Sažetak:

Research work in formal syntax is often based on native speaker's intuition about very complex constructions, i.e. on elicited data. In the past decade, a growing body of research addressed the issue of the reliability of this type of data for spoken languages (i.a., see Sprouse and Almeida 2012). The main critical aspects of this method are: 1) small number of data providers (1-2 informants per language), 2) close to null lexical variation in the data sample, 3) lack of statistical analysis on the reported contrasts. Several experimental techniques have been put forward to prove that despite these critical aspects elicited data are reliable (Marty et al. 2020). The sign language literature addressed the issue only from a theoretical perspective providing only advices to minimize the risk of collecting unreliable data (Davidson 2020 and Kimmelman 2021). In this presentation, I will address some critical aspects of the three main research methods in modern linguistics applied to sign language: corpus, experimental and elicited data. I will then report the results of a formal experiment proving that elected data are reliable also for sign language. The test case are the data reported on the syntax part of the newly published Grammar of Italian Sign Language (Branchini and Mantovan 2020).

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