



ISCH COST Action IS1006 SignGram



STSM final report

Göttingen, June, 6 2013

Dear STSM coordinator,

This is to notify that the following STSM:

Beneficiary: Annika Herrmann, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

Host: Rannveig Sverrisdóttir, University of Iceland

Period: from 05/05/2013 to 16/05/2013 Place: Reykjavík (Iceland)

Reference code: COST-STSM-ECOST-STSM-IS1006-12599

started and finished in the expected dates.

The main purpose of the STSM was to work on concrete chapters of the Blueprint Grammar with regard to interface sections of phonology and the lexicon. The aim was to cooperate and actively work on specific COST-Action tasks for the Blueprint Grammar.

Being members of Workgroup 1 on Phonology/Morphology, Rannveig Sverrisdóttir and I discussed the structure and the content of section 3.2 Parts of Speech, which is the second part of the lexicon section. We discussed and elaborated on the table of contents (ToC) and started writing a sample section of the Grammar Blueprint (following the templates of other workgroups for comparability). We worked on the noun-verb distinction in sign languages and on how to detect the different categories. We listed examples for adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, numerals, etc. and discussed the issue of closed and open class for parts of speech.



Furthermore, we arranged a skype meeting with Brendan Costello and fruitfully discussed various unresolved issues. We distributed the tasks of our small workgroup and finalized the table of contents of section 3.1 The Lexicon. Thus, the results of the STSM were the following:

- Elaboration of ToC 3.1 The Lexicon
- Creating and working on ToC 3.2
- Writing the sample section of the manual for 3.2 Parts of Speech incl. definitions, examples, and guidelines how to approach specific issues.

In sum, we produced two documents (ToC (3.1+3.2) and manual section (3.2)) that we have already submitted to Workgroup 1 and also presented at the COST-Action meeting in Istanbul in May 2013. Furthermore, we documented the comments and open questions that should be further discussed at the following meetings.

At the workshop on Friday, 10th of May, we discussed various projects currently being carried out in Iceland and Germany on Icelandic Sign Language (Íslenskt táknmál, ÍTM) and German Sign Language (Deutsche Gebärdensprache, DGS). Rannveig Sverrisdóttir, Kristín-Lena Thorvaldsdóttir, Elísa Guðrún Brynjólfsson, and Jana Hosemann presented their work and current research questions. We jointly worked on clear scientific aims, elicitation materials, and theoretical approaches to topics such as compounding, plural formation, sentence structure, and the syntax-prosody-interface. In addition, as Prof. Markus Steinbach from our research group in Göttingen will be the supervisor of Rannveig Sverrisdóttir, who will write her dissertation on compounds in ÍTM, we had special meetings concerning this project and discussed prospective collaborations.

Thus, the STSM was very productive concerning the actual COST tasks and writing the respective documents, but also interesting for individual research projects of the participants. The research exchange was further relevant for future cooperation.

In addition to the STSM, Jana Hosemann and I successfully presented a talk at the sign language linguistics workshop of The 25th Scandinavian Conference of Linguistics (25-SCL) in Reykjavík with the title: “Do signers activate “Maus” while seeing MAUS? Second language activation during first language processing.” In sum, the STSM-holder, the COST-Action-Workgroup, and the people from the host institution effectively profited from the intense work during the STSM-period.

Sending my best regards,
Annika Herrmann

