

## Mouth actions and blended spaces in Quebec Sign Language (LSQ)

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The use of blended spaces in languages, as proposed by Fauconnier and Turner (1996), has been discussed for signed languages notably for the use of enactments (Ferrara & Johnston, 2014; Liddell & Metzger, 1998; Saunders & Parisot, submitted). Liddell & Metzger propose that enactment, also known as constructed action, in ASL is produced through the use of blended spaces where the signer (within the real space where his body is found) assumes the role of an actant (found in the mental space of the signer), by aligning his own body to that of the actant in order to represent the body of the actant by showing what he does, or says, directly to the audience (Liddell & Metzger, 1998, p. 669).

Crasborn et al. (2008) highlight five different functions of mouth actions, namely: spoken language mouthings, adverbial mouth actions, semantically empty, enacting and mouth activity. Dubuisson et al. (1999) identify the pragmatic nature of mouth actions with which the signers can produce their stance on what is being signed. For this study, we analyze two functions: adverbial (morphological) and stance-taking (pragmatic) mouth actions, to investigate whether adverbial and stance-taking mouth actions are produced in the same manner within and outside of enactments in LSQ, since space blending is embedded in the former when enactments are produced.

The dataset consists of 12 LSQ discourses produced by three Deaf LSQ signers as part of elicitation tasks based on four video stimuli of non-verbal events derived from 2 different scenarios. For each scenario two different videos are shown based on two different modes, descriptive and narrative) (the former includes slow and menial tasks, and the latter more expressive and lively actions produced by actors). These discourses, providing 89 minutes of material, are analyzed with the following variables: forms of mouth actions, their functions, and the presence of enactment.

136 mouth actions were identified, of which 101 were analyzed as adverbial and 35 as stance-taking. 84% of 136 adverbial mouth actions were found within enactment, when the signer aligns his body with the actant, while 91.4% of 35 stance-taking mouth actions were found in enactment. This raises questions concerning the blended spaces during when enactment is produced: notably when an enactment is produced, from the actant's perspective, the mouth actions (adverbial and stance-taking) are produced from the signer's perspective simultaneously. For example, a signer might sign with a classifier (an upright index finger) to illustrate that the actant is moving quickly in the signing space from the narrator's perspective, but he might also produce an enactment, by assuming the actant's attitude with his face and body to show the character's perspective. Furthermore, an adverbial mouth action, from the signer's perspective, might be produced simultaneously in a form of protruded lips to suggest the morphological intensity of the action. This highlights the need to discuss space blending with the notion of body partitioning (Dudis, 2004) for facial expressions, since facial articulators can be partitioned according to its functions, such as adverbial and stance-taking mouth actions.

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