



Links between Gestures and Signs: Semantic and Interaction Analysis in Corpus between Deaf and Hearing

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Links between Gestures and Signs: Semantic and Interaction Analysis in Corpus between Deaf and Hearing



PRESENTATION

- A semantic and interaction analysis between gestures produced by hearing people and signs produced by Deaf people
- The existence of common roots between the two types of *gesture* in order to highlight our approach, that gesture and sign have the same origin, both based on a process of iconisation of speakers/signers life experiences
- We consider iconicity to be a primary element at the foundation of all languages, whether it is spoken or signed
- Gesture studies, Kendon (1988 - 2004), McNeill (1992, 2005, 2014), Cosnier (2008)
- Focus on asynchronous hearing gestures (not lexicalized)
- We develop a semantic and interactional analysis

METHOD

Video recordings:

Petit, S. (2014, 2016)



Stimulus: A magic trick (with Eggcup)

Corpus 1

Corpus A: Between 6 hearing speakers of different languages and cultures (French, Chinese, Brazilian)

Corpus B: 1 hearing speaker (bilingual English/French) who watches the video A without sound

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- AIM OF THIS STUDY : to better understand the common roots between gestures and signs

- HYPOTHESIS : there is a link that leads to the same genesis by the process of iconicisation (cf. transfer structures for Cuxac, 2000, 2010, 2013)

- Brief definitions: 1) O-VPT : Observer view-point 2) C-VPT : Character view-point

Corpus 2

Corpus C: Between 2 Deaf/2 Hearing speakers (Italian)

