Göttingen
Georg-August-University

TISLR13 — theoretical issues in sign language research

SignTeam Göttingen

We are a small group of trachers and researchers interested in the language, history, and culture of sign language communities:

Jens-Michael Cramer, Andreas Döltgen, Thomas Finkbeiner, Annette Flemnitz, Jana Hosemann, Neha Kulshreshtha Cornelia Loos, Ekaterine Nanitashvili, Rehana Omardeen, Liona Paulus, Nina-Kristin Pendzich, Sina Proske, Tanja Recke, Markus Steinbach, Elisabeth Volk

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37073 Göttingen

Study program

BA and MA programs
- Course of study: *BA German Philology, MA German Philology , BA Linguistics, MA Linguistics*
- Regular courses on different topics of sign language linguistics and Deaf studies
- Linguistic seminars: *Grammar of German Sign Language, Gesture Sign Interface, Experimental Studies, Language Change, …*
- Lectures: *Language and Modality* & *Language and Evolution*
- Practical laboratory course: *SignLab training*
- General linguistic colloquium with invited presentations on sign languages
- Sign language courses: DGS 1-4
- BA and MA thesis on sign language and Deaf studies

Certificate program *German Sign Language*
- Practical and theoretical linguistic and cultural science skills
- Module DGS 1-3
- Certification exam

Doctoral theses
- Topics: Word order, role shift, nonmanuals, reference tracking, …
- Sign languages: DGS, Indo-Pakistani Sign Language, Libras, Providence Island Sign Language, TID, …

Life stories of elderly deaf people

- Project at the University of Göttingen and University of Hamburg since 2016
- Funding by Horizon 2020 and Pro*Nieder-Sachsen
- Göttingen team: Jens-Michael Cramer, Jana Hosemann, Sina Proske, Markus Steinbach
- Documentation of life stories of deaf people born between 1930–1950
- Interviews of about 50 Deaf people in Germany
- Unique socio-cultural, historical, and linguistic cultural heritage
- Student's exhibition designed and prepared in a seminar at the University of Göttingen
- Sub-project of the EU *Sign-Hub* project

Calendar on German Sign Language

- Thomas Finkbeiner & Nina-Kristin Pendzich
- First annual calendar on DGS, 2020
- Valuable tool for learning DGS
- Thematic fields: Vocabulary, grammar, culture, history, language, tips
- Pictures with 10 deaf signers (six men, four women) within different age groups

Experimental and theoretical research

Ongoing projects
- Development and implementation of an e-learning module for the DGS courses (Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kultur)
  - o Thomas Finkbeiner, Nina-Kristin Pendzich & Markus Steinbach
- (A)symmetries and Movement in Spoken and Sign Languages (DFG)
  - o Neha Kulshreshtha & Markus Steinbach
- (In)visible life stories – documentation of the life, culture and language of elderly Deaf people in Germany (PRO*Niedersachsen)
  - o Jens-Michael Cramer & Markus Steinbach
- The Sign Hub: Preserving, Researching and Fosterung the Linguictis, Historical and Cultural Heritage of European Deaf Signing Communities with an Integral Resource (EU, Horizon 2020)
  - o Jana Hosemann, Sina Proske & Markus Steinbach
- Research Training Group 2070: Understanding Social Relationships (DFG)
  - o Rehana Omardeen, Elisabeth Volk & Markus Steinbach

Experimental Sign Lab Göttingen

Research methods
- Controlled data elicitation
- Questionnaire studies
- Sentence reproduction studies
- Production studies
- Facial Action Coding System (FACS)
- EEG
- Eye tracking

Theories
Generative syntax
Constrained-based accounts
Formal semantics
Formal pragmatics
Grammaticalization
Sociolinguistics