# Article information:

The Influence of the Visual Modality on Language Structure and Conventionalization: Insights From Sign Language and Gesture - Perniss - 2015 - Topics in Cognitive Science - Wiley Online Library  
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/tops.12127>

# Article summary:

1. Language is not only expressed through the vocal modality but also through the visual modality, such as sign languages and co-speech gestures.

2. Research has shifted towards understanding the similarities and differences between sign language and gesture in terms of their use of visual representation and how they shape communication.

3. The papers in this issue explore the relationship between sign language and gesture in event representation, reference tracking, and other domains of discourse, highlighting both similarities and differences between the two modalities.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "The Influence of the Visual Modality on Language Structure and Conventionalization: Insights From Sign Language and Gesture" provides an overview of the relationship between sign language and gesture, highlighting their similarities and differences. The article is well-researched, drawing on a range of sources to support its claims. However, there are some potential biases in the article that should be noted.

One potential bias is that the article focuses primarily on sign language and co-speech gestures in Western cultures. While this is understandable given the authors' backgrounds and expertise, it means that other forms of sign language and gesture may be overlooked or underrepresented. For example, there are many different sign languages used around the world, each with their own unique features and conventions. Similarly, non-Western cultures may have different ways of using gesture in communication that are not captured by the examples provided in the article.

Another potential bias is that the article assumes a certain level of familiarity with linguistic terminology and concepts. While this may not be an issue for linguists or researchers in related fields, it could make the article less accessible to readers who are not familiar with these terms. Additionally, some of the claims made in the article may be difficult for non-experts to evaluate without further explanation or evidence.

One-sided reporting is also evident in some parts of the article. For example, while the authors acknowledge that there are similarities between sign language and gesture, they tend to emphasize their differences more strongly. This could give readers a skewed impression of how similar or different these two forms of communication really are.

There are also some missing points of consideration in the article. For example, while it discusses how sign languages have evolved from non-linguistic gestural communication, it does not explore why this might be the case or what factors contributed to this evolution. Similarly, while it notes that both signers and co-speech gesturers use spatial modification to mark referential context, it does not explain why this might be a useful strategy or how it relates to other aspects of language structure.

Overall, while the article provides a useful overview of the relationship between sign language and gesture, there are some potential biases and limitations that should be taken into account. Readers should approach the article critically and consider seeking out additional sources to supplement their understanding of this complex topic.

# Topics for further research:

* Evolution of sign language from non-linguistic gestural communication
* Factors contributing to the evolution of sign language
* Differences in sign language conventions across different cultures
* Use of gesture in non-Western cultures
* Spatial modification in language and its relation to other aspects of language structure
* Similarities between sign language and gesture

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/b5a3f0bfd311c3b97fa9a4871a540656>