Corpus D: Between 2 Hearing (French) /2 Deaf speakers

Corpus E : Between 2 Deaf speakers

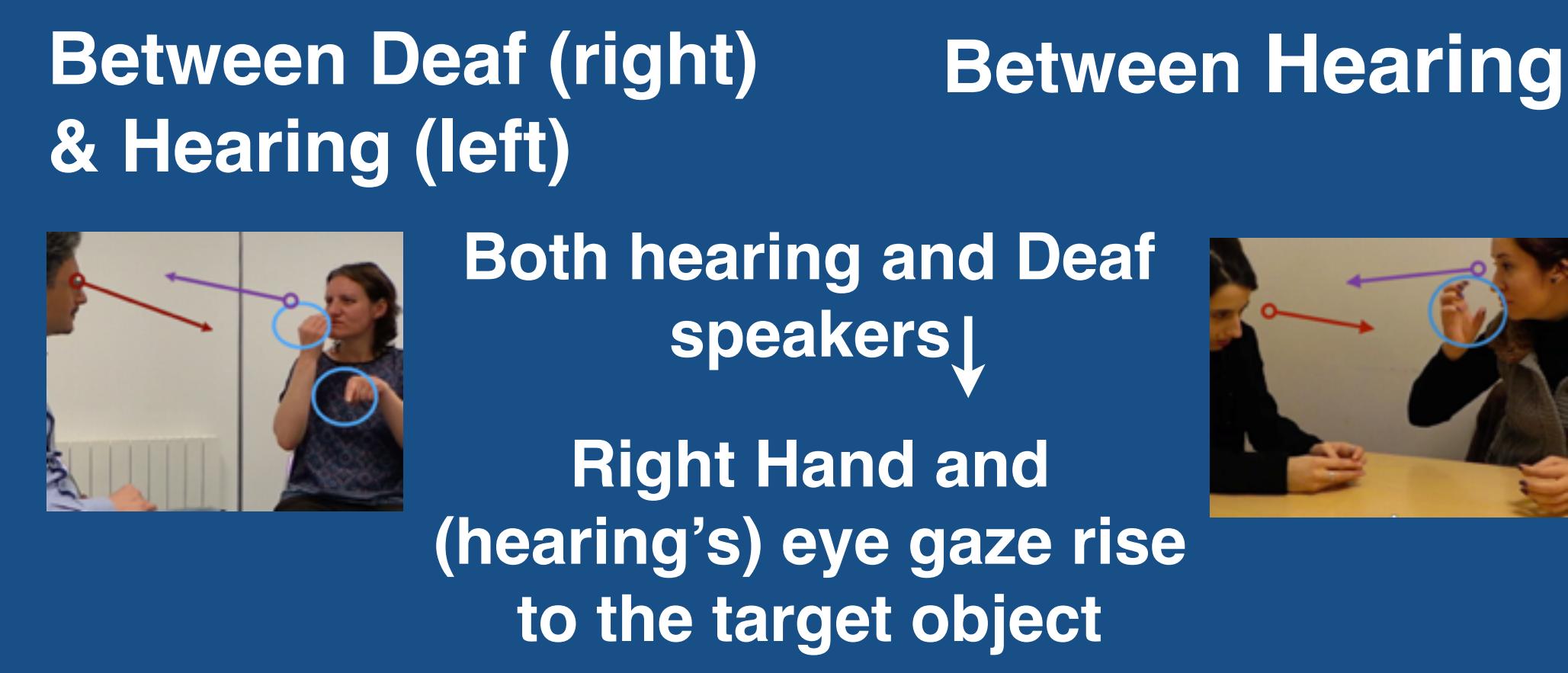
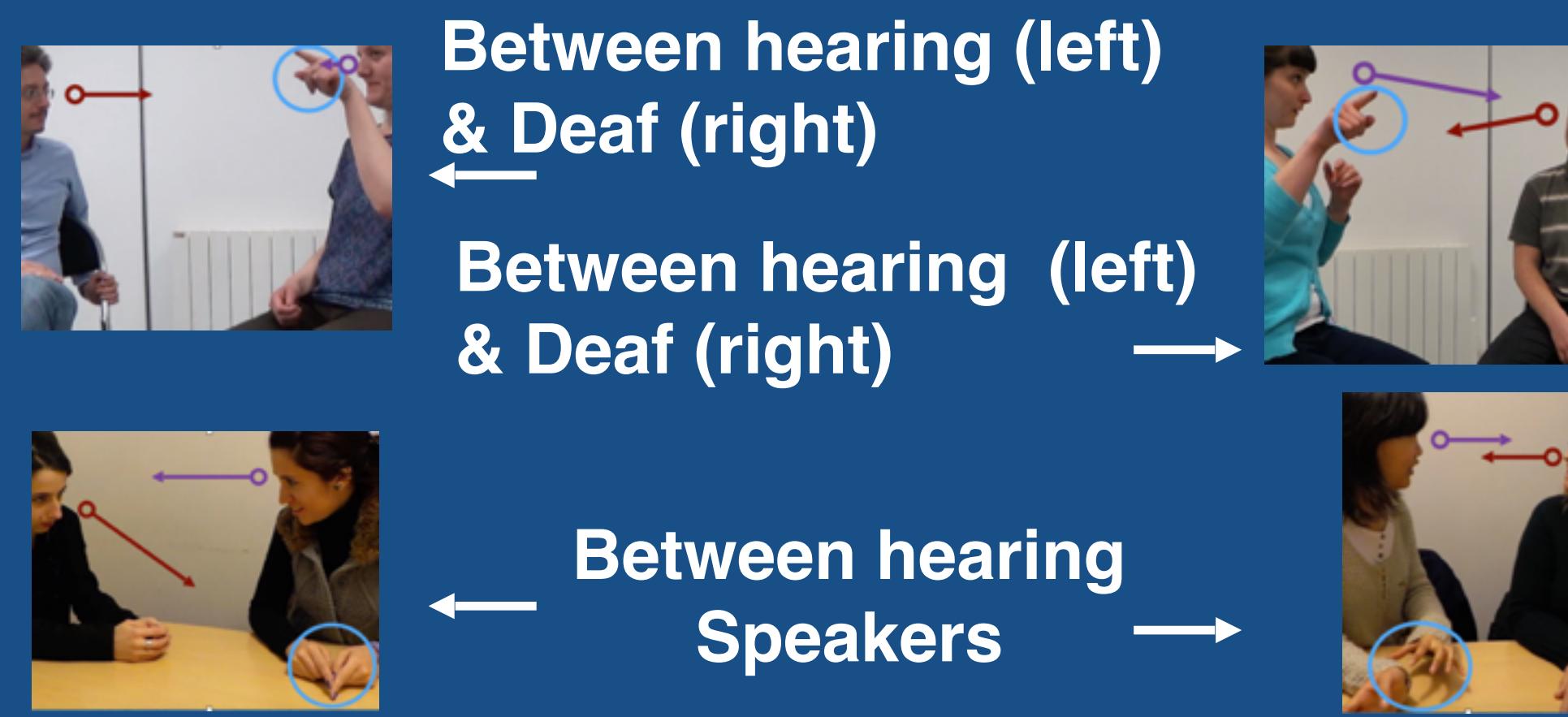
Corpus F : 1 Hearing speaker who watches the video E

FIRST RESULTS

Between Hearing Speakers



In interaction LH :shape circle iconic (O-VPT)



Asynchronous gestures & dual Picture left : Hands speaker A (right), Representing the hands of magician : iconic (C-VPT) or personal transfer
Picture right : Speaker B (left), in interaction : LH iconic (O-VPT)
Gestures are made : either not lexicalized either asynchronous to speech

Pointing magician internal view-point, C-VPT or personal transfer (role shift)
Is used by all speakers : Hearing/ Deaf →
One pointed at the magician at the beginning of the narrative
The speakers takes on the role of the magician

Metaphorical gesture meta-narrative level
The signs are meta-narrative level between deaf and hearing speakers (picture left) like gestures between hearing speakers (picture right)

CONCLUSION AND OPENING IN DIDACTICS

- ♦ Common roots between gestures and signs. Example: both hearing and Deaf people can produce O-VPT and C-VPT and have the same eye gaze behavior in the magic trick situation
- ♦ Iconic foundations & common cognitive process in both population

- ♦ Speech and gesture seem to come of independent cognitive abilities operating simultaneously and intertwining in discourse
- ♦ The results from this work will be the basis for a didactic method that will include gesture / sign to acquire sign language by adults
- ♦ This method will be extended considering the gesture and sign to impact the learning of a second language known

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