of British Sign Language/English.* Faber & Faber : London, 1992.

BRENTARI, D. (et al.) When does a system become phonological? Handshape production in gesturers, signers, and homesigners. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, Vol. 30, 2012, pp. 1–31.

CASEY, S.; EMMOREY, K. Co-speech gesture in bimodal bilinguals. *Language and Cognitive Processes*, Vol. 24, 2009, pp. 290–312.

CORMIER, K. (et al.) Lexicalisation and de-lexicalisation processes in sign languages: Comparing depicting constructions and viewpoint gestures. *Language & Communication,* Vol. 32, Iss. 4, 2012, pp. 329–348.

MACUROVÁ, A.; VYSUČEK, P. Poznáváme český znakový jazyk - Klasifikátorové tvary ruky. *Speciální pedagogika 15,* 2005, č. 4, s. 22 – 35.

MCNEILL, D. *Hand and Mind: What Gestures Reveal about Thought.* University of Chicago Press : Chicago, 1992.

SEVCIKOVA, Z.; CORMIER, K. (submitted) *Categorical perception of handling handshapes in British Sign Language: evidence from deaf signers and hearing non-signers.* Cognition & Language Research Centre : University College London, 2012.

ZWITSERLOOD, I. *Classifying Hand Configurations in Nederlandse Gebarentaal (Sign Language of the Netherlands).* LOT: Utrecht University, 2003.

11.00 – 11.30

Keiko Sagara: *Historical Relationship between the Numeral Signs of Japan, Taiwan and South Korea Sign Languages*

JSL has been noted as belonging to the same language family as South Korea Sign Language and Taiwan Sign Language (Fischer and Gong, 2011), referred to as the JSL family. Influences are noted as the result of the colonisation of Taiwan by Japan from 1895 to 1945 and of South Korea by Japan from 1910 to 1945. Sasaki's (2007) research suggests that this relation is also due to teachers from two regions of Japan (Tokyo and Osaka) being sent to teach in the Taipei and Tainan areas of Taiwan during the colonial occupation period, as well as due to geographical proximity.

The current study examines sign language variation (such as Schembri and Johnston, 2012) in the number system of JSL, with particular reference to the differences in the numeral signs used in the two main areas of Japan: Kanto, in the East (including Tokyo) and Kansai, in the West (including Osaka). The two regions present an interesting case of numeral variation, with the Kansai area making use of a zero paradigm, where multiples of 10 are based on a representation of the number of zeroes present, a paradigm that is not seen in the Kanto region. The distinct use of lexical signs for 12-19 in Hokkaido is also discussed, as this stands in contrast to the additive numerals used elsewhere. This may be accounted for by its geographical closeness to South Korea where similar lexical numerals are found.

Having collected data from 40 participants, 20 from each of the Kanto and Kansai prefectures, quantitative findings of 413 JSL tokens has been drawn via ELAN. Regional variation is counted as significant for the numeral 1,000; no significant link is found for age and gender variables for this numeral sign. In sum, the use of traditional (Stamp et al., 2013) Kansai signs is maintained by the older generation and younger JSL users are found as using more non- traditional (i.e. non-Kansai based) numeral signs. Data for the comparative study was taken from an existing collection of numeral signs held by the Sign Language Typology Project at the University of Central Lancashire, UK. The historical relationship between the countries is illustrated in the maintained use of traditional JSL numeral structures across Korea and Taiwan, when compared to the changing numeral signs seen in the younger generation of JSL users. It is of interest to note in this paper that such numerals have maintained a similar form in Taiwan but have undergone a phonological process of shortening in the sign language of South Korea. This typological approach to the study of sign languages reveals much about the historical influences of language contact and brings innovative insights to sign language research.

References:

Fischer, S.D. & Gong, Q., 2011. Variation in East Asian sign language structures. In D. Brentari, ed. *Sign Languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 499–518.

Sasaki, D., 2007. Part Two: Lexical Comparisons: Comparing the Lexicons of Japanese Sign Language and Taiwan Sign Language: A Preliminary Study Focusing on the Difference in the Handshape Parameter. In *Sign Languages in Contact*. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet University Press.

Schembri, A. & Johnston, T. (2012). Sociolinguistic aspects of variation and change. In: R. Pfau, M. Steinbach & B. Woll (Eds), Sign Language: An International Handbook (pp. 788-816). Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.

Stamp, R., A. Schembri, J. Fenlon, R. Rentelis, B. Woll & K. Cormier. (2013). *Lexical Variation and Change in British Sign Language*. In Press.

