

perspectivising coming out: a cognitive linguistic look at verbo-gestural narratives a pilot study

::: terms

perspective / viewpoint

an imagined physical location (Parrill 2012: 98)

gestural perspective

character viewpoint (enacting the character)

observer viewpoint (being an external observer)

(McNeill 1992)

::: subject vs predicate

objective: *Coming out* was hard... (n=20, subject)

subjectification

some feature of a designed situation

*gradually drifts from **the profile***

*and comes to occupy **the ground***

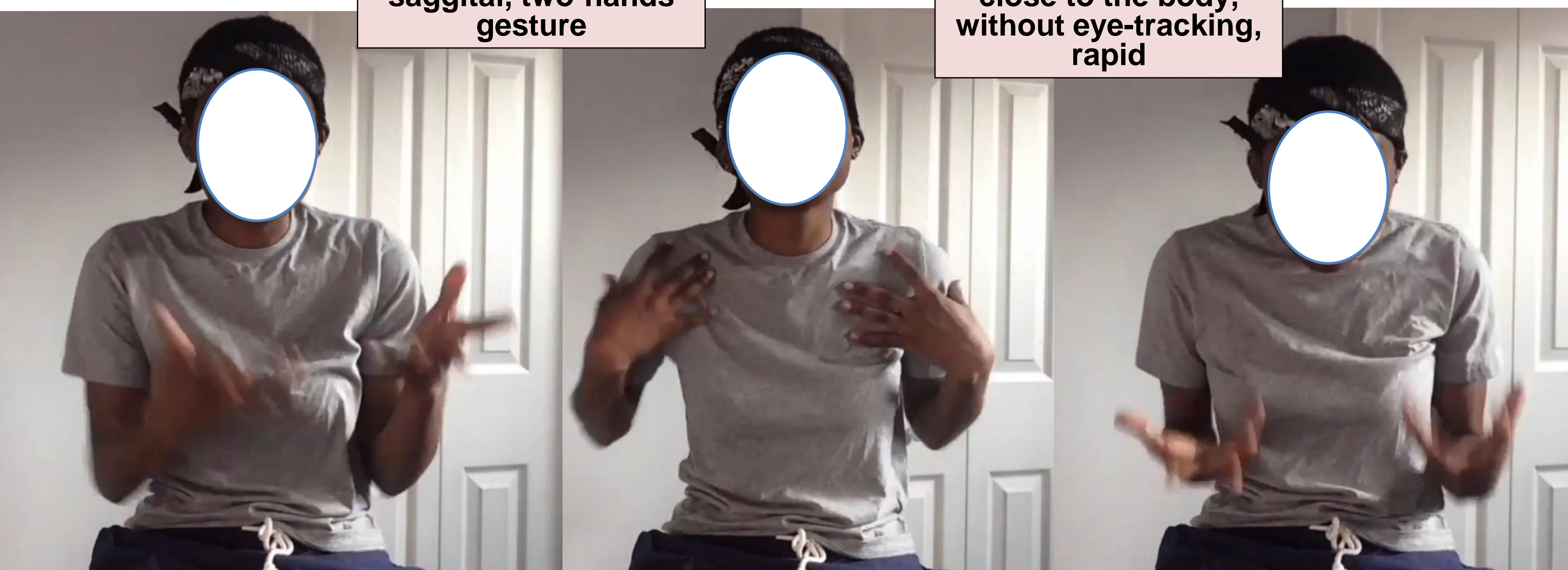
(Taylor 2002: 408)

subjective: *When I came out...* (n=25; predicate)

::: examples

sagittal, two-hands gesture

close to the body, without eye-tracking, rapid



I didn't choose to come out. ::: **character viewpoint**

lateral, one-hand gesture

away from the body, with eye-tracking, slow



It propelled me to new highs. ::: **observer viewpoint**

::: RQ and hypotheses

RQ: Is there any correlation between predicate and subject position and gestural viewpoint?

H1: Subject correlates with objective viewpoint

rejected only 1 observer viewpoint identified

H2: Predicate correlates with subjective viewpoint

tentatively confirmed (8/15 gestures with subjective viewpoint co-occur with predicate position)

criteria for viewpoint

Brown (2008): direction, handshape, handedness

Gerofsky (2010): accessibility, distance, acceleration, eye-tracking, spine engagement

::: conclusions

metaphoric gestures can be viewpointed

- out of 45 gestures that had been initially selected for analysis, 15 were identified as **coding viewpoint**
- 14 gestures were identified as **coding character** (subjective) **viewpoint**, 1 as coding **observer viewpoint**
- 8 out of 15 gestures were coded as **character viewpoint** and correlated with **predicate** position
- 7 out of 15 gestures were coded as **character viewpoint** and correlated with **subject** position
- coming out** may prompt **character viewpoint** conceptualisations in gesture

central events in discourse prompt character viewpoint (Parrill et al. 2018)