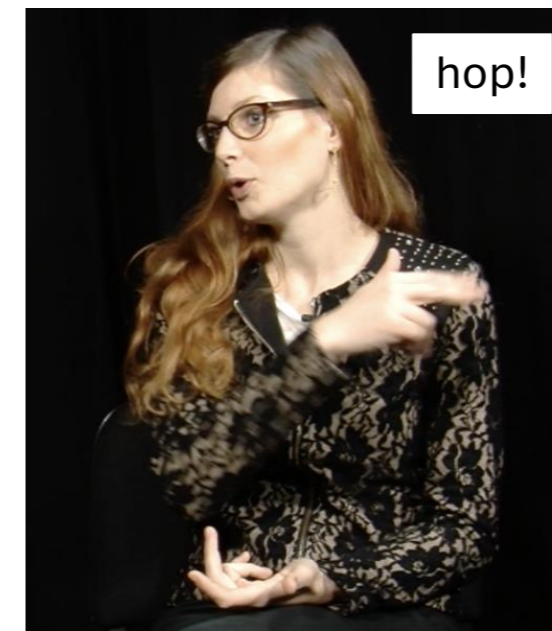


# Profiling depictions of events from an external perspective in LSFb and Belgian French

## Towards a corpus-based study

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- Entity depicting signs provide a repertoire of partly conventionalised signs to depict motion events (e.g. Zwitserlood 2012).
- Other articulators also involved, e.g. mouth actions (Johnston et al. 2015).
- Frequent depictions feed a repertoire of strongly conventionalised signs (Wilcox & Xavier, 2013).
- Conventionalised signs can be gradually manipulated for depictive purposes (Cormier et al. 2012, Ferrara & Halvorsen 2017).

- Speakers' O-VPT gestures similar to signers' depictions (Quinto-Pozos & Parill 2015).
- Ideophones are spoken lexicalised depictions that can refer to diverse meaning domains (e.g. Dingemanse 2019).
- Ideophones often co-occur with iconic gestures (Nuckolls 2020).
- Depictive foregrounding in ideophones, e.g., reduplication and lengthening, similar to lexicalised depictions in signed languages (Ferrara & Halvorsen 2017, Vandenitte, under review).

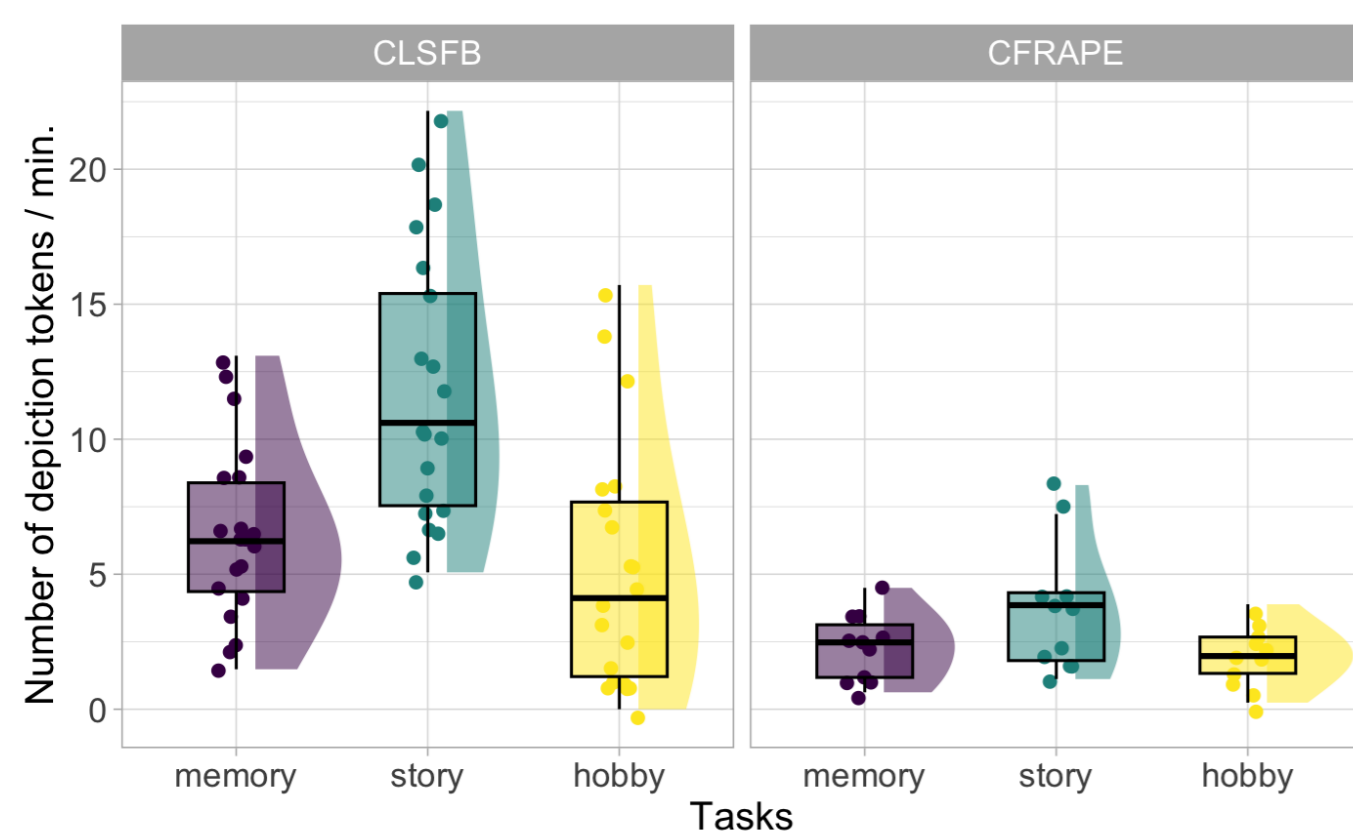
This project contributes to comparative semiotic research on depiction from an event-external perspective in a directly comparable corpus of LSFb (French Belgian Sign language) and Belgian French (Meurant 2015, Lepeut et al. 2024).

