The person is a man. (HKSL)

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).

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Try-marker</th>
<th>Fast track</th>
<th>Normal response</th>
<th>Delayed response</th>
<th>Gap</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Try-marked</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Try-marker</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke T+1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Try-marked N=39 No try-marker N=12*

Eye contact
Hold
Added mouthing
Repetition
"Do you know?"

References


