

1) INTRODUCTION

1.1. Telicity

- Identified semantically as "having an end-State". *Telic verbs* describe an event with an end-State different from the beginning state. *Atelic events* lack an endpoint.
- In American SL (ASL) and Austrian SL (ÖGS), telic verbs have been identified phonologically as "being end marked", showing the end-State in their form, whereas atelic predicates do not.
- Telic verb signs display a *change in space*, *abrupt stop or contact with a part of the body*.
- Atelic verb signs *do not show these or other marks* of telicity because they have homogenous structure (no end-State).

1.2. Nonmanuals

- In ASL, if the verb sign is end marked because it has an end-State, the *mouth* is also end marked. Since atelic verbs lack an end-State, there is no mouth end marking.
- Schalber (2004) observed two types of adverbial mouth gestures in ÖGS: *continuous* (also 'posture' nonmanuals/P-NMs) *discontinuous* (also 'transition' nonmanuals/T-NMs)
- Discontinuous NMs are end-marked.
- These two types of mouth gestures correlate with the event structure of predicates: *Atelic verb signs* co-occur with *continuous* mouth gestures, whereas *Telic verb signs* co-occur with both *continuous* and *discontinuous* mouth gestures.

Chu, Lee and Yu (2006) for Hong Kong SL (HKSL)

- identified *imperfective viewpoint marker* "ho" – a pulmonic egressive airstream passing through a constriction formed with pursed lips.

- "ho" is obligatory in certain classifier constructions – it requires the imperfective viewpoint on the event.
- identified "puff cheek", which when added onto certain verb constructions consisting of posture verbs (STAND, SIT, LIE) or placement verbs (PUT, HANG), results in derived situations that are [+stative] and [+durative].

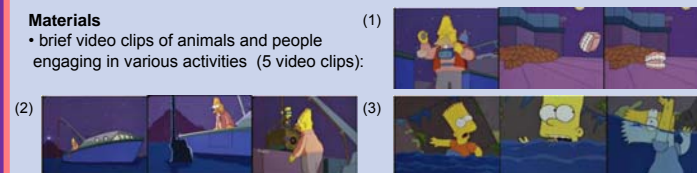
2) METHODOLOGY

Participants

9 native Deaf HZJ signers (age > 18, 5 female, 4 male), who signed consent forms, were filmed in Zagreb, Croatia while interacting with a native signer.

Materials

- brief video clips of animals and people engaging in various activities (5 video clips):



- five pairs of pictures showing activities which are ongoing (4) and which have ended (5):



- target HZJ verbs in sentences (25 short signing narratives, asking several questions about the verbs in them):

- My brother always CARRIES home wine from his travels. He travels at least two times a year. Last year he BROUGHT back seven bottles.
- Emma likes to TRAVEL. Yesterday she TRAVELED AWAY to visit her sister in France.

- isolated target verb in pairs for grammatical judgments (250 pairs):

- ČITATI – PROČITATI (read – read completely)
PUTOVATI – OTPUTOVATI (travel – travel to)
POKAZIVATI – POKAZATI (show (again and again) – show)

Research questions

- How is telicity marked in HZJ?
- Is telicity shown by nonmanuals with verb signs in HZJ?
- Do nonmanuals for telic and atelic verbs differ in HZJ? If they do, is it systematic?
- Which nonmanuals correspond to telic and which to atelic verbs?

3) RESULTS

3.1. Nonmanual marking of atelic events



[ph]
DIZATI-UŽETOM
...lift it up with a rope...

Verbs that occurred with this NM:
PLOVITI (sail),
POKAZIVATI (show),
PADATI (fall),
PISATI (write)



...puffed cheeks
razina-vode-RASTI
...the water is rising...

Verbs that occurred with this NM:
POSTAVLJATI-NEŠTO
(build something in)



[mmm]
REZATI
...cutting...

Verbs that occurred with this NM:
ČEKATI (wait),
PLANIRATI (plan),
PROMATRATI (observe),
MISLITI (think)



[jaw dropped]
OBJAŠNJAVATI
...explain (all the time/a lot of times)...

Verbs that occurred with this NM:
OBLAČITI-SE (getting dressed),
ODNOSITI (take away),
DOPLAČIVATI (pay extra money),
PRIZNAVATI (allow)

3.2. Nonmanual marking of telic events



mouth closed → open
ZUBI – ISPASTI
...dropped his teeth ...

Verbs that occurred with this NM:
POJAVITI-SE (appear),
SPAZITI (notice),
PASTI (fall),
BACITI (throw)



[open → closed]
ZALITI
...water (just one flower)...

Verbs that occurred with this NM:
PREREZATI (cut in two pieces),
SKRENUTI (make a turn),
UPASTI (fall in),
PRIHVATITI (accept)



[puff]
ODUSTATI
...give up (once)...

Verbs that occurred with this NM:
SASTATI-SE (meet),
ODUZETI (take away),
POBIJEDITI (win),
POKLOPITI (cover with a lid)

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4) CONCLUSION

- Telicity is marked in HZJ manually and nonmanually.
- Telicity in HZJ is visible by nonmanuals (mouth shapes), which differ for telic and atelic verbs, and it happens systematically.
- NMs occurring with telic verb signs are [closed → open], [open → closed], [puff], and those occurring with atelic verb signs are [ph], [puffed cheeks], [mm], [jaw dropped].

Further research questions/aims:

- Do any verbs require a particular mouth?
- Do classifier constructions occur with particular mouth NMs?
- What is the relationship between types of reduplication (continuous, repeated/iterative) and mouth NMs? Is it a question of one large event with mini-events inside it – atelic marking with continuous (P-NMs), or it is viewed as a string of events and each event has its own mouth NM (T-NMs)?