

Vanessa Tsang & Josiah Nii Ashie Neequaye

Title: A cross-modal comparison of event narratives: Co-speech gestures in Gã and classifiers constructions in HKSL

Abstract:

Across spoken and signed languages, iconic enrichments can be exhibited through different ways of gestural demonstrations. In spoken languages, ideophones are a class of lexical words that are marked and depict sensory imagery. In signed languages, classifier constructions are frequently used to iconically and simultaneously depict aspects of meanings related to motions and states. What is shared between these two types of construction is that both combine a lexically specified (highly conventionalised) linguistic component and a gradually modifiable (gestural) iconic component. In this study, we make a cross-modal comparison between Gã and Hong Kong Sign Language (HKSL). We provide an exploratory and qualitative analysis about the comparative components of ideophone-accompanying gestures in Gã and classifier constructions in HKSL.