

# The expression of contrast in Catalan Sign Language (LSC)

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In Catalan Sign Language, foci and topics seem to display the same marking in order to express contrast (Barberà 2015, Zorzi 2018). In this research we aim at describing the different markers involved in the expression of contrast. Contrast in LSC is mainly expressed through a combination of non-manual markers: left and right body leans (bl) and head tilts (ht), plus the use of the opposite sides of the signing space. These markers are always present when there are salient contextually contrasted alternatives, as shown in (1).

- (1)  $\frac{\text{left bl}}{[[\text{GIORGIA}]_T [\text{LINGUIST}]_{F_x}]}$   $\frac{\text{right bl}}{[[\text{RAQUEL}]_T [\text{INTERPRETER}]_{F_y}]}$ .  
'Giorgia is a LINGUIST and Raquel is an INTERPRETER.'

Moreover, following Umbach (2004), we identify three different subtypes of contrast: i) parallel contrast, which involves contrast due to similarity (common integrator) plus dissimilarity (semantic independence); ii) selective contrast, which involves contrast due to similarity plus dissimilarity, plus contrast due to exclusion; and iii) corrective contrast, which involves contrast due to similarity plus dissimilarity, due to exclusion, and, additionally, a conflict with the expectations of the interlocutor (Destruel & Velleman 2014). All these subtypes of contrast are expressed through the same combination of markers. However, in ii) an additional head nod is found towards the selected alternative, and in iii) a head thrust is added to mark the correction. Our analysis proposes that the different subtypes of contrast identified before correlate with different interpretations in terms of exhaustivity, related to the selection of an alternative, and expectations, related to the correction of an alternative.

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