

Complex relations between grammatical and emotional nonmanuals in sign languages

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Facial expressions in sign languages are used to express both grammatical/linguistic features and to convey emotions. Since multiple features compete for the same means of expression (nonmanuals), a complex relationship between them emerges. In this talk, I will discuss past and ongoing research on this issue, addressing a number of questions: What happens when an emotional and a grammatical facial expression co-occur? Are there clear formal differences between emotional and grammatical nonmanuals? Do linguistic nonmanuals emerge from emotional (and other gestural) nonmanuals? How can we use emerging technologies to investigate these questions?