Questions

• How does reduplication work with predicative signs (dynamic and stative) in SSL?
• How do the manual and oral components interact with regard to reduplication?
• Does reduplication combine with negation?

Data

• 41 texts (1-17 mins; ≈3hrs total): from the ECHO project, SSL Corpus, and teaching material
• 12 signers (male & female; ≈25-70 yrs old)
• Deaf native signer as a language consultant

Dynamic predicates

Four meaning types with dynamic predicates (corresponds well to previous findings):1,2,4:

• Pluractionality: plural events or plural referents
• Ongoing event: event with some (extra) duration
• Generic activity: a nominalization of the event
• Intensification: emphasis or effort in an action

The distribution of meanings correlate with number of syllables in citation form (Figure 1)

Oral reduplication

• Oral reduplication combines most often with a pluractional meaning (Figure 2)

Stative predicates

Two meaning types with stative predicates:

• Pluractionality: plural events or referents (BE-TIRED+++ ‘be tired often/repeatedly’)
• Intensification: intense state (BE-COLD+++ ‘be very cold’)

Negation

Negation has been said to be incompatible with reduplication in SSL2. This study found that:

• Negative signs can be reduplicated (EXIST^NOT++ ‘nowhere to be found’; UNDERSTAND-NEG++ ‘understand nothing’)
• Reduplicated signs can be negated, but then the headshake does not span over the reduplication:

_neg
ALWAYS HUG++ / NOT g-NO
‘[We] don’t always hug’

References