

## **Control clause in Russian Sign Language and Sign Language of the Netherlands: a comparative analysis**

*Jenia Khristoforova*

The recent study on Russian Sign Language (RSL) revealed that clauses introduced by predicates WANT, TRY, LOVE, BEGIN (i) can be centrally embedded (e.g., BOY [HELP FRIEND] WANT), (ii) cannot have an overt embedded subjects and (iii) may have a reduced paradigm of subject agreement (i.e. limited to first-person marking). These constructions are thus best analyzed as control clauses. The present study aims to examine whether (i-iii) can be observed in other SLs, for instance, in Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT). As the first step, I search for the same set of predicates in the Corpus NGT and analyze the morphosyntactic properties of complement clauses in the output. I found that clauses introduced by WANT (WILLEN) in NGT diverge with respect to (i-ii), while (iii) is still to be tested in acceptability judgments due to corpus limitations. The same applies to BEGIN (BEGINNEN), for which complement clauses were simply not identified in the corpus. The findings so far indicate that, whereas RSL control predicates form a rather coherent class, constructions with the same lexical items in NGT differ both from RSL counterparts and among each other.