Locative relation classifications used in the Berkeley Transcription System

3.4. Locative relations

The notation -loc’X indicates a locative relation between figure and ground of type X. Locative components are used to indicate the location of the figure property maker with respect to the ground property marker. The following is a partial list:

INT interior (‘inside’)

SUP superior (‘above’)

INF inferior (‘below’)

TOP top (‘upper surface’)

BOT bottom (‘under surface’)

EDG edge

FRO front

 BAC back

 PAR parallel

 NXT two property markers articulated at the same time and are articulated next to each

other, but do not indicate a figure/ground relationship.

BHD behind

AHD ahead

 RSP referent space: discourse implied, previously established

0 referent space: frame implied, not previously established

Note: Two locative components can be combined; e.g., FRO\_EDG (front edge).

The notation loc’CON is used to describe two property markers which do not have a figure- ground relationship but are in contact. To add further information about where the two pm’s make contact, use a parenthetical description to indicate where on the HANDS the two pm’s were in contact:

loc’CON contact without a figure-ground relationship loc’CON(x) contact at x location on the hands, e.g. loc’CON(fingertips)

3.5. Posture

The component “posture” (pst’X) indicates the posture of the figure for the subset of polycomponential verbs which indicate posture. Examples of such verbs are sit, stand, lie, mount, and ride. The following posture components have been defined:

ERC erect

STR straddling

RCL reclining

SIT sitting

RCL\_V reclining ventrally

RCL\_D reclining dorsally

3.5.1. Orientation

The component “orientation” is used to indicate the orientation (relative to the signer) of either the figure or the ground. In a polycomponential construction, information about orientation and posture should follow the property marker to which it refers. Orientation is only marked when it differs from the default orientation for that property marker in that referent situation. It is possible to define orientation by the direction in which the palm and fingertips are facing (e.g.,

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ori’FF = palm forward, fingertips forward):

Palm:

F forward

B back

S side

 U up

 D down

Fingertips:

 F forward

S side

B back