# Article information:

The iconicity advantage in sign production: The case of bimodal bilinguals - Elena Pretato, Francesca Peressotti, Carmela Bertone, Eduardo Navarrete, 2018  
<https://journals-sagepub-com.libproxy.ucl.ac.uk/doi/full/10.1177/0267658317744009>

# Article summary:

1. Pictures corresponding to iconic signs are named faster than pictures corresponding to non-iconic signs in sign language.

2. The advantage of iconic signs in production arises at the level of semantic-to-phonological links.

3. Bimodal bilinguals and native signers do not differ in terms of the activation flow within the sign production system.

# 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 iconicity advantage in sign production: The case of bimodal bilinguals" by Elena Pretato, Francesca Peressotti, Carmela Bertone, and Eduardo Navarrete explores the role of iconicity in sign language production. The authors argue that iconic signs, which resemble aspects of the concepts they refer to, are named faster than non-iconic signs due to stronger semantic-to-phonological connections between the object concept and its corresponding phonological form.

The study conducted a naming experiment with iconic and non-iconic pictures in Italian Sign Language (LIS) with bimodal bilinguals. Participants were asked to name the pictures using either a noun construction involving the production of the sign corresponding to the picture or a marked demonstrative pronoun construction replacing the picture sign. In addition, colored pictures were presented as distractor stimuli and participants were required to name the color.

The results showed that the iconicity advantage was reliable in the noun utterance but not in the marked demonstrative pronoun utterance. Distractor pictures with iconic signs elicited faster naming latencies than non-iconic signs. The authors conclude that the advantage of iconic signs in production arises at the level of semantic-to-phonological links.

Overall, this article provides valuable insights into how iconicity affects sign language production. However, there are some potential biases and limitations to consider. For example, while the study included bimodal bilinguals as participants, it did not compare their performance to that of native signers. This could limit generalizability and raise questions about whether similar effects would be observed in native signers.

Additionally, while the study suggests that stronger semantic-to-phonological connections explain why iconic signs are named faster than non-iconic signs, it does not explore other possible explanations or counterarguments. For example, it is possible that other factors such as visual salience or familiarity could also play a role in the iconicity advantage.

Furthermore, the study only focused on Italian Sign Language and did not explore whether similar effects would be observed in other sign languages. This could limit the generalizability of the findings and raise questions about whether similar effects would be observed in other contexts.

Overall, while this article provides valuable insights into how iconicity affects sign language production, it is important to consider its potential biases and limitations when interpreting the results. Further research is needed to explore these issues and to better understand the mechanisms underlying the iconicity advantage in sign language production.

# Topics for further research:

* Iconicity in sign language production in native signers
* Factors influencing the iconicity advantage in sign language production
* Cross-linguistic differences in the iconicity advantage in sign language production
* The role of visual salience in sign language production
* Familiarity effects in sign language production
* The relationship between iconicity and sign language acquisition

# Report location:

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