

Gradable constructions in Italian Sign Language (LIS)

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Data from Italian Sign Language provide evidence in favor of a degree-based analysis over a non-degree based analysis for gradable adjectives and comparative constructions. Specifically, we show that morphological and phonological constraints identify a class of gradable adjectives in which degrees are overtly represented as ordered points established in the signing space by an iconic mapping. When this happens, visible degrees become available as antecedents for later pronouns, as in the nominal domain. We also show that presence of sharp deceleration in comparative markers influences the semantic interpretation and the computation of comparatives.