

The logic in the ordering of the entities in FinSSL

Satu Siltaloppi
Tampere University, satu.siltaloppi@tuni.fi

Keywords: list construction, logic of ordering, Finland-Swedish Sign Language

In this presentation, I show how the users of Finland-Swedish Sign Language (FinSSL) use list constructions (Siltaloppi, 2023). List constructions are pointing constructions where the signer shows one to five fingers on one of their hands and points at these fingers with their other hand (Siltaloppi, 2023; Wilcox, Xavier & Siltaloppi, submitted; Wilcox & Occhino, 2016). In list constructions, the signers assign entities to these one to five fingers when they sign lists. In this presentation, I focus on the logic they have for the order of the entities for which they use list constructions and discuss examples where the order does not seem to follow the most obvious logic.

I analyze, why a signer breaks the chronological order of the listed events. For example, in one case in my data a signer gives a list of four events and three of the events are more similar to each other compared to the fourth, and this was the main reason for the order they were established to the list fingers. The chronological order of the events was not that relevant, and the signer listed the events one and two in the chronologically logical order, but the events three and four were listed chronologically incorrectly as the third would chronologically have been the last of these four events.

The data for this presentation comes from my research for my dissertation (Siltaloppi, 2023) and it consists of 48 informational monologues published on a web-tv channel called Teckeneko (www.teckeneko.fi) in 2014–2019. During those years, in total of 186 videos were published with 13 different signers. Of these, list construction occurs in 48 videos signed by 7 different signers.

References

- Siltaloppi, Satu. 2023. *List construction in Finland-Swedish Sign Language*. University of Helsinki: Doctoral dissertation.
- Wilcox, Sherman, André Xavier & Satu Siltaloppi (submitted manuscript). *List construction in two signed languages*.
- Wilcox, Sherman & Corinne Occhino. 2016. Constructing signs: Place as a symbolic structure in signed languages. *Cognitive Linguistics* 27 (3). 371–404. <https://doi.org/10.1515/cog-2016-0003>.