In German Sign Language, a sign I gloss as LOOK-AT consistently appears in constructions involving role shift. Based on its articulatory and morphosyntactic properties, I argue that LOOK-AT functions as an attitude predicate of the doxastic type.

**THE DATA**

30 constructions with LOOK-AT, plus 20 constructions containing a lexical verb that looks similar, glossed as LOOK-AT:mv. Examples are from dialogues in the DGS Corpus (http://ling.meine-dgs.de)

**ARTICULATORY PROPERTIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOOK-AT</th>
<th>LOOK-AT:mv</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Handshape: represents eyes</td>
<td>Handshape: represents eyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orientation of fingers adaptable; not toward signer</td>
<td>Fingers oriented toward object of perception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back of hand toward signer</td>
<td>Back of hand oriented toward perceiver (subject)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Often articulated lower in signing space</td>
<td>Articulation usually in front of eyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No / sideward transitional movement</td>
<td>Path movement from perceiver (subject) to perceived (object)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MORPHOSYNTACTIC PROPERTIES**

- LOOK-AT is consistently within the scope of, and followed by a clause under, role shift;
- An object never occurs in the same clause; LOOK-AT sometimes appears to ‘agree’ with an abstract situation;
- LOOK-AT introduces a referent’s (internal) affective response toward a situation

**LOOK-AT IN ASL**

Winston (2013) and Healy (2015) describe a similar sign, albeit fully directional (subj>obj), typically used with psych-verbs in ASL

- **Winston (2013):** LOOK-AT is a light verb connecting clauses indicating cause and emotion ('The dog barked. I was afraid.')
- **Healy (2015):** LOOK-AT is a Prospective Attending Sign → anticipates an experiencer’s response

**ATTITUDE PREDICATE**

Proposal: LOOK-AT is an attitude predicate which introduces a role shift (see e.g. Lillo-Martin 1995; Schlenker 2003)

But: LOOK-AT itself is also accompanied by role shift markers

- **Koulidobrova & Davidson (f.c.):** proffering vs. doxastic predicates
  - Proffering predicates = verbs of assertion (e.g. SAY)
    - Truth of proposition is evaluated w.r.t. common ground
    - ‘Mom says she’s busy’ – ‘Is mom busy?’
  - Doxastic predicates = verbs of belief (e.g. THINK)
    - Entire proposition is up for discussion:
    - ‘Mom thinks she’s busy’ – ‘Does mom think she’s busy?’

**Conclusion:** DGS LOOK-AT is an attitude predicate of the doxastic type


I gratefully acknowledge the support of the Dutch Scientific Organization (NOW) under grant number 360-70-520. I thank Vadim Kimmelman for valuable comments on this work.