

## Reciprocal elicitation task

This file belongs to the elicitation items published in:

Van Boven, Cindy. 2023. Elicitation task: Reciprocal reduplication in NGT. University of Amsterdam / Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. DOI: 10.21942/uva.24610164.

This file contains an explanation and English translations of the elicitation task that was used to elicit reciprocal 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 elicitation task was designed with Qualtrics software<sup>1</sup> and consisted of three parts:

### (i) *Background questions*

Before participating in the elicitation task, five background questions were presented to all participants, both signed in NGT and in written Dutch. 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. The participant could choose between writing their answer down or video-recording it in NGT.

### (ii) *Instructions*

Before the elicitation task started, the same instructions were presented to each participant, signed in NGT. Here is the English translation:

“Hello! Welcome to this study. This research is about reciprocal verbs, and I now show you the sign we will use for ‘reciprocal’.

Reciprocal verbs are like regular verbs, only they are two-sided. This means that there are two persons, who are both conducting the same action to each other. For example, in Dutch, a reciprocal verb is a combination of an independent verb with the word *elkaar* (‘each other’). For example, this written sentence: *Marie en Thom geven elkaar een cadeau* (‘Marie and Thom give each other a present’). In this sentence, the reciprocal verb is ‘to give’. Here is another Dutch sentence: *Marie geeft Thom een cadeau* (‘Marie gives Thom a present’). This sentence is not reciprocal, but one-sided (from Marie to Thom). Another example: *Marie en Thom zien elkaar* (‘Marie and Thom see each other’). It is reciprocal! But this other example is not reciprocal: *Marie ziet Thom* (‘Marie sees Thom’).

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<sup>1</sup> Version November 2022 of Qualtrics. Copyright © 2022 Qualtrics. Qualtrics and all other Qualtrics product or service names are registered trademarks or trademarks of Qualtrics, Provo, UT, USA. <https://www.qualtrics.com>.

So, the goal of this study is to describe reciprocal verbs in NGT, because up until now, not much is known about them.”<sup>2</sup>

“In a moment, you will see different videos. In each video, there are two people: Luuk and Anne (pictures of ‘Luuk’ and ‘Anne’ are shown to the participant). You will see them in different situations. Some of these situations are reciprocal, but others are not. But pay attention! You will not only see these videos with situations, but also a verb sign.

So what do you do? You watch both the situation video and the verb sign. Then, you come up with a short story about the video, in which you use the verb you saw. Your story doesn’t have to be long: maximum three sentences. You’ll see the verb sign in its base form, but if you think it’s necessary, you can adapt it to the context – so you can use a reciprocal form.

After watching a video, you can record your short story, and then move on to the next video, and so on. There will be 21 videos/stories.<sup>3</sup>

Now you will see two examples. If it’s not clear, please ask the present researcher.”

Each participant watched these instructions before starting the task. After the instructions, they also saw two example items, for BUY and INVITE. The example answers translate as follows:

“For example, Luuk needs money, so he sells a book. Anna thinks the book is interesting, and buys it.”

“For example, Anna’s birthday is coming up, so she’s organizing a party. She also invites Luuk.”

A brief summary of the instructions was provided in written Dutch above each pair of videos the participants saw.

### (iii) *The elicitation task*

Seven NGT verbs with different phonological and morphosyntactic features were targeted: one-handed agreement verbs GIVE and LOOK.AT, two-handed agreement verbs VISIT and TEACH, one-handed plain verbs SEARCH and SPY.ON, and two-handed plain verb EXPLAIN. Participants were presented with three elicitation items for each verb – one aimed to elicit a sequential reciprocal, one aimed to elicit a simultaneous reciprocal, and one aimed to elicit the non-reciprocal form of the verb, for comparison. For the two-handed verbs VISIT, TEACH, and EXPLAIN, however, there were two items – it was impossible to include an item targeting the simultaneous reciprocal for these verbs, since this would result in a situation which is semantically unlikely (e.g., explaining each other something at the same time). Thus, the elicitation task consisted of 18 items in total, presented in randomized order.

Each elicitation item consisted of a ‘situation video’, which shows a situation involving the characters ‘Luuk’ and ‘Anna’. Each situation involved either a sequential reciprocal action, a simultaneous reciprocal action, or a one-sided (non-reciprocal action). These situation videos were shown to the participant, one at a time, in combination with another video in which a native NGT signer signs the targeted verb in its base form. The situation videos can be

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<sup>2</sup> In this explanation, the signer giving the instructions does not actually use signs for ‘each other’, and never shows a signed example of a reciprocal, in order to avoid influencing the answers of the participants. Instead, the signing space as well as written Dutch examples are used.

<sup>3</sup> In the final task, there were actually 18 sentences – this was corrected by the present researcher for each participant.

downloaded from Figshare in the .zip-folder “Elicitation items - Situation videos”.<sup>4</sup> The file names make clear which situation video targeted what type of sentence. The file name always first specifies the targeted verb, and then the targeted reciprocal type, where *sim* stands for “simultaneous reciprocal”; *seq* for “sequential reciprocal”; *nonrec* for “non-reciprocal”. For instance, the file *give\_sim* contains the simultaneous situation for GIVE, and the file *look.at\_seq* is the sequential situation for LOOK.AT. The two example items are marked by “example”.

**Note:** The situation videos are published under a restrictive license. The following terms apply (as also stated in the license document ‘license.txt’):

- The videos may only be used for research purposes, specifically, as stimuli in elicitation tasks.
- Commercial use is not permitted; only noncommercial use is permitted.
- No derivatives or adaptations of the videos are permitted.
- When re-using the videos following the terms above, attribution must be given to the author by citing Van Boven, Cindy. 2023. Elicitation task: Reciprocal reduplication in NGT. University of Amsterdam / Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. DOI: 10.21942/uva.24610164.

Here is an overview of all files in the folder:

Type	Files
Example items	buy_example invite_example
Simultaneous reciprocal situations	spy.on_sim give_sim look.at_sim search_sim
Sequential reciprocal situations	spy.on_seq visit_seq give_seq look.at_seq teach+explain_seq search_seq
Non-reciprocal situations	spy.on_nonrec visit_nonrec give_nonrec look.at_nonrec teach+explain_nonrec search_nonrec

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<sup>4</sup> The base verb videos are not publicly available. Please contact Cindy van Boven ([c.m.j.vanboven@uva.nl](mailto:c.m.j.vanboven@uva.nl)) if you are interested in these videos.