

## Expressing the use-mention distinction at the gesture-sign interface

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In their seminal paper, Clark and Gerrig (1990) highlighted the importance of gestural demonstration for a comprehensive theory of spoken language quotation. Still, most formal semantic and pragmatic theories of quotation mainly focused on the analysis of the formal orthographic devise of quotation marks used in the written modality of language. Only with the advent of formal semantic and pragmatic analysis of quotation in sign languages as well as an increasing interest in gestural demonstrations used in quotations in both modalities, the idea of “quotation as demonstrations” is back on the table (see, e.g. Goldin-Meadow & Brentari 2017; Schlenker 2018). Especially Kate Davidson’s (2015) unified analysis of English “be-like” constructions and role shift in American Sign Language (ASL) does not only offer a smart extension of Donald Davidson’s (1984) traditional analysis of written language quotations as semantic demonstrations and Clark and Gerrig’s analysis of spoken language quotations as gestural demonstrations but also paved the way for a new formal account of quotation across modalities at the interface between semantics and pragmatics. In this paper, I’ll first outline the complexity of multi-modal quotations in all three modalities with a focus on gestural demonstrations in spoken and sign languages. In the second part, I’ll propose an extended version of a theory of quotation as (linguistic and gestural) demonstrations to make another step towards a unified and cross-modal theory of quotation beyond (but not excluding) the meaning of quotation marks.

**References:** Clark, H.H. & R.J. Gerrig (1990). Quotations as demonstrations. *Language* 66, 764–805. Davidson, D. (1984). Quotation. In Donald Davidson, *Inquiries into truth and interpretation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 79–92. Davidson, K. (2015). Quotation, demonstration, and iconicity. *Linguistics & Philosophy* 38, 477–520. Goldin-Meadow, S. & D. Brentari (2017). Gesture, sign and language: The coming of age of sign language and gesture studies. *Brain and Behavioral Sciences* 39, 1–17. Schlenker, P. (2018). Visible meaning: Sign language and the foundations of semantics. *Theoretical Linguistics* 44(3–4), 123–208.