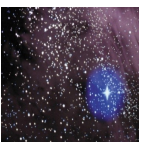
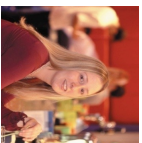




**DGfS-CNRS Summer School on
Linguistic Typology
Course “Sign Language Typology”**

Typology of interrogatives in sign languages



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Topics

- Methodology of the typological study on negatives and interrogatives
- Question word paradigms
- Non-interrogative uses of interrogative signs
- Typological summary

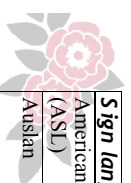
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Methodology for the typological study – data sources

- Typological questionnaire – network of co-researchers
 - Text
 - Pictures
 - Videos
- Published sources (esp. sign language „dictionaries“)
- My own data and fieldwork

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Sign language	Country/region	Type of data
American Sign Language (ASL)	U.S., Canada except Québec	published material
Australian	Australia	questionnaire (text, with ref. to dictionary)
British Sign Language (BSL)	Great Britain	dictionary/ (pictures, video clips)
Chilean Sign Language	Chile	published material
Dansk Tegnsprog	Denmark	published material (negation only)
Deutsche Gebardensprache (DGS)	Germany	questionnaire (text, pictures from dictionary)
Finnish Sign Language (Suomalainen viittomakieli)	Finland	publication
Greek Sign Language	Greece	questionnaire (text, video frames from dictionary, video with transcription)
Hong Kong Sign Language	China (Hong Kong)	questionnaire (text, video with transcription)
Íslenskt Takmál (Icelandic Sign Language)	Iceland	questionnaire (text, video with transcription)
Indo-Pakistani Sign Language	India/Pakistan	questionnaire (text, video with transcription)
International Sign	n/a	sample questionnaire (text, pictures) own fieldwork
		published material (negation only)

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Irish Sign Language	Ireland	questionnaire (text, video with transcription)
Israeli Sign Language	Israel	questionnaire (text, video with transcription)
Kenyan Sign Language	Kenya	questionnaire (text) dictionary own video elicitation
Langue des Signes Française (LSF)	France	published material dictionary
Langue des Signes Québécoise (LSQ)	Canada (Québec)	published material
Lengua de Senas Argentina	Argentina	published material
Lengua de Senas Espanola	Spain except Catalonia	questionnaire (text, video with transcription)
Lingua Gestual Portuguesa	Portugal	published material
Lingua Italiana dei Segni (LIS)	Italy	published material (interrogatives only) dictionary
Lingua de Sinais Brasileira	Brazil	questionnaire (text, video frames)

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Geographical distribution of the sample

- North America: 2
- South America: 3
- Europe: 16
- Africa: 3
- Asia: 11
- Australasia: 2

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Nederlandse Gebarentaal	Netherlands	published material
New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL)	New Zealand	questionnaire (text, video frames)
Nihon Shuwa (Japanese Sign Language)	Japan	questionnaire (text) published material
Norsk Tegnpråk	Norway	published material
Russian Sign Language	central part of Russia	published material own video elicitation
South Korean Sign Language	South Korea	questionnaire (text)
Svenska Teckenspraket	Sweden	published material
Taiwanese Sign Language (Ziran Shouyu)	Taiwan	questionnaire (text; interrogatives only)
Tanzania Sign Language (Lugha ya Alama Tanzania)	Tanzania	questionnaire (text) dictionary own video elicitation
Thai Sign Language	Thailand	dictionary own video elicitation
Türk İsarət Dili	Turkey	own fieldwork
Ugandan Sign Language	Uganda	questionnaire (text, video with transcription)
Vlaamse Gebarentaal	Flemish part of Belgium	questionnaire (text)

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Question word paradigms

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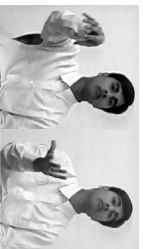
Question words in Indo-Pakistani Sign Language...

There is only a single general question word, which covers all interrogative meanings.

The question word is accompanied by an obligatory non-manual configuration (brow raise, head back)

The general interrogative is formationally related to the general indefinite.

The general interrogative combines with other signs to form complex question words with specific meanings.



PLACE+WH "where?"



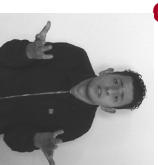
TIME+WH "when?"



Question words in Turkish Sign Language

The paradigm of question words consists of three different types:

Type A: Signs that are used as interrogatives only: WHAT, WHO



WHAT
"what,
how,
which"



DAY-qu
"when, on
what day,
how long"



REASON
"reason,
why"

Type C: Non-interrogative signs that are also used as interrogatives. REASON, NUMBER



Interrogatives of quantification in Chinese Sign Language

Question words that are related to concepts of quantity use an open handshape with finger wiggling.

The interrogative signs result from merging this handshape with non-interrogative signs for quantifiable entities, resulting in morphologically complex question words.

These interrogative signs in turn are part of larger paradigms with complex morphology known as "numeral incorporation".



"how much?, how
many?"



"first month (January)"



"which month of the year?"



"how many
hundreds?"



"what age?"



"what month and
date?"

Non-interrogative functions of interrogative signs



<i>non-interrogative meaning</i>	<i>interrogative meaning</i>	<i>occurring in ... no. of languages</i>
'many/much'	'how many?'	6
'age'	'how old?'	6
'number'	'how many?'	5
'reason'	'why?'	5
'time'	'when?'	5
'money/cost'	'how much money?'	3
'manner'	'how?'	3

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Typological summary

- Some domains are highly similar across sign languages (e.g. non-manual aspects)
- Some domains are show a very high degree of cross-linguistic variation (e.g. question word paradigms)
- Plenty of evidence for complex grammatical organisation in this domain
- A lot of parallels with spoken languages at the notional level (e.g. indefinite-interrogative link, segmental and supra-segmental marking)

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<i>interrogative function</i>	<i>indefinite function</i>	<i>other non-interrogative function</i>
'who?'	'someone?'	
'what/where?'	'something, somewhere?'	
'where?'	'somewhere?'	
'when?'		'every day, daily?'
'why?'		'because, that's why?'
'which of two?'		'one or the other, both of them?'

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Typological summary

- No obligatory question particles, but optional question particles in at least a third of sign languages.
- High incidence of question particles in East and South-East Asia (areal typologs?), some with clear evidence of spoken language contact.

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