Nonmanuals and markers of (dis)fluency in French Belgian Sign Language (LSFB)

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Nonmanuals and markers of (dis)fluency in French Belgian Sign Language (LSFB)

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INTRODUCTION

Collaborative project about markers of (dis)fluency in spoken English (L1-L2), French (L1) and LSFB (L1) (University of Louvain-UCL & University of Namur-UN) (non-pathological, Götz 2013)

In this pilot study: Pauses (113), Palm-ups (80) and co-occurring Nonmanuals under investigation

CORPUS

Unprepared monologues selected from larger dialogues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signer</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>SL profile</th>
<th>Clip duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signer 1</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Native</td>
<td>3min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signer 2</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Native</td>
<td>2min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signer 3</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Near-native</td>
<td>2min30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signer 4</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Near-native</td>
<td>2min30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CODING Ms

Palm-up (PU) Upward palm orientation sign in the neutral space resulting from a wrist rotation

Pause Stop in the hands flow

S1:stop during a sign

S1:start Stop at the beginning of a sign

S1:end Stop at the end of a sign

S2:stop between signs

S2:crossed Stop with hands crossed

S2:body Stop with hands along the body

S2:neutral Stop with relaxed hands in the neutral space

RESULTS

1. Values/functions of Ms given by co-occurring Nms

Modality (mod) Comment or evaluation from the point of view of the role-played character or the signer himself/herself on what is being said

Suspension (sus) Blank in the communication

Phatic (pha) The signer makes sure he is well understood

Stress (str) The signer emphasizes a point of his discourse

Boundary (BoS, BoM, BoE) Start, middle or end position of a turn

2. Nms needed for annotation (cues defining categories)

Gaze and Head are sufficient to distinguish these functions of PU/ S1/S2. Sometimes another Nm is present but not systematically.

Questions

1. What type of information do Nonmanuals (NMs) convey about the selected manual markers (Ms), i.e. pauses and palm-up signs?

2. Is the (time consuming) annotation of each non-manual component needed for each pause and each palm-up sign?

METHODOLOGY

Step 1: Coding data in ELAN

Step 2: Extracting overlaps between Ms and Nms

Step 3: Querying data in Excel

- Identifying regular combinations of NMs
- Distinguishing consistent Ms categories

CODING NMs

Movement or position of Eyebrows (B:), Head (H:) and Mouth (M:) in the strict interval of PU/S1/S2

Movement of Eyes (E:) and direction of Gaze (G:) one sign before and after PU/S1/S2

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REFERENCES


FURTHER ISSUES

- Floating vs. Addressed gaze = a (dis)fluent marker in itself?
- Compare with other potential manual (dis)fluency markers: false start, self-repair, repetition, flying indexe, gesture/motion filler, spatial discourse organisation, connecting sign (list buoy, ALSO, AND, SAME, rhetorical question)
- Using a descriptive template for Nms or a tagset based on the marker functions?