It relies on the multimodal annotation software ELAN (Crasborn & Sloetjes 2008).

The following preliminary analyses are based on the interactions of 20 LSFb signers and 11 French speakers in three text types: childhood memory narratives, elicited narratives, and hobby explanation (total duration: 6.4 hours).

Number of depiction tokens identified

Corpus	LSFB	FRAPÉ
memory	426	94
story	889	164
hobby	485	92
<b>total</b>	<b>1800</b>	<b>350</b>

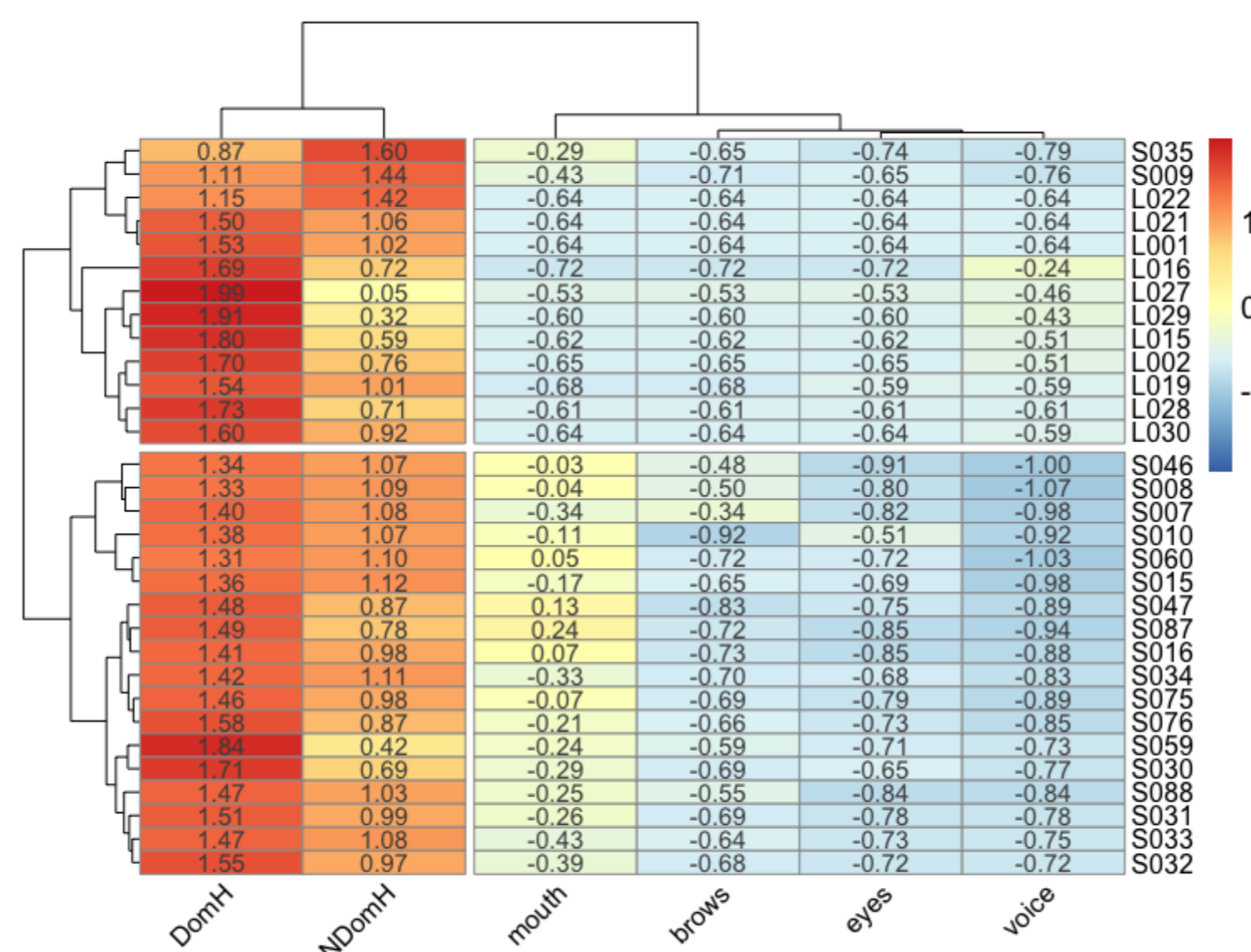


### How often are depictions used across text types?

- modality-free operationalisation (Ferrara & Hodge 2018): different articulators/strategies included (hands, brows, mouth, eyes, speech)
- But how to ensure good recall? How does the concept of event-external perspective apply to iconic speech?

