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## Novel Marking of Signer Commitment in Turkish Sign Language (TİD)

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A collaborative speaker/signer should convey commitment to a proposition (Krifka 2021) with choice of morphemes or intonational patterns by following the maxim of quantity (Grice, 1975). Here we address the unstudied interaction of manual signs and nonmanuals for marking signer commitment. Possibilities include the two channels contributing distinctly or that one (manual) forms the basis while the other (nonmanual) further increases or decreases the commitment level.

This study investigated how combinations of nonmanuals (head nod, squint, head tilt) with sentence types (declarative, modals, attitude verbs) affected the signer's commitment levels in TİD. 16 participants (9 f, age M=35) rated sentences with nonmanuals for how certain the signer was about a proposition on a 7-point scale. Results showed a significant effect of nonmanuals ( $X^2(6)=134.15$ ,  $p<.001$ ) sentences ( $X^2(11)=36.975$ ,  $p<.001$ ), and their interaction ( $X^2(6)=87.393$ ,  $p=.04$ ). Sentences with head nod were rated significantly higher than the ones with squint ( $p<.001$ ). Interestingly, nonmanuals affected certainty levels, but within a range established by the sentences themselves. To illustrate, the effects of nonmanuals were not prominent with the verb GUESS compared to other verbs like KNOW. Thus, nonmanuals *boost* the commitment level that is set by the sentence itself.

This leads to a theoretical question: why would two exponents, head nod and squint, be needed for marking commitment? One possibility is the existing use of head nod as an edge marker in the information structure, as well as on a focused verb (Gürer and Karabüklü, 2023). Thus, we see high commitment with head nod as similar to the verum focus effect in spoken languages (Tonhauser, 2016). Separately, squint conveys the signer's judgment of the proposition (Krifka 2021). Following Krifka's distinction between subjective and objective epistemics, we propose that manual signs in Tense Phrase function in the at-issue level, whereas squint would be in Judge Phrase in the not-at-issue level to convey signer's justification for commitment to the proposition. As expected from a not-at-issue level operator, squint appears in questions and scopes over the sentential negation NOT. As the first study systematically testing nonmanuals and commitment, the study shows that commitment as a gradable property is simultaneously modified via both manual and nonmanual strategies.

**References:** Grice, H.P. 1975. Logic and conversation. In: Speech Acts • Gürer, A. & Karabüklü, S. 2023. Nonmanual Focus Markers in TİD. In Proceedings of Tu+7 Workshop. • Krifka, M. 2021. Layers of assertive clauses: Propositions, judgments, commitments, acts. • Tonhauser, J. 2016. Prosodic cues to presupposition projection. SALT 26.