11.30 – 12.00

Hyunhwa Lee: *A Study on Code Switching in Korean Sign Language*

The act of a speaker to rotate two or more languages or dialects is called code switching (So Young Kang, 2007). According to "the study on use of language of hearing-impaired" conducted by the National Institute of the Korean Language and the Korea Association of the Deaf, there are approximately 45,000 Deaf people who use Korean Sign Language as their first language in South Korea. These Deaf people meet hearing people, whose first language is Korean. When speakers who are bilingual in Korean Sign Language and Korean meet each other code switching occurs due to reasons like the hearing status of the speaker, their language attitude etc.

In my study I presented the picture story 'Frog, Where Are you? (Mayer, 1969)'to three deaf participants. The story and also the drawing style of 'Frog, Where Are you?' is unknown to Korean people. The reason to choose an unfamiliar story is to raise the chance of interaction between the signer and listener. The deaf participants were asked to tell the picture story to a deaf and to a hearing person separately. After the retelling the participants of the study had a free dialogue about the picture story. Each retelling plus free conversation afterwards took 20 minutes. The retelling to the deaf person and hearing person were seen as one set. All together there were three sets that means 120 minutes of signing. The participants were a 20-year-old woman, a 30-year-old woman, a 40-year-old man. Their first language is Korean Sign Language and they all attended deaf school. The deaf and hearing people to whom the picture story was signed, were all in the 20s. In order to favor the chance of code switching the hearing people were all unexperienced sign language interpreter.

The whole process was recorded and analyzed. The parts where code switching occurred were transcribed in ELAN, a transcription program developed by the Max-Planck-Institute or Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen.

The results of the study confirm that code switching phenomena occur among the retelling and free dialogue between deaf and hearing people. Through the analysis of the data it was also possible to find out that there are code switching phenomenon within units of vocabulary as well as changes in word order. For instance, some informants fingerspelled an expression instead of using the sign when they signed the story to a hearing person. And in cases of wh-questions they used the Korean sign QUESTION instead of the conventional non manual features which are normally used in wh-questions.

References

So Young Kang(2007), Type and cause analysis of code switching by bilingual speakers, Education of Kroean Language and Literature, 209.

Jaeil Kwon, Byeongcheon Yoon, Eungbeom Kim , Mihye Lee(2009), A study on language usage by Deaf, The National Institute Of The Korean Language,, Korea Association of the Deaf.

Jeonghyeon Park(2012), A study on interpersonal relationship formation process by the young deaf, A master's thesis in Graduate School of Seoul University.

12.00 – 12.30

Yaqing Chen: *Cross-modal Bilingualism: Language Contact Phenomena in Chinese*

The article analyses cross-modal language contact between signed and spoken language with special reference to Chinese Deaf Community. The analysis is based on collected data in the form of word list, personal stories, free talks and conversations by three native signers and two deaf signers who learn CSL as a second language. The investigation concerns with the phenomena of lexical borrowing, code-switching, as well as the unique phenomenon of mouthing in the cross-modal language contact situation. The major aim is to determine the nature and characteristics of the outcome of language contact in Chinese Deaf Community. A continuum of varieties between Chinese and CSL is also proposed. Finally, it is concluded that common spoken language contact or sociolinguistic frameworks need to be expanded in order to analyse cross-modal contact and a framework discussing languages involved in the sing-spoken language contact is proposed.

Keywords: Language contact, cross-modality, Bilingualism, Chinese Sign Language

13.30 – 14.00

Juhana Salonen: *Perfective Aspect in Finnish Sign Language*

This Master´s thesis concerns perfective aspect in Finnish Sign Language (FinSL). The perfective aspect means a bounded event in which some action has been terminated or completed.

I focus on three signs in my thesis: jo (´already´), valmis (´ready´) and loppu (´end´). Rissanen has suggested that perfective aspect can be expressed using these signs in FinSL. The aim of this Master´s study is to examine can perfective aspect be expressed using the signs jo, valmis and loppu and to determine in what types of situations and sign orders it can happen. There is still a lack of research that examines the functions of perfective aspect in FinSL.

The data of this study comprises 35 minutes of video material (a total of four videos). The videos have been produced by the Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD) and they were transcribed and analyzed using ELAN and Word. The signs jo, valmis and loppu present in the data have been categorized according to their sign order (in relation to the order of a verbal).

The analysis shows that the use the perfective aspect requires a dynamic situation. The sign jo can be located before or after a verbal or fused into a verbal when expressing perfective aspect. jo expresses past perfective aspect because that sign is used only when expressing events in the past. jo has also other meanings (e.g. to express past time or a meaning of an adverb ´already´). The signs valmis and loppu are located only after a verbal when expressing perfective aspect. valmis and loppu can also refer to future events in addition to past events. Moreover valmis is able to advance narrative time. valmis represents most clearly the usage of the perfective aspect in FinSL. Additionally, the sign closely resembles the sign finish in American Sign Language because of the above-mentioned features.

