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

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

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Theoretical framework

Tannen (2007)

Approach to repetition from various perspectives

- Interpersonal involvement strategy facilitating
  - ✓ Production (automaticity)
  - ✓ Comprehension (shared common ground)
  - ✓ Connection
  - ✓ Interaction
- Unlike the widespread negative image of repetition in society
- Cultural variability and individual style

Götz (2013)

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

❖ *Formal typology*

Repetition Structure
Sign and its repeated occurrences working together in the same turn

Non-contiguous (RN)

PT:1 CHANCE PT:1 OPEN-MIND PT:1 MEET
<RN0 RN1 RN2>
I am lucky because I have an open mind and I am sociable.

Framing (RNf)

PT:1 THINK WHAT MY UNCLE GIVE GOOD MEMORIES WHAT-2H THINK
<RNf0 RNf0 RNf1 RNf1>
I am thinking about the good memories that my uncle gave me.

Contiguous (RC)

PT:1 REMEMBER PAST PAST PAST
<RC0 RC1 RC2>
I remember that was a long time ago.

PT:1 [pause] PT:1 KEEP PT:POSS1 SIGN
<RC0 RC1>
I keep my own way of signing.

❖ *Annotation of other fluencemes in ELAN (Crible, Grosman, Dumont & Notarrigo 2015)*

❖ *Data analysis in Excel and SPSS*

⇒ frequency and ratio of forms and functions of repetitions
⇒ correlation and combination with other fluencemes

❖ *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*

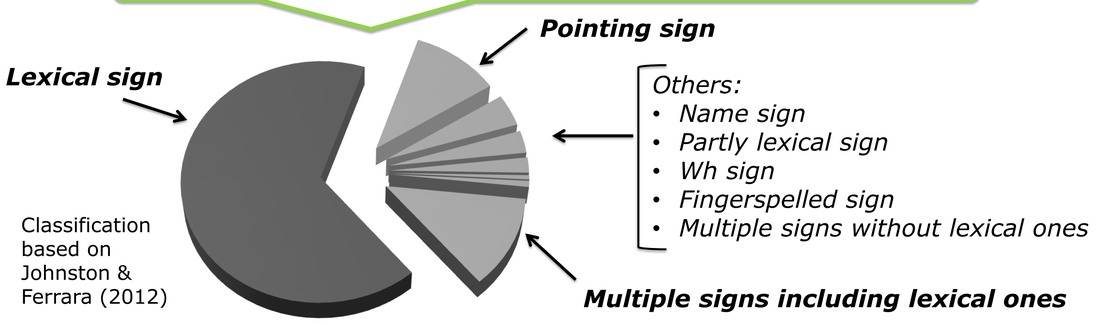
2 min/signer of unprepared semi-interactive discourse
From LSFB Corpus (Meurant 2015)

Deaf signers of LSFB	*4 Native (N)*	*4 Near-Native (NN)*	*4 Late (L)*
Parents status	Deaf	Hearing	Hearing
Age of LSFB acquisition	From birth	Before 6	After 9
Education	With Deafs	With Deafs	With Hearings

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.

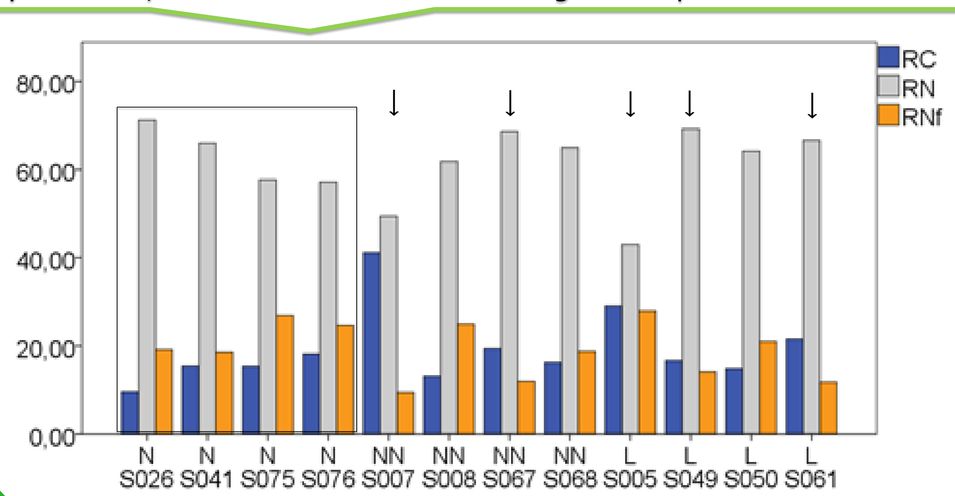
We use the same types of signs in our repetition structures.



