TELFS2
Semantic and syntactic assessment of French Sign Language
Developmental indicators in a test for children and teenagers aged from 4 to 14 years old
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AIMS AND ISSUES

Assessing language acquisition and development in French Sign Language (LSF) is a great challenge for researchers and clinicians. There are still few research in that field in LSF. Research on LSF acquisition and adaptation of tests have been initiated in France (Courtin & al. 2010 ; Bogliotti & al. 2018).

TELFS2 is an adaptation of Niederberger et al TELFS (2001). It will be standardized in 2019.

INTRODUCTION

As theoretical reference, we have chosen the Semiological Model (Cuxac 2000, Garcia & Sallandre 2014) which attached particular importance to the constructions that are simultaneous and iconic, the "highly iconic structures" important for the morphosyntax and semantic of any sign language discourse.

We evaluate the narrative skills of deaf children and teenagers from 4 to 14 years old, native and non-native signers, whatever their prior exposure to sign language or the conditions of its acquisition. The signers acquired sign language in different ways, as a native language or as a late acquisition, sometimes in a LSF/Special French bilingualism.

Research questions:

- Question 1. What are the highly iconic and lexical structures at a morphosyntactic level?
- Question 2. What are the main developmental indicators of the progressive construction of sign language in deaf children?

METHOD

We recorded a first corpus composed by 25 deaf subjects aged from 3 to 15 years old – 3 children under 6 years old, 5 children from 6 to 11, 17 teenagers from 12 to 15.

We also recorded a deaf signing adults sample.

2 subtests:
- The test includes a reception task where the subjects watch a video of a story presented in LSF followed by questions, and a narrative production task, during which the subject is asked to tell a story from an image book.

We elaborated a coding manual and now a shorter and easy to use grid for future test users.

NEXT STEPS

- Handing over a representative sample of deaf children and teenagers
- Grid validation and standardization
- Instruction manual and grid interpretation
- TELFS2 publication

REFERENCES