**Introduction**

These conventions have been developed by a team of researchers at Gallaudet University and the University of Connecticut (GUC). The primary purpose is for the annotation of longitudinal spontaneous production data from Deaf children of Deaf parents and from bimodal bilingual hearing children of Deaf parents. Data collection and annotation is on-going.

**Annotation conventions**

Annotation conventions take into consideration our analysis goals, and our attempt to use a format as consistent as possible with both common sign language annotation symbols and those used in CHILDES (MacWhinney 2000). We also are using the ASL SignBank as an external controlled vocabulary and that has affected our ELAN tier structure and annotation conventions.

**Font conventions**

* italics: repetition or lack of

**Diagram**

The diagram shows examples of annotation conventions, including

- Capitalization: conventionalized signs, the lower case portion indicating additional information. For example, the annotation for a depicting sign indicates its category (DS), and the additional information in lower case tags with lower-case (e.g., DS_3 in upper case and (car-goes-down-street) in lower case.

- Tier hierarchy: Our tier hierarchy starts with the ASL Right and Left Hand in which signs are annotated individually for each hand. The Append tiers are for when contextual-based information is needed (i.e., when parentheses are required). Then on the Free Translation tiers we add annotations containing rough English translations for each full utterance.

- Annotator responsibilities: We aim to ask annotators to do as little analysis as possible. Our intention is to include basic information in the sign tiers, with additional details about use of space, non-manuals, etc. left to subsequent analysis passes. This principle guides our decisions. Annotators should use ID glosses and use the translation tier for further information about their interpretation of each utterance.

- Capitalization: Capitalization systematically represents a conventionalized sign (e.g., SIGN) or type of sign (e.g., DS (for depicting sign) or FS (for fingerspelling)). Lower case signifies that additional information is presented. For conventionalized signs, the lower case portion follows the capitalized gloss indicates something about its form when distinguishing between variants of the same lemma (SOONnose, SOONchin). For information enclosed in parentheses following codes, aspects of the meaning expressed by the sign is presented in lower case. From a human-readability perspective, this allows the user to perceive patterns in the data just from scanning. Non-sign communicative acts (when annotated) use lower-case (e.g., show(toy)).

- Partly/Non-lexical material: Following our principles, upper-case codes identify the type of sign, with lower-case indicating additional information. For example, the annotation for a depicting sign indicates its category (DS), and the additional information in lower case conveys a rough approximation to meaning: DS_3 in upper case and (car-goes-down-street) in lower case. Pointing signs are annotated using IX and (referent). Further analysis takes place independently on separate tiers.

**Find copy of annotation conventions and “what’s new” guide here:**

bit.ly/SLAAShGuides (or scan QR code →)

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**References:**


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**Table**

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Follows file naming conventions SUBJECT_SESSION, LANGCODES, YYMMDD.