

COMPARATIVE CLAUSES IN BRAZILIAN SIGN LANGUAGE: AN ANALYSIS OF INTERVIEWS WITH DEAF REFERENCE FROM THE LIBRAS CORPUS¹

ORAÇÕES COMPARATIVAS EM LIBRAS: UMA ANÁLISE DE ENTREVISTAS DOS SURDOS DE REFERÊNCIA DO CORPUS DE LIBRAS

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Abstract: This paper describes the linguistic properties of comparative adverbial clauses in Brazilian Sign Language (Libras), which establish relationships of equality, superiority, or inferiority between signed events. Analyzing data from four Deaf Reference Participants in the Libras Corpus (two women and two men). The study utilized ELAN software with specialized annotation tiers to categorize complex sentence units. The findings reveal that comparative hypotaxis is articulated comprising lexical connectives, such as IGUAL, MAIS, MAIS... DO-QUE, POUCO, and MAIS-OU-MENOS, and asyndetic juxtaposition, where the comparative proposition emerges directly from the discursive context. Furthermore, the research highlights the critical role of non-manual markers, including eye-blinks, squinted eyes, raised eyebrows, and trunk/head rotation, alongside the strategic use of referential space to map compared events to the right and left loci. Ultimately, these results demonstrate that comparative hypotaxis in Libras relies on the sophisticated integration of manual signs, use of space, and prosodic non-manual markers to combine complex linguistic propositions.

Key-words: Combining Complex Clauses; Comparative Adverbial Hypotaxis; Clauses in Libras.

Resumo: Este artigo descreve as características linguísticas das orações adverbiais comparativas na Língua de Sinais Brasileira (Libras), as quais estabelecem relações de igualdade, superioridade ou inferioridade entre eventos sinalizados. A análise incluiu dados de quatro participantes surdos do Corpus Libras (duas mulheres e dois homens). O estudo utilizou o software Elan com níveis de anotação especializados para categorizar unidades frasais

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complexas. Os resultados revelam que a hipotaxe comparativa pode ser articulada por meio de conectivos lexicais, como IGUAL, MAIS, MAIS... DO-QUE, POUCO e MAIS-OU-MENOS, e justaposição assindética, onde a proposição comparativa emerge diretamente do contexto discursivo. Além disso, a pesquisa destaca o papel crucial de marcadores não manuais, incluindo piscar de olhos, olhos semicerrados, sobrancelhas arqueadas e giro do tronco e da cabeça, juntamente com o uso estratégico do espaço referencial para mapear os eventos comparados aos loci direito e esquerdo. Em última análise, esses resultados demonstram que a hipotaxe comparativa em Libras depende da integração sofisticada de sinais manuais, o uso do espaço e expressões faciais prosódicas para organizar proposições linguísticas complexas.

Palavras-chave: Articulação de orações complexas; Hipotaxe Adverbial Comparativa; Sentenças na Libras.

Autor convidado.

1. Introduction

All spoken and signed languages utilize complex sentence articulation to connect ideas. This process exists on a *continuum* ranging from parataxis to hypotaxis and embedding (Carneiro; Ludwig, 2020a; 2020b). Clause combining is a multifaceted strategy that bridges syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. This study describes clause integration in Libras (Brazilian Sign Language), focusing specifically on comparative adverbial hypotaxis. Through an analysis of Libras data, the research examines how juxtaposition serves as a primary structural strategy. Additionally, the study highlights how non-manual markers—such as facial expressions, head/trunk movements, and the use of signing space—function as articulators alongside specific lexical connectives to form complex sentences.

Thus, this study examines comparative adverbial hypotaxis in Libras, identifying the specific linguistic strategies used to construct complex clauses. Like all natural languages, Libras employs distinct mechanisms for clause integration; specifically, it employs juxtaposition, non-manual markers (NMMs), and certain lexical signs that function as connectives. Research on comparative adverbial hypotaxis is quite recent in Libras, with some works on this type of complex sentence, even though there are general analyses in those studies. While foundational overviews of complex sentence articulation in Libras have been provided by Carneiro and Ludwig (2020a; 2020b) and the comprehensive grammar by Quadros et al. (2021; 2022), specialized research into comparative adverbial structures remains a relatively new and evolving field.

