Variation of DGS lexical items

What sign language lexicography can gain from a mixed method approach: Corpus data supplemented by crowd sourcing

Gabriele Langer, Susanne König, Silke Mathes, Nele Groß, Thomas Hanke

Universität Hamburg, Institut für Deutsche Gebärdensprache und Kommunikation Gehörloser • www.dgs-korpus.de

Combined method gain: Sociolinguistic variation – differences in region, age, gender?

Consolidation of regional distribution

For the sign BLACK (used the sign at least once) 6 corpus tokens show a regional tendency: This is confirmed and substantiated not only by the used answers (yellow/orange range) from the DGS-Feedback but also by the negative answers (known and unknown) from participants of other regions. Yellow/orange regions may also contain negative answers, but since the active use is in focus of the analysis, these are not displayed.

Active and passive vocabulary

The DGS-Feedback explicitly elicits the usage of a given sign. Thus, information is obtained on signs never used by but still known to the participant.

Identification of meanings

Readings (sense) with low corpus evidence can be tested via Feedback (here "choke")

Lexicographic aspect: Reading "cheap" has not been confirmed and is not a candidate to be listed in the dictionary entry.

Reading “money” in context with typical neighbours: GIVE, NEED, GET, EARN, LOT-OF, NONE, PAY, SAVE.

Possible dictionary information: Readings: "money", "Financial", "price", "expensive"

Categorisations (for "money"): GIVE, NEED, GET, EARN, LOT-OF, MORE, PAY, SAVE.

References

Langer, Gabriele (2012): “A Colorful First Glance at Data on Regional Variation Extracted from the DGS-Corpus: With a Focus on Procedures”. In: Languages 2/2012, pp. 137-152.