The signs jo, valmis and loppu have phonological features, lexical variations and other semantic meanings which may influence the reading of the perfective aspect in FinSL. These issues in particular warrant closer examination in future research drawing on larger sets of data.

Bibliography

COMRIE, BERNARD 1976. Aspect: An introduction to the study of verbal aspect and related problems. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

HAKULINEN, AULI – VILKUNA, MARIA – KORHONEN, RIITTA – KOIVISTO, VESA – HEINONEN, TARJA R. – ALHO, IRJA 2004. Iso suomen kielioppi. Helsinki: SKS.

KANGASMAA-MINN 1993: Aspektista ja sen sukulaisilmiöistä suomalais-ugrilaisissa kielissä. – Yli-Vakkuri, Valma (toim.): Studia comparativa linguarum orbis Maris Baltici 1: Tutkimuksia syntaksin ja pragmasyntaksin alalta. TYSYKLJ. 43 s. 13–23. Turku: Turun yliopisto.

RATHMANN, CHRISTIAN 2005. Event Structure in American Sign Language. Dissertation. The University of Texas at Austin. The faculty of the Graduate School.

RISSANEN, TERHI 1985. Viittomakielen perusrakenne. Helsingin yliopiston yleisen kielitieteen laitoksen julkaisuja 12.

RISSANEN, TERHI 1998. The Categories of nominal and verbals and their morphology in Finnish Sign Language. University of Turku, Department of Finnish and General Linguistics. Licentiate Thesis in General Linguistics.

SALONEN, JUHANA 2012. Perfektiivisen aspektin esiintyminen suomalaisessa viittomakielessä. Pro gradu – tutkielma. Kieltenlaitos. Jyväskylänyliopisto. Luettavissa: https://jyx.jyu.fi/dspace/handle/123456789/40022

SMITH, CARLOTA S. 1997. The Parameter of Aspect. Toinen painos. Studies in Linguistics and Philosophy (volume 43). Kluwer Academic Publishers. Dordrecht/Boston/London.

14.00 – 14.30

Silvia Gabarro-Lopez: *Buoys in the "LSFB Sea"? Their Coordinates and Their Neighbours*

This paper aims to contribute to the study of discourse analysis in sign languages (SLs), particularly in French Belgian SL (LSFB), through the study of list buoys. List buoys are one of the five categories – the list, the fragment, the theme, the pointer and the depicting – that Liddell (2003) established for a group of signs in American SL that he called "buoys". He defined them as "signs produced with the weak hand that are held in a stationary configuration as the strong hand continues producing signs. They help guide the discourse serving as conceptual landmarks as the discourse continues" (Liddell, 2003:223). Later on, Vogt-Svendsen and Bergman (2007) enlarged the group adding the point buoy for Swedish SL and Norwegian SL; and recently, Mesch and Wallin (2013) presented the delimit buoy for Swedish SL.

Nevertheless, buoys have been tackled for quite a limited number of SLs so far and their role in the construction of discourse remains open. The first study concerning exclusively buoys in LSFB discourse was that of Gabarró-López and Meurant (in press). In an attempt to classify genres according to intrinsic elements of SLs, the focus was put on buoys since they were considered to be good discourse marker (DM) candidates. Thus, a balanced small-scale (one hour) corpus of one signer containing two argumentative, two explicative, two narrative and two metalinguistic discourses was gathered. The results proved that buoys do not organize the discourse in the same way, i.e. they all have a semantic role which ensures local cohesion except for the list buoy that presents a great variability in terms of scope (i.e. extension of the marker through the discourse) and in terms of role within signed productions.

Our next step is aimed at going through list buoys in depth using the same corpus by tackling two issues which remain unanswered to date. The first is to point out the place of list buoys within the discourse. To do so, all the videos have been segmented into "discourse units" (DUs) following a protocol which was the outcome of another research focused on the segmentation of discourse in LSFB (Gabarró-López and Meurant, 2014). List buoys present a very different position within the discourse depending on whether they have an enumerative or a cohesive role. Our second question is what we find before and after list buoys, i.e. the immediate context. For this purpose, the signs surrounding the marker that were found within the same DU were annotated together with their grammatical category to establish patterns of collocations and combinations. Due to the different position of list buoys and to the DU's length, a maximum of three signs right after the marker were taken into account if it was in beginning position, a maximum of three signs before the marker if it was in end position and a maximum of three signs before and three after if the marker was in middle position.

Since this is a pilot study which is part of a PhD project on DMs, we will combine a quantitative and a qualitative approach whose outcome is, to the best of our knowledge, unprecedented within the SL literature. In the future, results will be enlarged with the large-scale LSFB corpus and contrasted with the Catalan SL corpus to cast light on the role of list buoys in the construction of SL discourse.

