gestures: the phenomenon

basic concepts

- handshapes

gesture space

- gesture unit (period of time between successive rests of the limbs) (Kendon, 1980)
- gesture phrase (occurs within a gesture unit, several may occur; it has three phases)
  - phases
    - preparation
    - stroke (obligatory; identified in semantic and kinetic terms)
    - retraction
    - (pre- and post holds)

basic concepts

- taxonomies
  - representational (represent attributes, actions, relationships)
  - iconic (depict aspects of accompanying speech topic)
  - metaphorics (gestures whose semantic properties are abstract in nature)
  - pantomimes (imitations of functional motor activities)
  - deictics (pointing gestures, concrete or imaginary)
  - emblems (gestures whose form-meaning is lexicalized)
  - beats (bi/biphasic rhythmic and formless movements of the hands or fingers that do not represent anything)
  - sign (lexicalized; syntactically coordinated; ASL)

basic concepts

- coding & transcription
  - full transcription of speech
  - identification of gesture phases
  - type (classification)
  - form
    - hand (which hand; handshape; palm-finger orientation; place in gesture space)
    - motion (shape, trajectory, place, direction, speed)
  - meaning
    - hand (what does the hand represent?; viewpoint)
    - motion (what does motion represent?; viewpoint)
    - body (representing anything different from hand?)
    - space (any meaning?)
(1) relationship to speech
- Gesticulation: obligatory presence of speech
- Emblems: optional presence of speech
- Pantomime: obligatory absence of speech
- Sign language: obligatory absence of speech

(2) relationship to linguistic properties
- Gesticulation: linguistic properties absent
- Pantomime: linguistic properties absent
- Emblems: some linguistic properties present
- Sign language: linguistic properties present

(3) relationship to conventions
- Gesticulation: not conventionalized
- Pantomime: not conventionalized
- Emblems: partly conventionalized
- Sign language: fully conventionalized

(4) character of semiosis
- Gesticulation: global and synthetic
- Pantomime: global and analytic
- Emblems: segmented and synthetic
- Sign language: segmented and analytic