**Repetition of signs according to language background in French Belgian Sign Language (LSFB)**

**A comparative analysis between Native, Near-Native and Late Signers**

Ingrid Notarrigo
laurence.meurant@unamur.be
Anne Catherine Simon
anne-catherine.simon@uclouvain.be

**Theoretical framework**

- Componential approach of (Dis)Fluency
  - Combination of measurable markers (fluencemes)
  - Speed
  - Word search gestures
  - Stops of the hands between signs
  - Palm-ups
  - Truncations
  - Repetition of signs
  - Not only hesitations (interruptions of the flow)
  - But also strategies to manage the discourse

**Methodology**

- **Functional typology** (Notarrigo, Meurant, Van Herreweghe & Vermeerbergen 2016)
  - Several functions within three domains
  - G: grammatical: sign level, syntactic unit level
  - S: semantic: sequential ordering, coherence, change of meaning
  - P: pragmatic: structuration, informational, expression, interactional level
  - From more local instances (sign level) to broader ones (discourse level)

- **Profiles of signers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deaf signers of LSFB</th>
<th>4 Near-Native (NN)</th>
<th>4 Late (L)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parents status</td>
<td>Deaf</td>
<td>Hearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of LSFB acquisition</td>
<td>From birth</td>
<td>After 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>With Deaf</td>
<td>With Deaf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With Hearings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Results**

- **We present the same general patterns in our use of repetition.**
- **So we display broadly similar cultural fluency with individual variations and some specific group characteristics.**

**Lexical sign**

- Classification based on Johnston & Ferrara (2012)

**Multiple signs including lexical ones**

**Pointing sign**

- Others:
  - Name sign
  - Partly lexical sign
  - WH sign
  - Finger spelled sign
  - Multiple signs without lexical ones

**Non-contiguous (RN)**

PT:1 CHANCE PT:1 OPEN-MIND PT:1 MEET

- I am lucky because I have an open mind and I am sociable.
- Framing (RNf)

**Contiguous (RC)**

PT:1 REMEMBER PAST PAST PAST

- I remember that was a long time ago.
- PT:1 (pause) PT:1 KEEP PT: POSS1 SIGN

**Among us, N do slightly fewer repetition structures surrounded by other fluencemes.**

- Overall mean 20%

**Among us, N and L present a stable distribution of the forms of repetitions.**

- By contrast, 2 NN and 3 L do more contiguous repetitions than framing ones.

**REFERENCES**


**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Research funded by F.R.S. – FNRS Research Fellow Grant FRESH FC 60970
In collaboration with the University of Louvain-la-Neuve (A.R.C. n12/17-044)
Thank you very much to:
- Calogero Notarrigo and Simon Delvaux for logistics management
- LSFB-Lab for data and glosses