REMOTE LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT OF GREEK SIGN LANGUAGE IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM IN COVID TIME

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EduLearn23: 15th Annual International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies









Greek Sign Language (GSL) current situation



- Natural language
- Different lexical formation
- 3D grammar formation



- Minority language
- Underdocumented
- Inconsistent language policies



- Legally recognized (Law 2817/2000)
- Knowledge required in Education
- Increased numbers of L2 users









Teaching GSL as a second language

Non-standardized goals

Immersion learning

Recent situation

Subjective evaluation

Small in-person groups









Conflicting generic prerequisites

Online learning	GSL learning
Remotely and/or asynchronous	Interactive sessions of small groups
Mask wearingEquipment- and technology- dependent	Face clearly visible for conveying linguistic information
Online standardized assessments	Highest quality of video required Communicative, handson assessments









GSL in tertiary education in covid time

Limited contact time per group

Limited numbers of students in class

Risk of lower learning outcomes

Limited exposure to facial expression

Inconsistent physical attendance

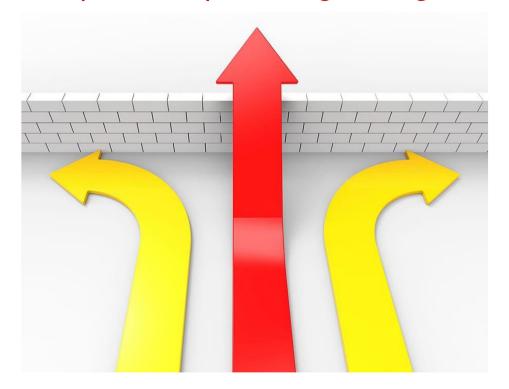








SL ReDu platform providing change of direction











Features of the SL-ReDu platform for online learning of Greek Sign Language

Technical

- Easy-to-use on any personal computer
- Language perception through high quality of image and video
- Advanced movement detection technology for language production
- Objectivity of assessment
- Tutor-independent

Linguistic

- Up to A2 level covered in vocabulary
- A0-A1 L2 levels in communication
- · Most common grammar phenomena
- Compliant with the visual-motor linguistic modality of GSL
- Facial expression recognition









Vocabulary and phrase content in the SL-ReDu platform

Sub-categories Numbers Numbers 0-9 Tens 11-19 Hundreds Thousands Revision Finger-spelling Letters A, Σ, E, O Letters Γ, Δ, Φ, I Letters Z, H, Π Letters A, M, N, T Letters B, K, P, Y, Ω Letters Revision Socializing Everyday communication Describing appearances P, Y, Ω Revision Colours - Family - Food Main meals Drinks & beverages Cooking General food-related Food House spaces Furniture Household items General house-related Clothes - Shopping Money exchanges General shopping Our world Nature Neighbourhood Weather Animals General world Travel Travel Travel Transport General world Colours, Family, Food Revision 1 Revision 2 House, Clothes, Shopping Our world, Travel								
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Revision 2 House, Clothes, Shopping Revision 3 Our world, Travel	Work							
Revision 3 Our world, Travel	Revision 1	Colours, Family, Food						
	Revision 2	House, Clothes, Shopping						
	Revision 3	Our world, Travel						
Hevision 4 School, Work	Revision 4		School, Work					









Grammar content in the SL-ReDu platform

Grammar categories	Second level grammar categories	Third level grammar categories
Time	Lexical items	Grammar items
Functional Markers		
Question	Open questions	Closed questions
Negation		
Classifiers	Human entity	Standing, bending, laying, standing (plural)
	No dimension (point)	
	Single dimension (line)	Vertical lines, horizontal lines, vertical plurals, horizontal plurals
	Two dimensions (surface)	Non-bounded surface, bounded horizontal surface, bounded vertical surface
	Three dimensional objects	Non bounded volumes, bounded volumes, double-handed
	Outlines	Default outlines, circular outlines, small circular surfaces

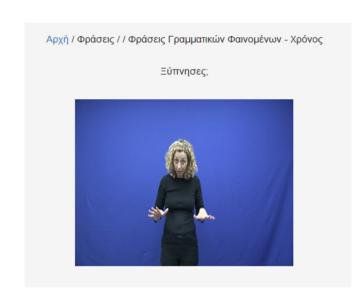








Constructions of Time





(a) Ix2 WAKE BEEN(q) = Have you woken up? (b) WHEN (for near future)

Linguistic organization of Time and temporal relations in GSL is very different to that of Greek. Perfectives (a) and timelines (b) are among the A-level lexical and phrasal temporals in the SL-ReDu platform.

