

Lexicon in International Sign (Language): Structural Properties and Usage

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The paper provides an overview of current issues related to the analysis of lexical items that have emerged and stabilized over time in International Sign Language (IS/IntSL). The corpus-based data consists of utterances signed by 17 deaf signers from four different continents (Quadros & Rathmann 2023, forthcoming). They were asked to answer selected questions about language use, language education, and life in deaf signer communities. The answers were videotaped.

Selected lexical items were analyzed according to three core questions:

- (a) Classification and decomposition of lexical items in IntSL
- (b) Differences and similarities in phonetic-phonological and lexico-semantic structure in IS/IntSL
- (c) Relationship between lexical items in IntSL and structural iconicity.

The next part of the paper deals with current issues related to the use of lexical items in IS/IntSL, including lexical choice/negotiation, language contact in specific international settings (see e.g. Machado & Quadros 2020), and the acquisition of lexical items by IS/IntSL users.

Finally, the paper critically examines how the concept of "global communication" (see e.g. Blommaert 2010) can be applied to IS/IntSL.

Selected References:

Blommaert, J. (2010). *The Sociolinguistics of Globalization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Machado, R. and RM de Quadros (2020). Linguistic contact in Libras: a descriptive study on the influence of other sign languages on Libras. *Contemporary research on sign languages to commemorate 25 years since “Por uma gramática de línguas de sinais” Revista Linguistics*. Vol. 16 No. 3

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