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ICONICITY AND AGE OF EXPOSURE EFFECTS IN LSF TEMPORAL CONSTRUCTIONS

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LSF TEMPORAL CONSTRUCTIONS (ARISTODEMO & HAUSER 2021)

- ▶ **AFTER** and **BEFORE** temporal markers are iconic comparative markers that make the semantic components “visible”
- ▶ They overtly represent the two event times, standard (ST) and reference (RT), and their ordering relation by means of an iconic mapping



- ▶ **SAME-TIME** constructions are not iconic
- ▶ **Syntax:** they are composed of two coordinated clauses
- ▶ They have a fixed order (ST-clause signed before RT-clause)

Our poster presents an experiment studying comprehension of temporal clauses in LSF.

On the one hand, **AFTER** and **BEFORE** temporal markers in LSF are iconic comparative markers. They are expressed using SASS classifiers and they make the semantic components “visible”. They overtly represent the two event times: the standard and the reference time. The standard is the time which is established first and then the reference time is introduced and compared to the standard. The ordering relation between them is expressed via the direction of the movement along the time scale.

On the other hand, **SAME-TIME** constructions do not exhibit a similar iconic mechanism.

This suggests that **BEFORE** and **AFTER** might be more challenging than **SAME-TIME**

Moving to Syntax, LSF temporal constructions are composed of two coordinated clauses with a fixed order. the clause expressing the ST is always signed before the clause expressing the RT.

ACQUISITION OF BEFORE AND AFTER TEMPORAL CLAUSES IN SPOKEN LANGUAGE

(1) The woman pours the water before the man moves the pen

(2) Before the man moves the pen, the woman pours the water

- ▶ Correspondence between order of real events and order of clauses matters for comprehension for children (Clark 1971 and de Ruiter et al. 2018)
- ▶ Sentences in which the order of clauses does not correspond to the temporal order of events are more difficult to comprehend

turning now to spoken language, Like English, the two clauses can be switched, as you can see in (1) and (2) for BEFORE.

Clark and de Ruiter et al. have shown that children expect that language maps onto events in the real world. They expect there to be a correspondence btw order of the events in the real world and order of their mention. Therefore, there will make less errors in comprehending the sentence in (1) than the one in (2)

This is not the case for adults for whom order correspondence is not a determining factor

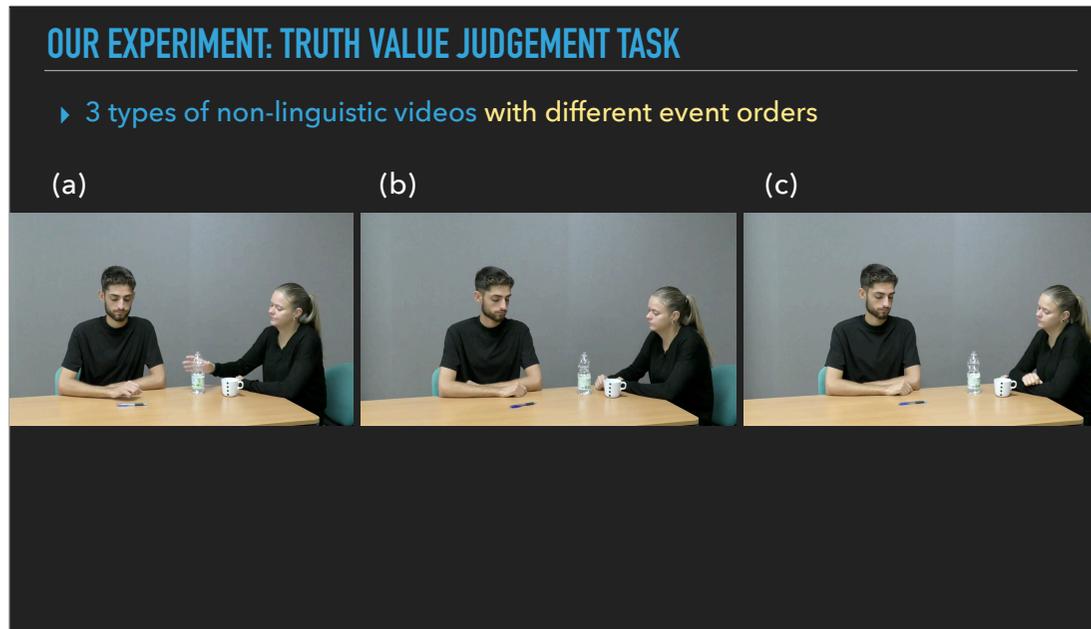
HYPOTHESES

1. Age of exposure effects increase when complex morphological structure (Aristodemo et al. 2021, among others). Iconicity in BEFORE and AFTER constructions determines a complex morphological structure.
 - ▶ Non-natives should be less accurate than natives in comprehending BEFORE and AFTER constructions.
2. If correspondence between order of events and order of clauses is relevant :
 - ▶ LSF BEFORE-constructions should be more difficult to comprehend than AFTER-constructions (order of events necessarily does not correspond to order of clauses in BEFORE-constructions).

