

Three Signs, One Common Trait: 'All'

A study on universal quantifiers in Turkish Sign Language

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In this study, I present my observations regarding three signs in Turkish Sign Language (TİD) that express universal quantification: (i) ALL_1 is a straightforward universal quantifier; (ii) The function of ALL_2 is less straightforward. I argue that it is a complex sign including the universal quantifier 'all' and a demonstrative plural pronoun, resulting in the meaning 'all these/those'; and (iii) ALL^SAME involves incorporation of ALL_2 and SAME.

ALL_1: This is a two-handed sign. The dominant hand (DH) has the thumb finger-handshape and the non-dominant hand (NDH) has the flat-handshape. The DH moves on the palm of the NDH with a sweeping movement, as in Figure 1 below .



Figure 1. ALL_1

Distribution: It can occur with both countable and uncountable nouns (1a), can occur after the noun it quantifies over (1a and 1b), can be used as a pronominal (2) and can take narrow scope with respect to negation, (4).

- (1) a. SOUP ALL_1 EAT. b. STUDENT MANY(pl.) ALL_1 COME.NOT.
'I ate all the soup.' 'Not all students came.'
(2) ALL_1 GLASSES (WEAR) NOT. SOMETIMES GLASSES HAVE. SOMETIMES GLASSES HAVE.NOT.
'Not all wear glasses. Some have glasses. Some does not have glasses.'

ALL_2: This is a one-handed sign. The sign is articulated with the 5-handshape and an arc movement. The orientation of the hand is downwards, as shown in Figure 2 below.



Figure 2. ALL_2

Distribution: Similar to ALL_1, ALL_2 can also come after the noun it quantifies over, (4), and can function as a pronominal.

However, it differs from ALL_1 in many other respects. First, even though ALL_1 is usually signed in central space, ALL_2 frequently is signed pointing to the loci of the entities it quantifies over. Second, it can occur with only countable nouns, (2). Moreover, while when ALL_1 is accompanied by mouthing, it is always the mouthing of the Turkish word meaning 'all', ALL_2's mouthing changes between the mouthing of the Turkish word meaning 'all' and the mouthing of the Turkish plural suffix. However, since when signers are asked to translate ALL_2 to Turkish, they translate it as *hepsi* 'all', I glossed it as ALL_2. The mouthing and translation issues raise the question of what the true nature of ALL_2. This complex sign contains the following morphemes:

1. A universal quantifier 'all':
 - a. ALL_2 interacts with negation scopally as in the example below:
STUDENT ALL_2 COME NOT. UNIVERSITY ALL_2 COME. HIGH SCHOOL ALL_2 COME NOT.
'Not all of the students came. University students came. High school students didn't come.'
If this were a simple plural marker, this utterance would be unacceptable.
2. (Demonstrative) Plural pronoun:

- a. ALL_2 cannot cooccur with uncountable nouns as stated in the example below:

*SOUP ALL_2 EAT.

‘I ate all the soup’

If this were a simple universal quantifier, this utterance would be acceptable.

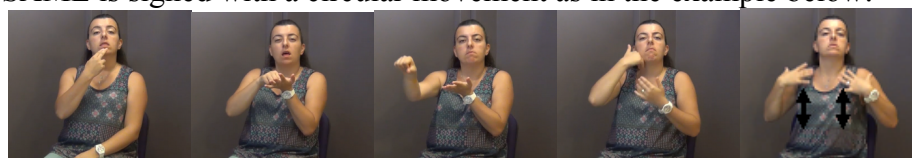
- b. ALL_2 cannot cooccur with 3rd person plural pronoun.

*IX3_{pl} ALL_2 LIST EXIST.

Intended meaning: ‘All those are in the list’

If this were a simple universal quantifier, occurring with 3rd person plural pronoun would be acceptable.

ALL^SAME: This is one handed sign and involves incorporation. The handshake of the sign SAME and the movement of the sign ALL_2 whose movement has an agreement with the entities’ locations in the signing space are simultaneously combined. This is used when the entities quantified over have some features that they share are physically situated with respect to each other in a certain order such as in a line or forming a circle. As it is an incorporation, it is related with the semantic of ‘same’ and ‘all’ and gives the meaning ‘All those are the same.’. For instance, when a signer is describing a picture where the entities are situated in a linear order and sharing some features, he/she signs ALL^SAME by moving it in a straight line and if the entities are situated in a circular order and sharing some features, then ALL^SAME is signed with a circular movement as in the example below:

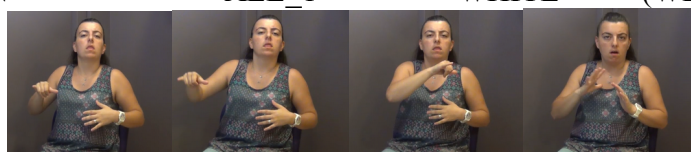


WOMAN

ALL_1

WHITE

(WEAR)DRESS



ALL^SAME

EXIST.....

‘All women wear white dress, all those are the same...’

I show in this study that TID has at least three ways of expressing universal quantification. ALL_1 is a straightforward universal quantifier. However, ALL_2 shows that a pointing sign can also include a universal quantifier meaning, which is through being a complex sign. Up to now, incorporation examples are related with numerals. However, ALL^SAME shows that a predicative adjective and a universal quantifier can form incorporation.