LSF acquisition by deaf children: a study of motion events

Context: The purpose of this study is to collect free and induced LSF production of children.

Informants: 54 deaf children, aged 3 to 11 years, born to hearing or deaf parents and attending different educational settings.

Topic: How to express manner and path in motion events, with stimuli by Hickmann et al. 2008 (26 video items)

Case study of 2 native deaf signers both 8 years old and 1 deaf adult (out of 15 children and 5 adults video-taped).

First results (Sallandre et al. 2010):
1) 2 main structures are used, and very few lexical signs:
   - Personal transfer (PT): role shift, internal viewpoint of the character
   - Situational transfer (ST): external viewpoint, a whole view on the scene
2) These 2 structures express both manner and path but with a different focus:
   - Personal transfer: focus on manner
   - Situational transfer: focus on manner/path simultaneously
3) Some « patterns » with 2 structures emerged in LSF (but only 1 verb in French, for hearing children).

Mixed hearing/deaf pairs
- How to annotate gestures and SL simultaneously?
- What level to annotate – phonetic, semantic?
- Based on which formalism – SL/Gestuality notation system?

Bibliography