### Which articulators contribute to depictions?

- What are the typical form signatures of depictions in the dataset?
- Two clusters closely aligning with the language groups:
  - LSFB signers: hands, sometimes mouth
  - French speakers: hands, sometimes voice



Many thanks to the LSFb and FRAPÉ Corpus participants as well as to all those involved in the collection, annotation, and translation of these datasets.

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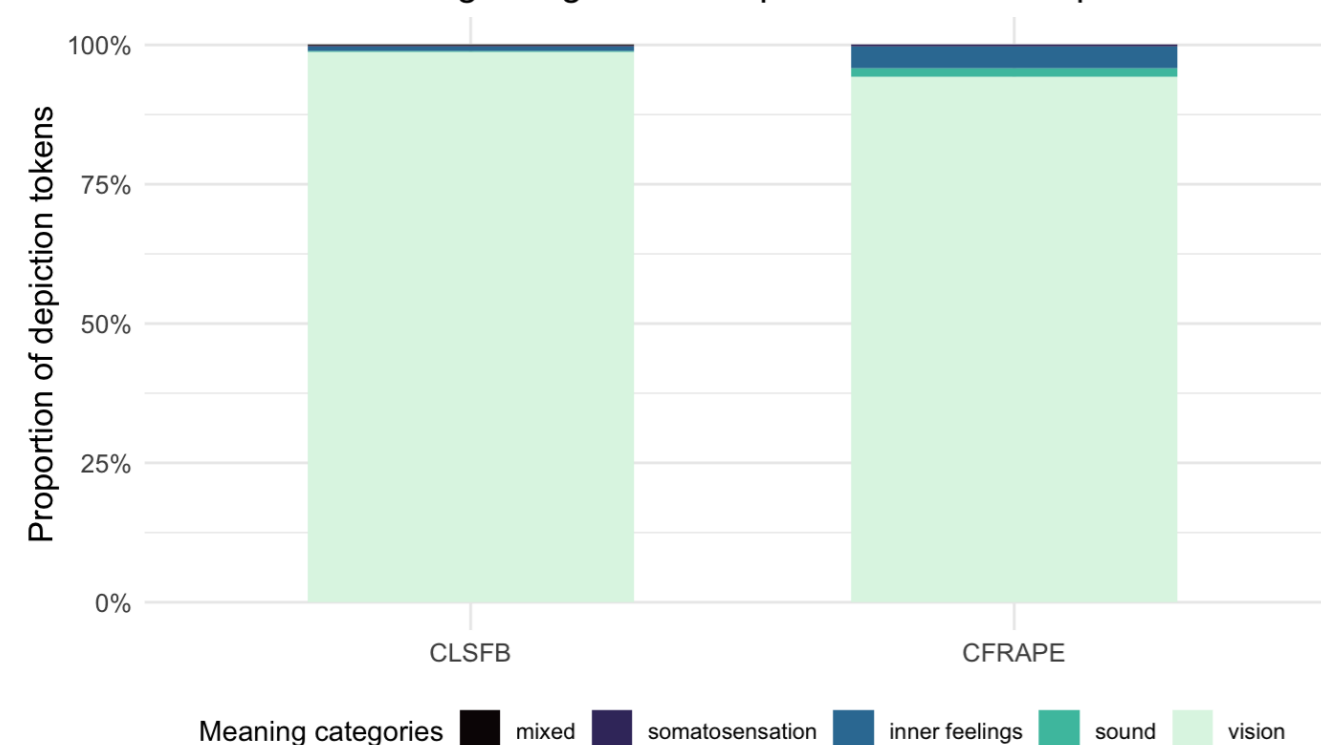
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Meaning categories in depictions across corpora



### What meaning domains are referred to?

- Using different categories to look beyond vision (Keränen 2025): annotation protocol with different meaning categories (Van Hoey 2023): vision, sound, inner feelings, somatosensation
- Need for more specific meaning descriptions, e.g. the semantic grid for motion ideophones (Ibarretxe-Antuñano 2019)? How to deal with ambiguous cases/metaphorical extensions?

### More rounds of annotation/checking

- Conventionalisation:** Documenting the repertoire of 'conventionalised' depictions: how to identify conventionalisation beyond lexical databases? How about more schematic items? Also in speakers' multimodal practices?
- Creative depiction:** Describing processes of creative depiction and depictive manipulation of lexicalised depictions