STATE OF THE ART

- Growing interest in comparative and typological approaches in SL Linguistics; however, studies mostly focus on comparisons of Western with non-Western and/or non institutionalized SLs (see Hansen 2015)
- In Europe, home to several unrelated SLs, there is a lack of fine-grained systematic comparison based on large-scale corpora (see Vermeerbergen 2006, Slobin 2008)
- And/or based on the same theoretical framework (e.g. Sallandre et al 2016, Förster et al 2016)

DIVERSITY OF APPROACHES ADOPTED AND METHODOLOGY USED BY EUROPEAN SL RESEARCHERS AS A MAJOR HINDRANCE TO A BROTHER COMPARISON

MAIN ISSUES RAISED

- Segmentation: driven by form or semantics?
- Basic transcription (allowing for data reconstruction) vs. interpretive data (allowing for analysis according to research objective)?
- (Competing) functions of eye-gaze.
- Lexical sign / depicting sign:
  - How to determine if a sign is lexical or is not?
  - Depicting signs can be entrenched/lexicalised, then can be used in a more productive way again.
  - Degrees of conventionalisation.
- Constructed action - personal transfer: identical concepts?
- Clause as a basis for analysing conventional and no conventional units?
- Clause and CA?
- Depicting and enacting = what is the difference?

AIMS

1. Comparison of the different theoretical approaches and tenets, in order to identify potential similarities or parallels, beyond the different terminology.
2. Systematic large-scale cross-linguistic comparison, based on adult and child learner data, along two main themes that are also at the focus of current controversies:
   - THE TWO MAJOR TYPES OF SL UNITS (lexical units and non-conventional units), their internal structure and their interaction, focusing on non-manual parameters used in each type (particularly eye gaze)
   - THE USE OF SPACE AND DIFFERENT TYPES OF SPACE IN SL DISCOURSE, more specifically addressed through verb/predicate types in SL and the issue of agreement, person marking and the marking of event participants.

WORKSHOP PACKAGES

YEAR 1 (2019)

FOCUS ON TYPES OF SL UNITS and their interaction in discourse in 9 SLs:

- LSF, DGS, LIS, LSC, LSFB, VGT, NGT, RSL, BSL

SL approaches differ in:

(i) the status ascribed to the major types of units / constructions identified (linguistic, partially linguistic, non-linguistic)
(ii) the description of their functions
(iii) the analysis and interpretation of their interaction
(iv) the place given to them in language (central/peripheral).

OBJECTIVES OF THE TWO MEETINGS (PARIS, GHENT):

- Detailed elucidation of the various descriptive concepts and modes of analysis and annotation adopted by the network member teams.
- Identification of the main challenges faced regarding the information encoded (e.g. units/constructions, simultaneity, discourse).
- Comparable data from the network’s various corpora (matched by type, genre, monological/dialogic) used as a basis.
- Comparison of annotated sequences in the SLs covered, contributing at least to a clarification of the modes of analysis used by each team.

YEAR 2 (2020)

Comparison of the 9 SLs regarding uses of space

- Qualitative comparison of verb/predicate forms and their modifications in context
- Analysis of comparable discourse sequences extracted from the network’s corpora, matching in genre (narrative) and discourse type (monological/dialogical)

YEARS 3 and 4

—2021: extension of analysis to larger extracts, aiming also for a quantitative analysis, to cover a wider range of discourse genres, i.e. informative and argumentative genres.
—2022: focus on applied issues, e.g. comparison of didactic practices used in teaching translation techniques, focusing on the elaboration of: (i) the linguistic description of the SLs and (ii) the findings of our comparative project (similarities and distinctions across SLs)

REFERENCES