Continuing Development of the Multilingual Sign Language Wordnet

A Signs and Synonymity

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The Multilingual Sign Language Wordnet

- Lexical resources with focus on meaning disambiguation
- Annotated by language experts

Custom annotation interface

- Regularly updated based on annotator feedback
- Automatic suggestions speed up annotation by indicating likely matches

New

Data

Builds on existing resources

• Synsets (= meanings) from Open Multilingual Wordnet (OMW)

Annotation Interface

Information

- **Signs:** Video & gloss/keyword
- Synsets: Definitions, examples & lemmas in English or regional spoken lang.
- **Related annotations:** Show items that are already linked to an entry

Perspectives

- **Sign view:** Annotate all synsets of a single sign
- Synset view: Annotate all signs of a single synsets
- Sign inventory & videos from numerous lexical SL resources

8 sign languages

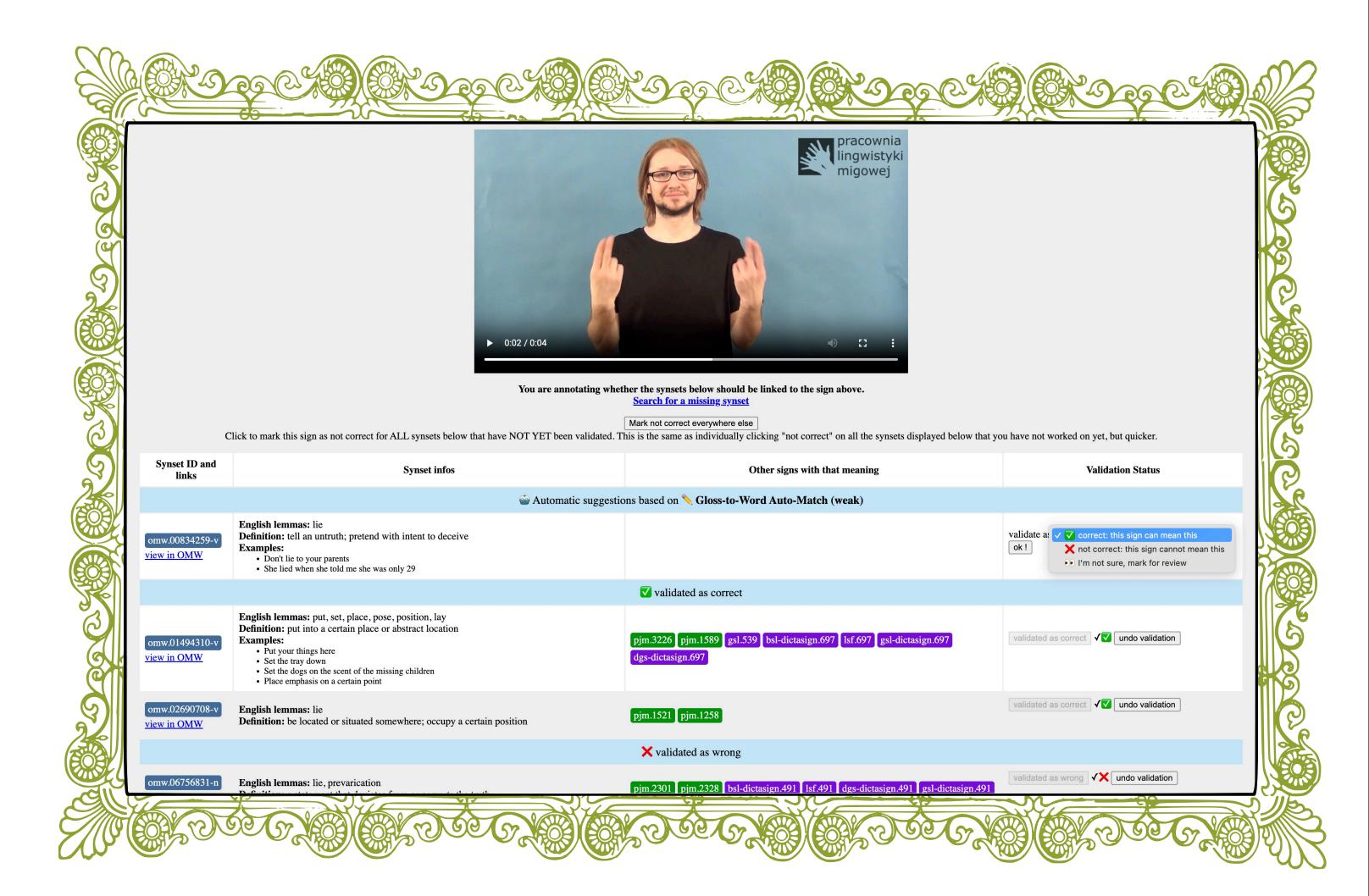
- ✦ Greek Sign Language (GSL)
- ✦ Polish Sign Language (PJM)
- Swedish Sign Language (STS)
- British Sign Language (BSL)
- German Sign Language (DGS)
- Swiss German Sign Language (DSGS)
- French Sign Language (LSF)
- Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT)



https://sign-net.meine-dgs.de

Gloss-based suggestions

- Match sign glosses/keywords to OMW lemmas, copy synset links from lemmas
- Advantages: Easy to implement, required data is available from the start
- **Disadvantages:** Form-based reverse translation
 - Over-generates for polysemous words
 - Misses sign meanings not covered by gloss/keywords
 - Focus on spoken language information



New feature: Synonym-based suggestions

- Suggest meanings for signs, based on their synonymy with other signs:
 - 1. Look at completed sign-synset annotations
- 2. Find signs that share some meanings already (= link to same synset)
- 3. If one sign has more meanings, suggest those for the other sign.
- **Disadvantages:** Requires some preexisting annotations for SL

• Advantages:

- Lexical unit reverse translations more robust than form-based reversal
- Focus on sign language information
- Can be done across different languages
- Speeds up annotation of entries that are (dialectal) variants of each other
- Marking links as invalid produces strong information on partial synonymy

Completed annotations pjm.3469 pjm.384 lingwistyk migowej lingwistyk omw.08859173-n migowe Ireland (island) отw.00375969-а green dgs.15801 omw.08888676-n **Republic of Ireland** manually verified automatic suggestion omw.03495258-n

Current annotation task







New Dataset Release

- New sign-synset links for GSL, PJM and STS
- Annotations assisted by new synonym-based suggestions
- Synsets covered by multiple sign languages:
- 2+ sign languages: 3,361 synsets
- 3+ sign languages: 1,472 synsets
- 4+ sign languages: 617 synsets

Poster presented at the 11th Workshop on the Representation and Processing of Sign Languages (sign-lang@LREC-COLING 2024), Turin, Italy. 25 May 2024.

	GSL	PJM	STS	All languages
Signs	2,949	2,415	2,706	14,028
Synsets	5,760	3,626	1,981	16,534
Links	7,499	6,486	2,810	24,367

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