



# First encounters - Repair sequences in 'Cross-signing'

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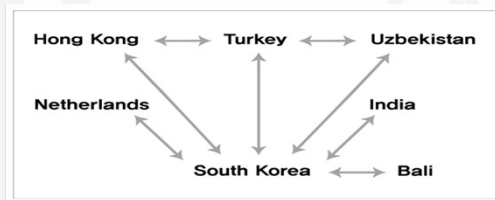
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## Introduction

This study examines the use of try-markers in repair of communication breakdowns within the context of cross-signing, in which Deaf signers from different countries who do not share a common language meet and converse (Zeshan 2013). This interaction is studied here within the framework of Conversation Analysis (CA).

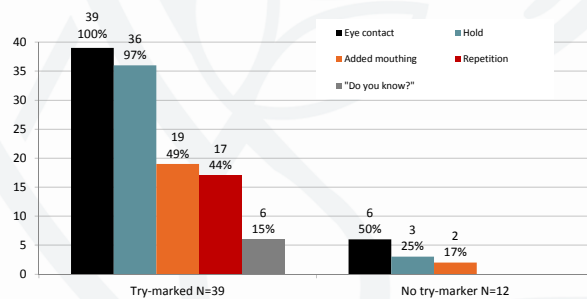
## Data Collection & Method

Existing video data recorded in 2003-2005 (MPI, the Sign Language Typology Research Group) Deaf members from Uzbekistan, The Netherlands, Hong Kong, South Korea. The data consist of 1 hour 20 minutes of video, recorded at first meeting. These videos were transcribed using ELAN video annotation software. Additionally, the timing of T+1 with respect to T0 was analysed using the gesture movement phased coding system (Kita et al 1998).



## Try-markers at T-1

Most trouble source (T-1) turns were try-marked by multiple manual and non-manual forms such as holds, repetitions, eye contact and added mouthings. Eye contact is obligatory for try-markers in cross-signing; try-markers are almost always accompanied by a hold.



## Other-Initiation of Repair (OIR)

Timing: Fast track/normal/delay/gap

The timing of T+1 with respect to T0 is affected by the initial signer's readiness to respond as indicated by try-marking at T-1.

## Repair initiation (T0)

- Repetition, in T0, is a key form of restrictive repair in cross-signing, comprising the majority of all types.
- Pointing, gesture/waving, and head inclination occur (at T0) overwhelmingly in the absence of try-markers at T-1.
- In OIR, try-markers are followed by ceasing of back-channeling and by continuers (at T0) much more than non-try-marked turns. This is also known as off-record initiation of repair (Manrique 2014). Since these repair initiations do not include any manual signs they were excluded from the turn-timing analysis.

## Conclusion

- For effective repair in cross-signing, try-markers are crucial.
- Try-markers create a welcoming environment for OIR and can expedite the process of repair.

## Fast Track OIR Sequence

Turn-timing analysis on the basis of gesture phase coding, revealed that the timing of T+1 with respect to T0 may be speeded up when T-1 is try-marked. Conversely, when T-1 was not try-marked, T+1 was produced with either a delay or gap with respect to T0.

	Fast track	Normal	Delayed response	Gap	Total
Try-marker	15 100.0%	7 100.0%	6 50.0%	6 75.0%	34 80.9%
No Try-marker	-	-	6 5.00%	2 25.0%	8 19.1%
	15 35.7%	7 16.7%	12 28.6%	8 19.0%	42 100.0%

Stroke T+1 overlaps with Preparation/Stroke T0 → fast track  
 Preparation T+1 overlaps only with Stroke T0 → normal  
 Stroke T+1 overlaps only with Hold T0 → delay  
 Stroke T+1 gap between T+1 and T0 → gap  
(Kita et al. 1998; De Vos et al. 2014)

## References

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