About this Special Issue

This volume presents articles from researchers who participated in the Signnonmanuals2 Workshop held at the University of Graz from May 3rd until May 4th 2019.

The workshop focused on topics regarding Nonmanuals in sign languages, corpus and signbank issues as well as Deaf and translation issues as shown in Figure 1. The official conference languages were Austrian Sign Language (ÖGS), International Sign (IS) and English.

Figure 1. Graphic description of topics discussed in the Signnonmanuals2-Workshop in May 2019

The workshop started with a network meeting, guided by Penny Boyes Braem, in order to enable the exchange of the status quo of (corpus, lexicon, nonmanual) research of several countries and to discuss possible future collaboration. The exchange specifically focuses on how to include the Deaf Community within linguistic projects. The outcome of this meeting will be further discussed in Andrea Lackners introductionary article of this special issue.

On May 3rd several presentations on a variety of topics related to Nonmanuals, corpus and signbank issues and Deaf and translation issues were held after the network meeting. Onno Crasborn, Andrea Lackner and the Signnonmanuals-Team as well as Anna Puupponnen adressed topics regarding corpus and lexicon issues
focusing on Nonmanuals. Mark Schulder and Thomas Hanke, Ulrika Klomp, Marloes Oomen and Roland Pfau as well as Jana Löffler, Ronja Molzer and Charis Jolanthe Rasch presented on Nonmanuals of the head and translation issues.

On May 4th Anastasia Bauer, Szilárd Engelhardt, Johanna Mesch and Krister Schönström talked about Nonmanuals of the mouth. Afterwards Mariana Milković and Tomislav Radošević gave an overview of research on Nonmanuals in Croatian Sign Language. Christian Rathman advocated the connection of several sign language research areas not only on a linguistic level but also when it comes to research on language acquisition and the preparation of user-friendly sign language material. Further presentations included Bahtiyar Makaroğlu and Nikolaus Riemer Kankkonen signing about sign language analysis.

In the afternoon a poster presentation session was held. Teams from Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Poland, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine, USA, presented their projects on Nonmanuals and other sign language related issues.

The workshop was concluded with a panel discussion. All workshop participants were invited to discuss needs and possibilities regarding future research issues and possible collaborations. More information on the presentations, including the possibility to download some of them and the poster presentations are to be found on the Signnonmanuals Website: http://signnonmanuals.aau.at/en/node696. All information is available in English, German and ÖGS.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the workshop, especially the teams participating in the network meeting and everyone who enabled the presentation of some of the topics of the workshop in this special issue.

It wouldn’t have been possible to organize the workshop without the cooperation of the whole organization team. In particular I want to thank Penny Boyes Braem for all her suggestions regarding the implementation of the workshop, her guidance of the network-meeting and the panel in such a familiar, open and productive way. We also want to thank Sherman Wilcox for his kind introductory text, Remembering Franz Dotter, that started the workshop and Penny Boyes Braem for reading it to us.

A sincere thank you goes to all ‘helping hands’ who made it possible to organize a well-run workshop with a cozy atmosphere. Isabel Graf, Elisabeth Scharfetter and Laura Raffer did so much preperatory work and co-lead the entire workshop. A big thank you goes to you three!
Christian Stalzer and Nik Riemer-Kankkonen were very supportive in the organization process and assisted me as perfect moderators during the workshop.

Anna Wiener, thank you for arranging the interpreter team. A thank you goes to several students from the department of Translation Studies at the University of Graz, photographers and members of the ZGH (Center for Sign Language and Deaf Communication) lead by Marlene Hilzensauer at the Universität of Klagenfurt for their support in the organization process. Finally, I would like to thank the Universität of Graz, Das Land Steiermark, verbal (Verband für Angewandte Linguistik) and Zentrum Integriert Studieren, for sponsoring as well as co-organizing the workshop.

The workshop was dedicated to Franz Dotter, our former supervisor and head of the FWF-project conducted before the current FWF-project Signnonmanuals2. We will always remember him as a great colleague who ambitiously intervened on behalf of Deaf rights and sign language research. We are very happy to present a memorial of his work and thoughts on sign languages as a conclusion to this special issue.

With regard to this special issue, a sincere thank you goes to Laura Raffer for her intensive support on the editing process of this volume.

Andrea Lackner & the Sign-Nonmanuals-Team