
Marking sentence types in Catalan Sign Language: coordination and subordination

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The goal of this paper is to show that, in Catalan Sign Language (LSC), coordination and subordination involving contrast share the same combination of markers, contributing to the claim that contrast is an independent notion in information structure (Navarrete-González 2021). It also aims at contributing to the study of structures that can be interpreted like subordinate clauses, but that have the form of coordinate clauses due to a lack of overt subordination markers.

In this research we analyse coordination and subordination considering two factors: (i) the presence or absence of semantic parallelism (referents belong to the same set of alternatives), and (ii) the (a)symmetry of the clauses (possibility of swapping the clauses without affecting the meaning of the sentence).

Coordination and contrast in LSC have been described to be expressed by the same combination of markers (Barberà 2012, Zorzi 2018, Navarrete-González 2021): head tilts (ht), body leans (bl), and the use of opposite sides of space (sp) (1). Results show that these markers are actually expressing contrast and not coordination, since they do not appear in non-contrastive coordinate clauses (2).

- (1) $\frac{\text{left bl}}{[\text{GIORGIA}]_T [\text{LINGUIST}]_F]_{\text{left_sp}}}$ $\frac{\text{right bl}}{[\text{RAQUEL}]_T [\text{INTERPRETER}]_F]_{\text{right_sp}}}$
'Giorgia is a linguist and/but Raquel is an interpreter.'
(Navarrete-González 2021: 10)

- (2) $[\text{JORDI SLEEP QUITE OUTSIDE RAIN}]_{\text{central_sp}}$
'Jordi was sleeping quietly, and outside it was raining.'

The two factors (i) and (ii) show that the same markers for contrast that we find in coordination may appear in subordinate clauses. Moreover, in constructions with no subordination markers, it is not possible to tell whether it is a coordinate or a subordinate clause. For example, parallel conjunctive coordination and temporal subordination expressing simultaneity of events are expressed with the same syntactic realization (3).

- (3) $\frac{\text{left ht+bl}}{\text{JORDI BOOK RECIPE READ}}$ $\frac{\text{right ht+bl}}{\text{GIORGIA COOK}}$
'Jordi was reading a recipe **and/while** Giorgia was cooking.'

References: • Navarrete-González, A. 2021. The expression of contrast in Catalan Sign Language (LSC). *Glossa*, 6(1), 29. • Zorzi, G. 2018. *Coordination and gapping in Catalan Sign Language (LSC)*. Dissertation. Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF).