



 How can we identify sentential boundaries in Motivation natural conversations in German Sign Language (DGS)?

> Prosodic ([3],[4]), propositional [3], and syntacticosemantic diagnostics [9] all have limitations when analyzing spontaneous conversations and narrations, e.g. in corpora. Some manual signs frequently occur in sentence-initial or

-final position and could help predict sentential boundaries.

Data preparation

- Variants of DONE1/2 (DONE1A/1B/2) and DONE4 were compared.
- DONE1/2 was contrasted with a different sense of the same manual sign, ALREADY1A/1B/3 (n=**1112**). The signs differ in typical mouthing: /schon/ vs. /fertig/.
- Time-aligned German translation tags (TTs) were operationalized as provisional sentence boundaries.
- For each TT, we determined the TT length in number of signs and the position of the target sign in the TT.
- MLU of corresponding DGS string= 7.5 signs

- Single-sign TTs
 - IQR)
 - Aborted sentences

Further analysis

Follow-up question: Is each use of DONE equally likely to occur sentence-finally?

175 TTs (length: 4-10 signs) were selected at random for further analysis. We identified the following uses of DONE1/2/4:

- lexical predicate 'finish/complete an action'
- temporal or causal conjunction/clause
- discourse marker indicating the end of a turn, a story or part of a story
- restrictive focus marker

References.

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Are We DONE Yet? A corpus-based analysis of DONE as a sentence-boundary diagnostic in DGS

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Examples

Sentence-final focus marker WORD KNOW YOU D-E-R DIE D-A-S NONE T-H-E DONE4 'They have no words like 'der', 'die', or 'das', only 'the'.



2. Non-final aspect marker

DONE1B TO-WAIT1A **DONE1B** CL:shake-someone UP-OFF 'When she was done, she waited for a while and then she shook the two of them awake.'

3. Sentence-final discourse marker

ID^VISA FIDDLE-WITH DONE1B OUT **DONE4**

'They checked all your documents and the visa, and then you were allowed to go back.' [end of story]

Do variants of DONE occur more frequently in sentence-final position than elsewhere and could therefore serve as boundary markers in DGS?

What? 2 lexical variants of DONE: DONE1/2 & DONE4.

Why DONE?

- Many uses as right-peripheral head [5]:
- lexical predicate 'finish, end'
- completive aspect marker
- restrictive focus particle

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Discussion & Conclusion

help identify sentence boundaries in DGS.

DONE1A

N = 535

- Some functions of these signs are associated more strongly with sentential boundaries than others:
- Final: Restrictive focus & discourse marking
- Initial: Emerging temporal conjunction or temporal adverbial clause



Interim Results

Comparing positional frequencies of DONE1/2 and

• Both signs exhibited a higher preference for TT-final position compared to all other TT positions (1 & 2). This preference appears even stronger when we include all tokens as final that were only followed by a

• Both signs showed a stronger tendency to occur at the end of TTs than ALREADY1/3 (1 & 2 vs. 3).

- DONE4 occurs significantly more often in final
- position than DONE1/2 ($X^2(1, N = 1429) = 26.3, p < 100$

• The multifunctional signs DONE4 and (to a lesser extent) DONE1/2 may

• Our analyses revealed that some TT-final or -initial tokens should be reanalysed as belonging to the following or previous DGS sentence. This confirms our initial caveat: TTs are only rough estimations of sentence-like