Among us, N do slightly fewer
repetition structures surrounded by other fluencemes.
(Overall mean 20%)

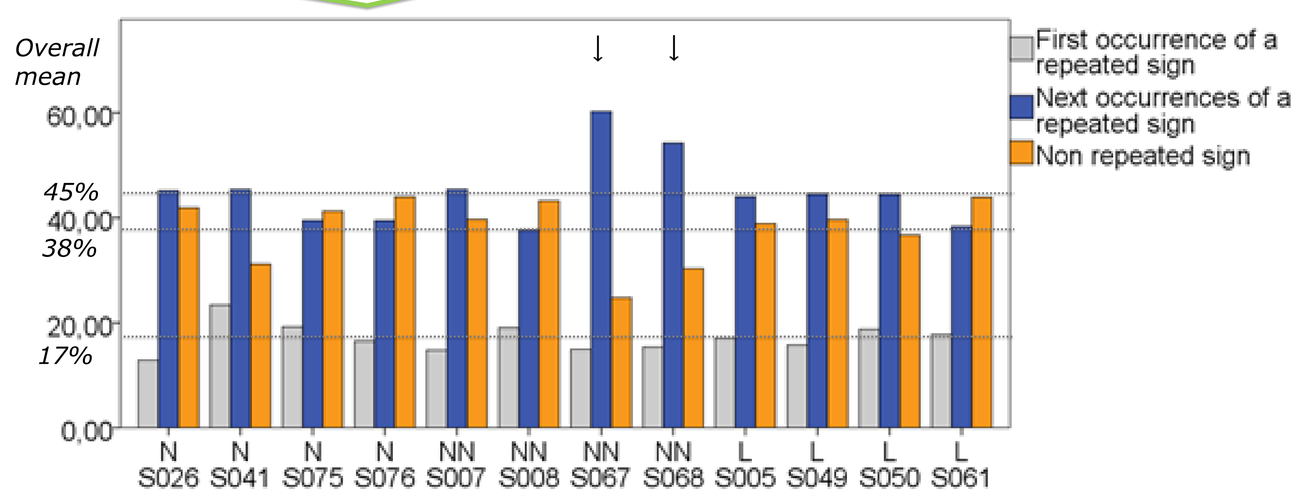
Groups	<R/min without fluencemes	<R/min with fluencemes	R>/min without fluencemes	R>/min with fluencemes
N	32	6,5	31	7,5
NN	26	6	24,5	7,5
L	23	8	23	8

Among us, N present a stable distribution of the forms of repetitions.
By contrast, 2 NN and 3 L do more contiguous repetitions than framing ones.



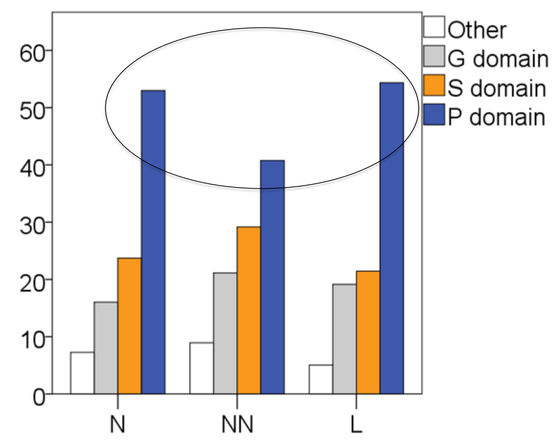
The higher the RNf ratio, the higher the number of truncations per minute
(r=0,609 p=0,036)

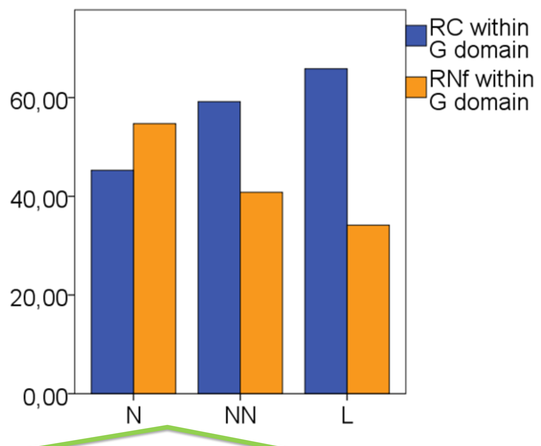
The distribution of repeated/non repeated signs is the same for all of us (except for two NN).
N are faster without any correlation with repetition (signs/min: N=143, NN=115, L=108)



The higher the ratio of repeated occurrences, the lower the number of palm-up signs per minute
(r=-0,581 p=0,048)

Even if we present a high ratio of repetition structures in P domain,
there is a significant difference (p<0,05) between NN and N(t=2,953)/L(t=- 3,545)





Among us, NN and L use repetition structures in G domain
more at the level of the sign (+RC) than at the level of the syntactic unit (-RNf)

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