

CURRENT ISSUES IN SIGN LANGUAGE LINGUISTICS

I Escuela de Lingüística de Buenos Aires (ELBA 2016)

Buenos Aires, 15-19 February 2016

INSTRUCTOR: Josep Quer (ICREA & Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)

SCHEDULE: February 15-19, 14-15.30

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This course aims at introducing the core issues of Sign Language Linguistics in order to place them in the broader context of the study of the human faculty of language. To this end, an overview will be offered of the main issues in the phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics of sign languages, from a crosslinguistic perspective. Special attention will be devoted to the expression of reference in sign languages, in order to finally zoom in on a case study on the nature of agreement in the signed modality. Although verb agreement has occupied a prominent place in sign language research from the very beginning, it is far from clear how its idiosyncrasies vis-à-vis spoken language agreement systems should be properly analysed and integrated into a general theory of the phenomenon. We will review the existing approaches to agreement phenomena in sign languages and we will evaluate them critically both for their own merits/shortcomings and with respect to prevailing views of agreement in spoken languages.

DAY-BY-DAY PROGRAMME (APPROXIMATE)

Monday, February 15

Introduction to the study of sign languages.
Sign language phonology.

Sandler, W. & D. Lillo-Martin. 2001. Natural Sign Languages. In *The Handbook of Linguistics*, eds. M. Aronoff & J. Rees-Miller, 533-562. Oxford: Blackwell.

Brentari, D.. 2012. Phonology. In *Sign Languages (Handbooks of Linguistics and Communication Science, HSK)*, eds. R. Pfau, M. Steinbach & B. Woll, 21-54. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Tuesday, February 16

Sign language morphology.

Meir, I. 2012. Words Classes and word formation. In *Sign Languages (Handbooks of Linguistics and Communication Science, HSK)*, eds. R. Pfau, M. Steinbach & B. Woll, 77-11. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Zwitserlood, I. 2012. Classifiers. In *Sign Languages (Handbooks of Linguistics and Communication Science, HSK)*, eds. R. Pfau, M. Steinbach & B. Woll, 158-186. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Wednesday, February 17

Sign language syntax.

Cecchetto, C. 2012. Sentence types. In *Sign Languages (Handbooks of Linguistics and Communication Science, HSK)*, eds. R. Pfau, M. Steinbach & B. Woll, 227-244. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Quer, J. 2012. Negation. In *Sign Languages (Handbooks of Linguistics and Communication Science, HSK)*, eds. R. Pfau, M. Steinbach & B. Woll, 316-339. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Thursday, February 18

The use of space in sign languages (morphosyntax). Pronouns.

Perniss, P. 2012. Use of sign space. In *Sign Languages (Handbooks of Linguistics and Communication Science, HSK)*, eds. R. Pfau, M. Steinbach & B. Woll, 292-315. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Friday, February 19

Agreement in sign languages.

Costello, B. 2016. *Language and modality. Effects of the use of space in lengua de signos española (Spanish sign language)*. PdD Dissertation University of Amsterdam/University of the Basque Country. Utrecht: LOT Publication. [Chapter 3: 97-156]
http://www.lotpublications.nl/Documents/415_fulltext.pdf

BASIC GENERAL REFERENCES

Brentari, D. ed. 2010. *Sign Languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Emmorey, K. 2002. *Language, Cognition, and the Brain. Insights from Sign Language Research*. Mahwah, NJ & London: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Pfau, R., M. Steinbach & B. Woll, eds. 2012. *Sign Languages (Handbooks of Linguistics and Communication Science, HSK)*, eds. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.

Sandler, Wendy & Diane Lillo-Martin. 2006. *Sign languages and linguistic universals*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.