2. Combining Complex Clauses

This study adopts a functionalist approach to complex clauses, utilizing the framework established by Lehmann (1988). Within this terminology, parataxis refers to the process of coordinating sentences. Halliday (2004) further defines parataxis as the combination of units with equal hierarchical syntactic status, characterized by symmetrical relations. While these definitions provide a necessary theoretical baseline, the present research focuses on other structures and does not include an analysis of parataxis.

Subordination serves as a broad mechanism for connecting complex sentences, functioning as a ‘prototypical concept’ that encompasses both hypotaxis and embedding (Lehmann, 1988). Historically, structuralist linguistics and classical philology utilized this term to describe clause relationships in a general sense. More specifically, Lehmann (1988) defines hypotaxis as ‘subordination in the strict sense,’ characterized by a dependency relationship where the subordinate clause acts as a satellite to the nuclear clause. Similarly, Halliday (2004) characterizes hypotaxis as the linking of elements that possess unequal hierarchical status from a syntactic perspective.

On the other hand, embedding is viewed by Lehmann (1988) as the functional dependency of one syntagm within another. Essentially, the embedded clause acts as a modifier that explains or defines a nominal nucleus. This mechanism allows a subordinate sentence to be integrated directly into a clause, either to provide detail for a specific noun phrase or to qualify the meaning of the clause as a whole.

2.2 Adverbial Comparative Hypotaxis

This mechanism of comparative adverbial hypotaxis functions by weighing two distinct actions against one another. These comparisons are categorized by degrees of equality, difference, or relative hierarchy (superiority and inferiority). Quadros et al. (2023) further clarify that in these constructions:

an essential feature of the comparative construction is the existence of an element common to both compared members, so that every comparative construction is a meeting between equals, based on a comparison of equality, or between different ones, through a comparison of superiority and inferiority. (Quadros et al., 2023, p. 189)

In discussing comparative relations within Portuguese, Lima (2002) posits that such a relationship is established by selecting two ‘states of affairs’ which, upon comparison, reveal

shared characteristics. Consequently, comparison necessarily requires a common element between the two events, through which degrees of equality or difference are expressed.

Thus, Lima (2002) enhances the importance of comparisons in the discourse we employ every day: ‘Comparisons are so abundant in the material analyzed that it can be said, roughly speaking, that comparison is the basis of our perception of reality, and, therefore, it manifests itself linguistically with great frequency.’ (2002, p. 148-149). Conceptualizations and definitions of referents in the real and imaginary world go through comparative processes to define a given referent.

Accordingly, the contrast between two events can be established through a factual lens – dealing with the real and the possible – or a counterfactual lens, involving the unreal and the imaginary. Lima (2002) presents his results within this conceptual framework as follows: ‘By analyzing the parts that are compared, it is seen that the speaker can relate them not only on the basis of factuality, but also on the basis of counterfactuality.’ (2002, p. 150).

According to Quadros et al. (2023), comparative adverbial hypotaxis is composed of a nuclear sentence and a comparative sentence. In this framework, the nuclear clause introduces the primary action being compared, whereas the comparative adverbial clause provides the benchmark or event against which the comparison is measured. Consequently, a distinct syntactic interdependence and semantic relationship exist between these two elements within the complex structure. Furthermore, Quadros et al. (2023) observe that

comparative constructions are composed of a nuclear clause and a comparative clause. The first term of the comparison, which is present in the main clause, is the constituent compared, while the second term of the comparison, present in the comparative clause, is the constituent with which the comparison is made. (2023, p. 189)

Research by Quadros et. al. (2023) on Libras report that the comparative adverbial clauses of equality can be marked by a connective such as the signs **TAMBÉM** (also), **IGUAL** (equal) and **PARECER** (seem). The presence of some non-manual markers such as mouthing is evident as well, which seems to articulate the word **IGUAL** (equal).

