Terminology and linguistics of corpus in Libras: recognition of specificities of terms

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Introduction
Work on terminology in Libras has been ongoing since 2009, supported by Brazilian legislation in 2002 which recognizes the language and allows deaf people greater access to Brazilian Universities. As most academics are deaf, they have expanded terminological signs for the Brazilian deaf academic community and defined the characteristics of terminology studies from the early years to the present.

Terminology plays an important role in the modern world, with its many scientific and technological innovations, since these scientific and technological advances need to have appropriate names and terms. Thus, terminological repertoires, systematized or harmonized - through Terminology - contribute to make communication between specialists more effective, and above all, to be concise, precise and appropriate (Cabré, 1996). Creating specialised lexicons does not only imply that there is a one-to-one correspondence between words and signs in Portuguese, and it is probable that the resulting collection of signs is not very representative of the lexicon of sign language.

Objectives
How to extract the term signs?
How should we deal with gaps in specialised lexicons in Libras?
How have the general lexicon and the specialized lexicon in Libras already been recorded in Brazil?
In which contexts are the term signs used?

Conventional “Input” Signs

Concordance: lists the occurrences in video of a certain sign and its immediate context
1) Input complete and accessible
2) Overcoming input
3) Prior to input
4) Input not native
5) Unable to access input
6) Not exposed to input
7) Input delayed
8) Accessible to child
9) Child using a complete and accessible language

Aims of the Study
This research is based on the theoretical and methodological structure of corpus linguistics. The methodology for developing the corpus project includes the following steps: (I) corpus project; (II) construction of the corpus; (III) corpus processing; (IV) data analysis; (V) validation of candidates for new terms; (VI) preparation of the terminology sheet. The first step, the corpus project, is the description of corpora. The study corpus is composed by videos in Libras. The e-book “Sign Language Acquisition by Deaf and Hearing Children” has 11 chapters in Libras and slides with topics in Portuguese, from which Chapter 2 on “Input Development” was chosen, which are the comparable ones in Libras and the slides in Portuguese language.

The main term selected from this chapter is input, with three signs referring to input taken from videos on the “YouTube” platform used by the deaf community. Five (5) signs for Input were identified in differentiated contexts of production in Libras.

Corpus-based terminology: Libras signs and their use are described in the terminology on the basis of available corpus data. The type hierarchy of the annotational database (Elan and SignWriting) pre-structures available corpus data.

Similar basic analytical questions regarding a sign’s properties re-occur with regard to different lemma sign candidates.

Useful queries, views, and visualisations are pre-stored in our Elan database to support terminology and lexicographic analysis, decision-making, and description at various stages of the process.

In the terminology entry, findings are summarised in the description of a sign’s properties.

References:


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