REFERENCES

Gabarró-López, S., Meurant, L. (2014) "When nonmanuals meet semantics and syntax: towards a practical guide for the segmentation of sign language discourse" in the *Proceedings of the Workshop on the Representation and Processing of Sign Languages: Beyond the Manual Channel. 9th International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation, LREC 2014, Reykjavik. Paris: ELRA*.

Gabarró-López, S., Meurant, L. (in press) "The Use of Buoys Across Genres in French Belgian Sign Language (LSFB)" in the *Proceedings of COLDOC 2013: La question des genres à l'écrit et à l'oral,* November 13 – 14, 2013, Paris.

Liddell, S. (2003) *Grammar, Gesture and Meaning in American Sign Language.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Mesch, J., Wallin, L. (2013) "The non-dominant hand as delimitation between inner element and outer element". Poster presented at the *Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR) Conference 11,* London.

Vogt-Svendsen, M., Bergman, B. (2007) "Point buoys: the weak hand as a point of reference for time and space"*.* In Vermeerbergen, M. *et al.* (eds.) *Simultaneity in Signed Languages*, Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.

14.30 – 15.00

Christian Rathmann: *Performance of German Deaf Children, Adults and L2-Learners in German Sign Language Sentence Reproduction Test*

Background:

Signed languages are natural languages with all linguistic properties at phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic levels. Users of signed languages include linguistically and culturally diverse L1 sign language users and L2 learners.

In line with spoken languages, it is important to have instruments that canassess the signed language development of these L1 users and L2 learners

The German Sign Language Sentence Reproduction Test (DGS-SRT) has been adapted from ASL Sentence Reproduction Test (ASL-SRT, Hauser et al 2008) and used in a number of psycholinguistic studies.

Goal:

This presentation will describe the performance of linguistically and culturally diverse deaf children, adults and L2 learners taking the DGS-SRT.

Methodology:

Subjects are divided into three groups: The first group consists of (a) 16 deaf schoolchildren in the 3rd and 4th grade (6 are native signers and 10 nonnative signers), (b) 15 deaf schoolchildren in the 6th and 7th grade (10 are native signers and 5 nonnative signers), and (c) 21 deaf schoolchildren in the 9th and 10th grade (11 are native signers and 10 nonnative signers). The second group consists of 20 adults who are either Deaf native signers and Deaf nonnative signers. The first group consists of (a) 10 L2 learners in the first semester, (b) 10 L2 learners in the third semester and (c) 10 L2 learners in the fifth semester at a German university.

Subjects are asked to reproduce 30 DGS-sentences. Some of them are more morphosyntactically complex sentences, and other sentences are less morpho-syntactically complex sentences. The sentences start out easy with fewer words and simpler grammatical structure and gradually increase in difficulty. The difficulty level at which subjects can accurately repeat the sentence has been shown to correlate well with level of competence.

Results:

The results show a statistically significant difference between native and nonnative signers in the first two groups and between L2 learners at various levels.

Conclusion:

The DGS-SRT provides a valid and reliable sign language competency tool for measuring students' global DGS proficiency. In addition, the talk will discuss the effect of sociolinguistic variables on measurement and rating as well as implications of SRT-test for other sign languages.

Reference:

Hauser, P. C., Paludnevičienė, R., Supalla, T., & Bavelier, D. (2008). American Sign Language- Sentence Reproduction Test . In R. Müller de Quadros (ed.), Sign languages: Spinning and unraveling the past, present and future. TISLR 9, forty-five papers and three posters from the 9. Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research Conference, Florianopolis, Brazil, December 2006 (pp. 160-172). Petrópolis/RJ, Brazil: Editora Arara Azul.

15.00 – 15.30

Anna Moudrá: *PATH – Image Schema in Czech Sign Language*

Image schemas such as PATH, VESSEL or CONNECTION accompany us throughout our lives and, as indicated by the title of Johnson and Lakoff's book, metaphors are something we even live by. As a Czech native speaker, I know and use regularly metaphorical expressions such as *have one's life ahead of one* or *shared life's journey*. How we create metaphorical expressions in spoken languages on the basis of our own physical experience projected into the image schemas is thus a theme that has been extensively covered. I, however, asked myself the following question: Do image schemas work in sign languages and, if so, how? Based on my own command of the Czech Sign Language and native speaker´s reflections, I resolved to examine and describe the manner in which the schema PATH, one that is very rich in linguistic material, operates in the Czech Sign Language. In the paper, several semantic fields of the Czech Sign Language featuring the image schema PATH shall thus (based precisely on the findings in the spoken languages) be presented. Hopefully, the research results will aid e.g. hearing students to comprehend better the Czech Sign Language structure.