3. Methodology

This research is situated within the National Libras Inventory, drawing upon data from the Deaf Reference. In alignment with this framework, the study adheres to the Inventory’s

standardized protocols for data collection, storage, transcription, translation, and validation. This methodology is consistently applied across all participating Brazilian states to ensure regional data uniformity. Specifically, data collection occurs in a specialized filming studio equipped with four cameras positioned at various angles to capture a comprehensive, multi-perspective record of the signing.

Following collection, data are stored with searchable metadata to ensure efficient retrieval. Transcription is conducted via ELAN (Eudico Linguistic Annotator), utilizing its multimodal capabilities for sign language analysis. The annotation process involves distinct gloss tiers for each signer, rendered in capital letters per the National Libras Inventory conventions. Specialized tiers were established to categorize complex sentence units according to a controlled vocabulary: Parataxis (conjunctive, disjunctive, and adversative), Hypotaxis (conditional, causal, comparative, temporal, and non-restrictive), and Embedding (subjective, objective, and restrictive relative). Within these categories, manual and non-manual subtypes differentiate between clauses utilizing lexical connectives and those employing juxtaposition.

This study analyzes comparative clauses in Libras using a dataset from the ‘Surdos de Referência’ (Deaf Reference Corpus), specifically focusing on interviews with four participants: two women and two men. These videos were selected to examine how complex clauses are integrated across diverse discursive contexts. By analyzing these interviews, the research identifies the specific mechanisms used to construct comparative adverbial hypotaxis in natural sign language use.

Furthermore, consistent with a systemic-functionalist framework, the data transcription is designed to provide the reader with a holistic view of the communicative event. Rather than isolating the comparative adverbial hypotaxis clause, the transcription includes broader contextual elements and conversational nuances. This approach ensures that the dialogue is understood as a situated interaction, capturing the functional relationship between the sentence units and their surrounding discourse.

The analysis of these clauses is supported by a multimodal presentation: each Complex Sentence Unit is accompanied by a direct access link and a QR code leading to the original video data. For visual clarity, sequential images of each sign are provided, with corresponding glosses positioned immediately below. In instances of ellipsis, where a sign is omitted but contextually inferred, the recovered item is enclosed in brackets. Furthermore, to facilitate

international accessibility, each example includes Portuguese and English glosses, followed by a full idiomatic translation in English.

4. Data Analysis

The research sample comprises transcriptions and analyses from four informants within the Deaf Reference Group. This deaf signing people, consisting of two women and two men, is widely recognized by the Brazilian Deaf community as providing linguistic excellence. Furthermore, these individuals serve as prominent Deaf leaders at local, regional, and national levels. The following sections detail the data derived from their interviews:

Table 1 – Data from the analysis of the interviews

Interviewee	Interview duration	Utterances	Sentences	Parataxis	Hypotaxis	Embedding
M06 – Machado	33 min 16 segs.	20	253	176	191	110
F01 – Vilhalva	37 min 22 segs.	27	179	114	140	78
F05 – Souza	23 min 38 segs.	29	186	108	142	88
M05 – Albuquerque	35 min 59 segs.	31	282	180	228	122
Total	130 min 15 segs. = 2h 10 min 15 segs.	107	900	578	701	398

Source: Interview Data

In total, the analysis encompassed 2 hours, 10 minutes, and 15 seconds of recorded footage from the Deaf participants. Within the three primary categories of clause linkage, hypotaxis emerged as the most prominent, accounting for 701 complex sentence units. A detailed breakdown of the hypotactic results is presented below:

Table 2 – Quantitative Hypotaxis found in the analysis of the interviews

Types of Hypotaxis	Machado	Vilhalva	Souza	Albuquerque	Total
Causal	51	46	43	48	188
Comparative	26	20	9	20	75
Conditional	12	13	7	23	55
Non-restrictive	26	11	23	29	89
Purpose	11	10	8	12	41
Temporal	53	39	41	74	207

Source: Interview Data

Within the hypotactic data, 74 clauses were identified as comparative adverbial hypotaxis. In several instances, a single complex clause contained multiple overlapping

hypotactic structures. To address this, a tier named ‘Hypotactic Combination’ was established to capture these multifaceted units as a whole, ensuring that the discursive flow and semantic integrity were preserved. These combined units were subsequently analyzed by examining their constituent parts while maintaining their broader discursive context.

