

# EALTA's SIG for SIGN: Assessing interaction in sign languages

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# Introduction



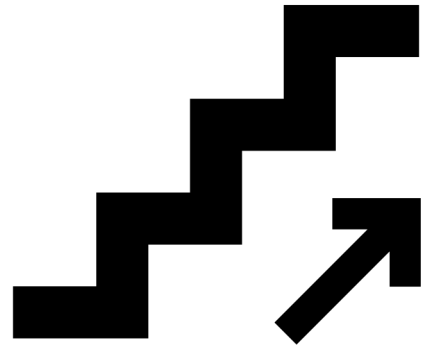
# Assessing interaction by means of an interview

- **NGT Functional Assessment**
- **Administered since 2012 at Utrecht University of Applied Sciences**
- **Aligned with CEFR (pre-A1 up to C)**
- **Interviews and rating by trained and certified assessors; linguistic knowledge of NGT is prerequisite**

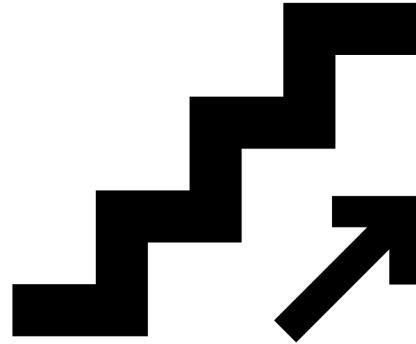


## Rationale for an interview as instrument

- Possibility to elicit a language sample that is as detailed as the student is capable to (e.g., by asking follow-up questions in case of a superficial answer)
- Enables to assess to what level the learner is independent (e.g., needs more of less help from interviewer)



Taks/activity  
one has to  
perform  
(e.g. answer  
a question)

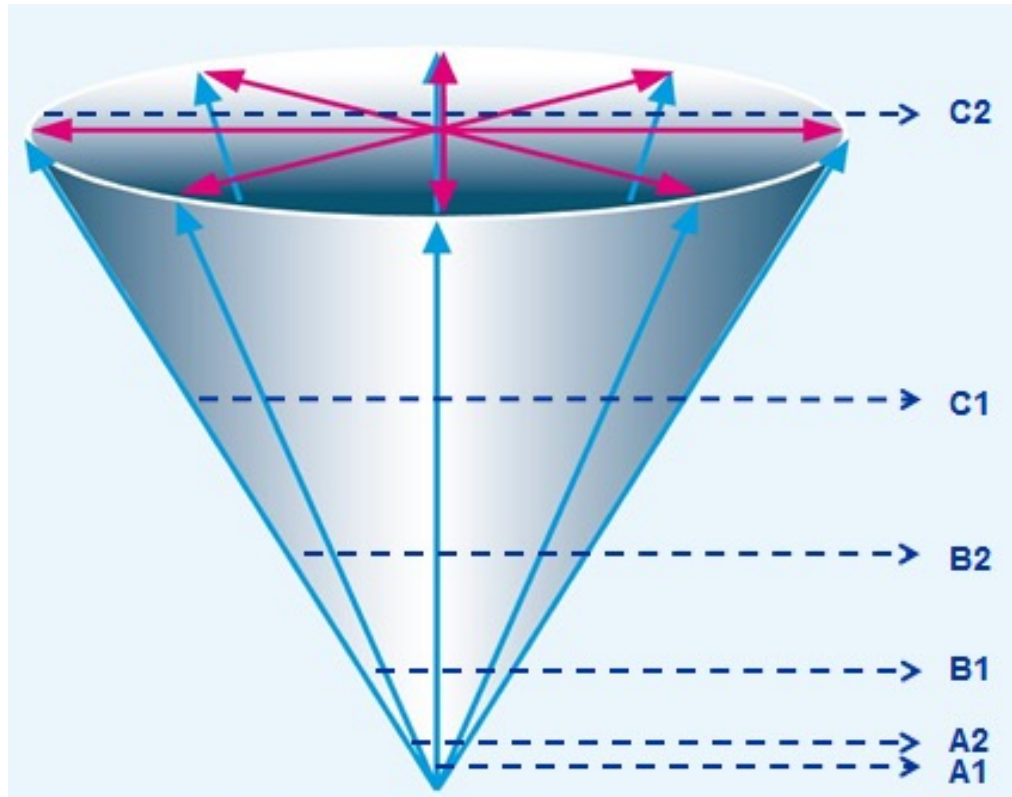


linguistic  
tools  
(vocabulary,  
grammar,  
etc.)

Relation between  
capability to express  
oneself and linguistic  
tools one has available.

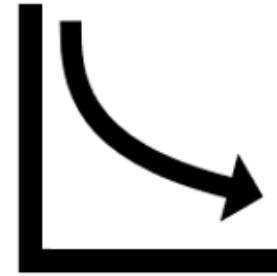
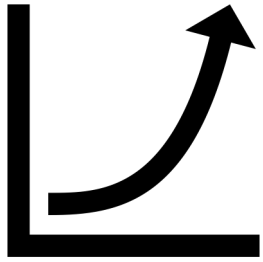
Interview assesses both,  
since they are related.

# Quality and quantity of language



Indicators of level:

- Lexical competence: vocabulary range (how broad is the lexical repertoire) and vocabulary control (are the chosen signs correct and appropriate)
- Grammatical competence: how many structures are mastered? Does the learner show a variety of elements?



A higher level means:

- an increase in vocabular range
- an increase in use of grammatical elements
- an increase in tempo

I.e.: learners are more capable to express ideas and expand on a topic

A higher level means:

- a decrease in phonologocal errors
- a decrease in inapproproate lexical choices
- a decrease in pauses
- a decrease misunderstandings

I.e.: less need for the interlocutor to guess that the learner intends to sign

# Examples of questions

- Examples of topics
- Specific questions to elicit phenomena such as classifiers and constructed action





# Dealing with unexpected issues

“no go areas” and sensitive topics

Learners who simply don't know the answer to a question





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