Studies on AOE effects onto linguistic competence in deaf adult signers show that morpho-syntactic complexity has an impact on comprehension and therefore non-native signers make more comprehension errors than natives. Therefore, Given that iconicity determines morphological complexity we hypothesise that non-natives should be less accurate than natives in comprehending BEFORE and AFTER constructions.

Moreover, if Clark and De ruiner et al. are right about correspondence btw the orders being a relevant factor than we expect that BEFORE construction in LSF should be more problematic to comprehend than AFTER-constructions because ,in BEFORE-constructions , the order of clauses does not match the order of the event in the real world

and here you play the videos, right?



to test these hypotheses we conducted a truth value judgement task in which participants watch a non linguistic video with a man and a woman acting two distincts events in a certain temporal order. The non-linguistic video was followed by a video of a LSF temporal construction.

We considered three 3 types of non linguistic videos with three different event orders, as shown in a, b ,c .
Here they are

OUR EXPERIMENT: TRUTH VALUE JUDGEMENT TASK

▶ 3 types of sentences: AFTER, BEFORE, SAME-TIME

(1) AFTER

(2) BEFORE

(3) SAME-TIME

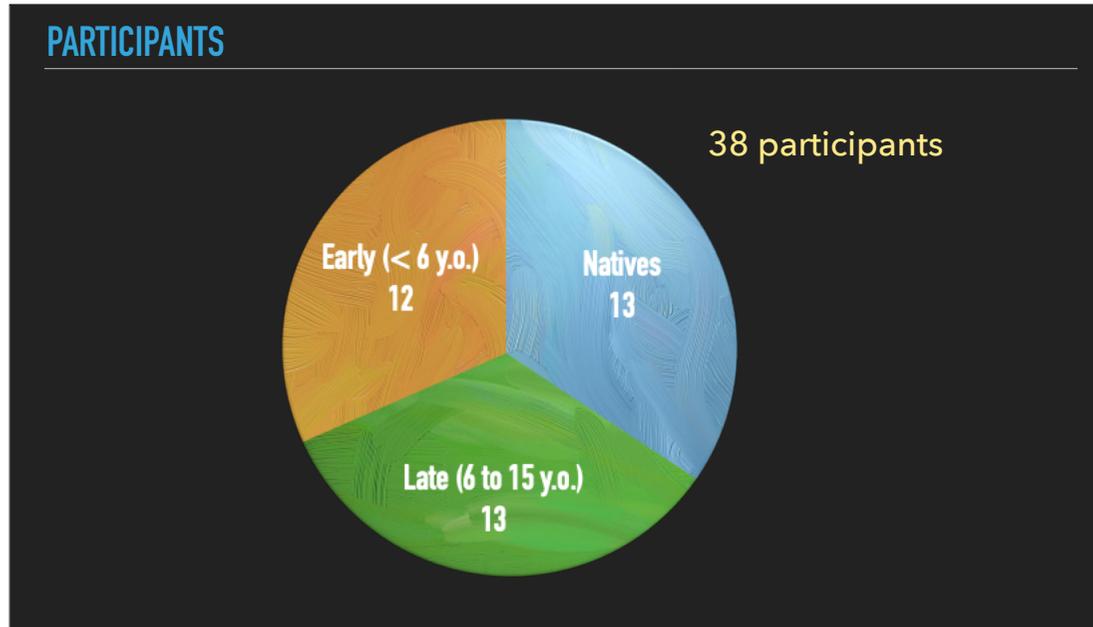


As for the sentences, we had three conditions : BEFORE AFTER and SAME-TIME

This is the AFTER construction

THIS is.....

PARTICIPANTS



We tested 38 adult signers : 13 natives, 12 early signers exposed to LSF before the age of 6 and 13 late signers exposed btw 6 and 15 y.o.

Do you want to know more about our results?

RESULTS

**COME TO SEE
OUR POSTER !!!!!**

Come to see our poster!!!!
Thank you