

Towards a unified view of “co-sign gesture” depictions as demonstrations

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Classifier Predicates (ASL)



BOOK

CL:C-“thick”

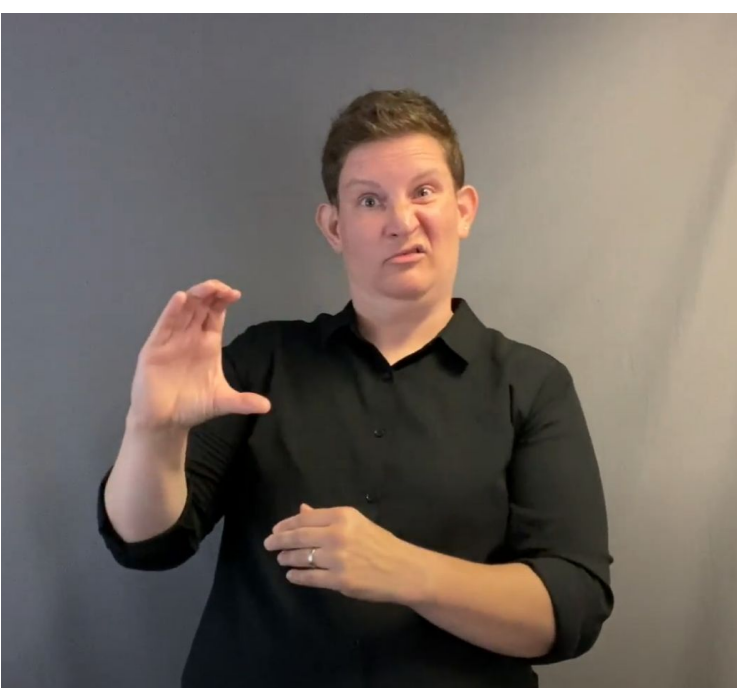
IX

2-GIVEo-1



Language

$\lambda d. \lambda x. \lambda s. [\text{theme}(s, x) \wedge \text{flat-object}(x) \wedge \text{thick}(s) \wedge$

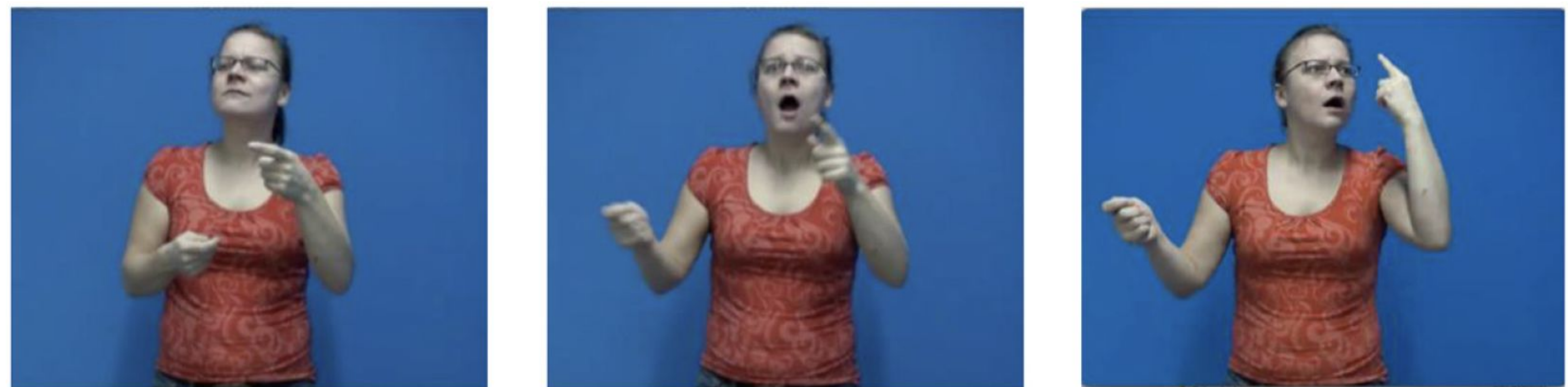


Gesture

$\text{Demonstration}(d_1, e)]$

Action Role shift (DGS)

Steinbach (2023)



fe-boy

pondering

fe-boy

have-an-idea

fe-boy

HAVE-IDEA

Gesture

$\text{Demonstration}(d_{10}, e)]$

Language

$\exists e[\text{have-idea}(e) \wedge \text{agent}(e, \text{shepherd-boy}) \wedge \text{form}(e, (\text{'HAVE-IDEA'})$

“Co-sign” gesture as demonstration

A demonstration event **d** is a demonstration of another event **e** (i.e. $\text{demonstration}(d, e)$ holds) if **d** reproduces properties of **e** relevant in the context of speech

$[[\text{demonstration} - \text{like}]] = \lambda d. \lambda e. [\text{demonstration}(d, e)]$

Language

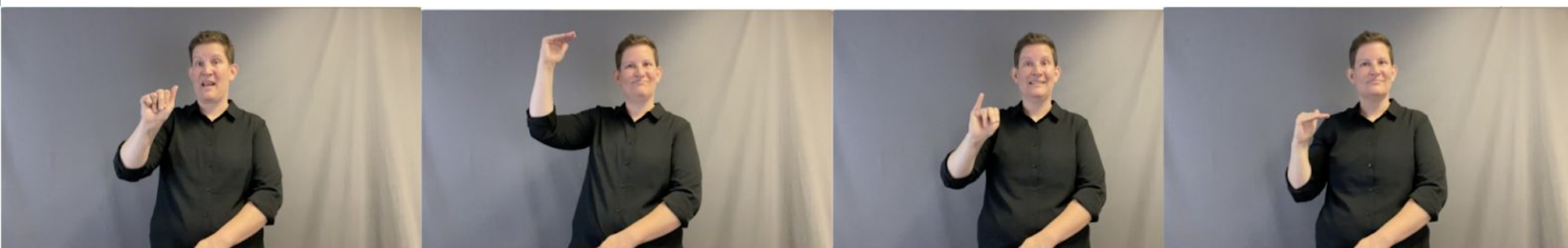
Linguistic content describing the event (e)/ state (s) agent or theme of an utterance

Gesture

Iconic content demonstrating (d) the event (e)/ state (s) of an utterance.

- Gesture is often integrated with linguistic structure in sign (and spoken) language.
- We draw inferences from both the linguistic and gestural components.
- Analyzing iconicity as gesture doesn't preclude a formal semantic analysis.
- Demonstrations provide a uniform semantic tool for iconicity across various sign language phenomena.

Iconic Comparatives (ASL)



MARY

TALL

(at-signer-head)

GIANNI

TALL

(neutral-space)

Language

Gesture

$\lambda s(s \in \text{domain}(\langle D_{\text{height}} \geq \text{height} \rangle)).$
 $\text{Tall}_c(s) \wedge \text{Holder}(s, \text{Mary}) \wedge \text{Demonstration}(d_1, s)]$

Comparison via demonstration



(Mary's height) $d_1 > d_2$ (Gianni's Height)
i.e the height depicted in d_1 is greater than the height depicted in d_2

Selected References

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