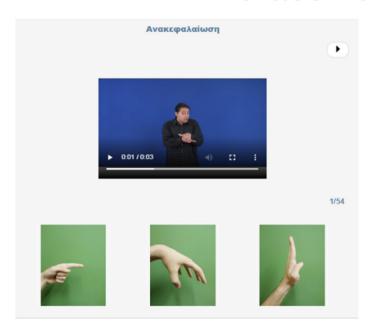


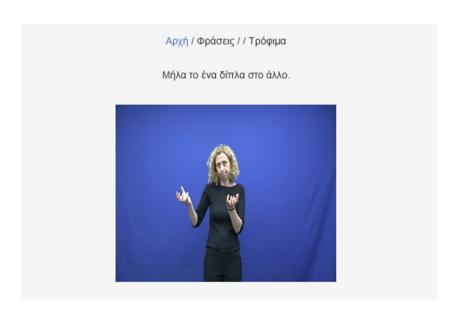






Classifier constructions





(a) "Choose classifier matching noun FISH" (b) APPLE cl (3dimensional, next to each other= APPLES

Various types of classifiers organize GSL words according to geometrical properties and mark them as to relative location and movement. Simple A-level phrases with classifiers (a) properties and (b) movement and position can be automatically recognized.





Order of constituents in phrases





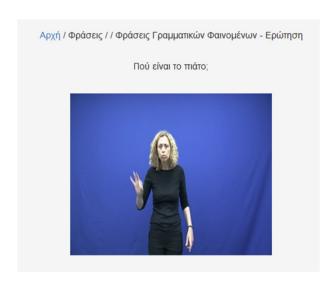
(a) KETTLE SMALL = A small kettle

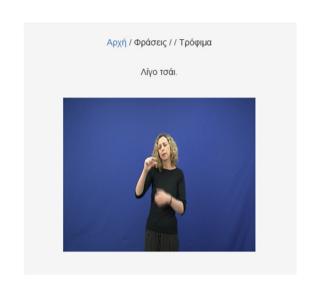
(b) ix1 COOK CANNOT = I can't cook

Topic - comment constructions in GSL have been taken into account for short phrases such as (a) noun + adjective, or (b) verb + negation/question



Facial expression





(a) PLATE WHERE? = Where is the plate? (b) TEA cl(vertical, small) = A small quantity of tea

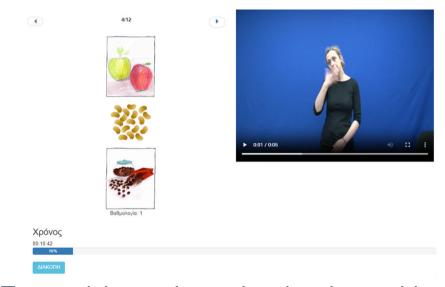
Facial expression conveys morphological information in GSL in areas such as questions (a) and quantifiers (b). Demonstration, drilling, and most importantly, recognition of appropriate facial expressions is incorporated in the linguistic content of the platform







Phrase comprehension activities (test)



Test activity at phrase level, using a video prompt









Educational features of the SL-ReDu platform for online learning of Greek Sign Language (2)

Educational features

- Limitless opportunities for autonomous learning, passive or active
- Drilling in front of a camera enhancing muscle memory
- Self-assessment of linguistic productions
- Additional tool for tutors to create and assign custom-made assessments

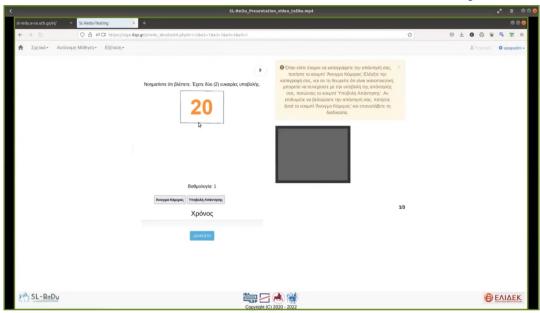








Unlimited drills for muscle memory enhancement



Process of linguistic production activity

In order to acquire the production motor-visual elements and structures asynchronously, the SL-ReDu platform provides the opportunity for the students to drill vocabulary and phrases in front of their web camera and receive feedback on the quality of their productions.









Tutor-led, custom made activities

Creating a new assessment



Complementary to the autonomous learning, tutors can use the existing content and / or create custom activities drawing from the repository of image and video content, adjust the size of an exercise and decide over which thematic areas will be tested for any given student or group.









Tutor-led, custom made activities

Reviewing progress of students



Besides students receiving personal feedback scores for their performances, tutors can have an objective overview of groups or individual users' grades, across activities or along learning timelines.









Revisiting GSL as a L2 teaching with the SL-ReDu platform

Standardized content & goals

Structured, autonomous learning

SL-ReDu platform

Objective evaluations

Unlimited numbers of students and sessions







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THANK YOU!

Questions? Please contact: gsapountz@uth.gr

Acknowledgments



The research work was supported by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation (H.F.R.I.) under the "First Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to support Faculty members and Research & Innovation (Project Number: 2456).



