

Gap-filling task translated

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This file contains English translations of the gap-filling task that was used to elicit plural reduplication as part of the PhD project “[Morphological reduplication in Sign Language of the Netherlands: A typological and theoretical perspective](#)” (part of the research programme PhDs in the Humanities with project number PGW19.003, funded by the Dutch Research Council (NWO); PhD student: Cindy van Boven; supervisors: Dr. Roland Pfau, Dr. Silke Hamann). The gap-filling task is explained in more detail in [Van Boven \(2020\)](#), and its results are presented in [Van Boven \(2021\)](#).

The task consisted of three parts:

(i) *Background questions*

Before participating in the gap-filling task, five background questions were presented to all participants, signed in NGT. English translations are:

- What is your age?
- What is your gender?
- Which sign region are you from?
- Please write down or sign the hearing status of your family members. Are they hearing, deaf, hard-of-hearing, etc.?
- Which languages (signed and/or spoken) do you know?

Each participant was asked to answer these questions.

(ii) *Instructions*

Before the gap-filling task started, the same instructions were presented to each participant, signed in NGT. The instructions consisted of three separate parts. Here are the English translations of each part:

1: Research goal.

“The goal of this research is to describe nouns. Nouns are signs for objects/things, for example ‘house’, ‘apple’, ‘bread’, etcetera. These nouns differ from each other, because they have different locations and movements. The researchers are investigating these different nouns in different sentence contexts. They will tell you more about this after you completed the research.”

2: Explanation of the research.

“You will see sentences in NGT, together with pictures. In each sentence, one sign is missing and replaced by a question mark traced in space. The missing sign is depicted on the picture that is shown together with the sentence. Your task is to watch the signed sentence with the missing sign, to repeat that sentence, and to fill in the gap using the accompanying picture. Your answer will be recorded. When you’re done, you can go on to the next sentence. In total, there are 53 sentences and pictures.”

3: Example sentence.

“I will now show you an example: I’m going to the grocery store and I buy ?. On the picture you see the answer: I’m going to the grocery store and I buy bread. If this is not clear, or if you don’t understand, please ask the present researcher.”

Each participant watched these instructions before starting the task.

(iii) *The gap-filling task*

The gap-filling task itself consisted of 53 stimuli signed in NGT. Each item consists of “two elements: (i) a signed sentence in which one sign (the target plural noun) is omitted and replaced by a question mark sign [...]; (ii) a picture presented simultaneously with the sentence, showing an illustration of the target plural noun.” (van Boven 2020: 59). Each item is followed by a screen that asks the participant (in written Dutch) to pause the video, sign their answer, and then press ‘play’ again. Here are English translations of each stimulus clip:

1. Tomorrow, I’m going to the optician. I’m going to try on [?]. (*target: ‘pairs of glasses’*)
2. At the station in Amsterdam, there are many [?]. (*target: ‘trains’*)
3. Last October, the [?] went on strike. (*target: ‘farmers’*)
4. I have ten [?], so I’m selling some of them. (*target: ‘pillows’*)
5. My friend is hanging a new [?]. (*target: ‘lamp’*)
6. Many [?] often cry. (*target: ‘babies’*)
7. Yesterday I went shopping. I tried on [?]. (*target: ‘pairs of trousers’*)
8. My sister is a receptionist. She has worked at different [?]. (*target: ‘hotels’*)
9. I’m buying a new [?]. (*target: ‘bike’*)
10. There are only [?] in my dancing team. (*target: ‘women’*)
11. My brother is rich. He has three [?]. (*target: ‘cars’*)
12. Yesterday my sister went shopping. She has bought two [?]. (*target: ‘pairs of trousers’*)
13. Last year I travelled through the United States. I slept in [?]. (*target: ‘hotels’*)
14. I always take the [?] to work. (*target: ‘train’*)
15. Most of the [?] wear a bracelet or necklace. (*target: ‘women’*)
16. There are three or four [?] in my office. (*target: ‘mice’*)
17. Yesterday, me and my friend went to Amsterdam. We lost our [?]. (*target: ‘bikes’*)
18. I’m organizing a party, but it’s not crowded. There are five [?]. (*target: ‘people’*)
19. Tomorrow I’m going to the cinema to watch a [?]. (*target: ‘movie’*)
20. My brother is going to get a number of [?]. (*target: ‘chairs’*)
21. Ikea sells beautiful [?]. (*target: ‘lamps’*)
22. At home I have [?] of red wine. (*target: ‘bottles’*)
23. The Netherlands has the most [?]. (*target: ‘bikes’*)
24. Yesterday my cat caught a [?]. (*target: ‘mouse’*)
25. I like to read. I have many [?]. (*target: ‘books’*)
26. My nephew collects toy [?]. (*target: ‘cars’*)
27. My sister is tired, because her [?] cries a lot. (*target: ‘baby’*)
28. One of the girls next door has a toy car. The other girl next door has [?]. (*target: ‘dolls’*)
29. I like the Harry Potter series. I have seen al eight [?]. (*target: ‘movies’*)
30. I work at a daycare; there are [?]. (*target: ‘babies’*)
31. Yesterday was my niece’s birthday. She got different [?]. (*target: ‘dolls’*)
32. I want to buy a dress. Tomorrow I’m going to the [?]. (*target: ‘shop’*)

33. I'm going to Ikea. I'm going to buy [?]. (*target: 'pillows'*)
34. I'm moving houses. I'm going to buy a new table and [?]. (*target: 'chairs'*)
35. My sister has three [?]. (*target: 'children'*)
36. My aunt says that only old [?] play bingo. (*target: 'people'*)
37. On vacation I rent a [?]. (*target: 'car'*)
38. Many [?] have a tractor. (*target: 'farmers'*)
39. In Amsterdam, there are nice [?]. (*target: 'shops'*)
40. I'm buying three new [?]. (*target: 'lamps'*)
41. The girl next door can pick out a present. She chose a [?]. (*target: 'doll'*)
42. My neighbor is a cleaner at NS. He cleans [?]. (*target: 'trains'*)
43. I'm buying four [?] of red wine. (*target: 'bottles'*)
44. Elderly [?] often have a beard. (*target: 'men'*)
45. My friend has a beautiful [?]. (*target: 'pillow'*)
46. I have two [?], because it's convenient to have one extra. (*target: 'pairs of glasses'*)
47. My friend is an actor. He plays in horror [?]. (*target: 'films'*)
48. I'm a babysitter. I often play with [?]. (*target: 'children'*)
49. I'm almost going on vacation; I already booked a [?]. (*target: 'hotel'*)
50. My brother and I are going into town. I buy a vase and he buys [?]. (*target: 'books'*)
51. This afternoon I have to buy a lot. I'm going to many different [?]. (*target: 'shops'*)
52. I see [?] in my room. (*target: 'mice'*)
53. At the moment, not many [?] are a hairdresser. (*target: 'men'*)

For more discussion and explanation of this task I refer to [Van Boven \(2020\)](#).

References

- van Boven, Cindy. 2020. Fill the gap: A novel test to elicit nominal plurals in Sign Language of the Netherlands. *FEAST: Formal and Experimental Advances in Sign Language Theory* 3: 56–67. <https://doi.org/10.31009/FEAST.i3.05>.
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