The analysis further identifies two distinct subtypes of comparative adverbial hypotaxis: syndetic and asyndetic. These categories are differentiated by their mechanisms of combining complex clauses. Syndetic constructions utilize a manual sign that functions as a formal connective between clauses. In contrast, asyndetic constructions lack a manual connective; instead, they rely on juxtaposition and non-manual markers to link complex sentences. In these asyndetic cases, the logical proposition between clauses emerges directly from the discursive context. The distribution of these two types is detailed in Table 3:

Table 3 – Number of Syndetic and Asyndetic Comparative Hypotaxis

Interviewee	Syndetic comparative hypotaxis	Asyndetic comparative hypotaxis	Total
M06 – Machado	24	2	26
F01 – Vilhalva	13	7	20
F05 – Souza	5	4	9
M05 – Albuquerque	15	3	18
Total	56	17	73
Percentual	76,71%	23,29%	100%

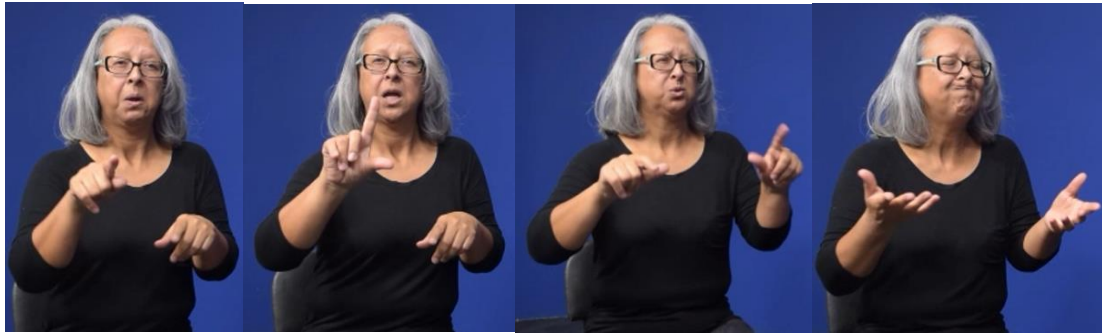
Source: Interview Data

The results indicate a significantly higher frequency of syndetic comparative adverbial hypotaxis, accounting for 76.71% of the data, compared to asyndetic constructions at 23.29%. Within the syndetic category, several manual signs were identified as formal connectives. These include the signs IGUAL (equal), MAIS... DO-QUE (more... than), MAIS (more), POUCO (little), MAIS-OU-MENOS (more or less), and SUPERAR (to surpass/beat).

4.1 Analysis of Comparative Adverbial Hypotaxis

This session analyzes some examples of comparative adverbial hypotaxis in Libras.

Complex Clause 1 – Syndetic Comparative Adverbial Hypotaxis



IX-isso

L1

L2

ENTÃO



EU

DESCOBRIR

NÃO

PORQUE



IGUALDADE

IGUAL

CODA

SABER-NÃO



ENTÃO

IX-esse

L1



[Video Link](#)

Source: Vilhalva's Interview, 2017.

ix-that FL SL then I found-out not because equality equal coda know-not then ix-this FL

Translation: I couldn't distinguish first language and second language, because (for me they were on the same level of) equality, it was the same as codas who don't know how to distinguish what is first and second language.

Clause 1 illustrates a syndetic comparative adverbial hypotaxis. The unit begins with the nuclear clause, IX-ESSE L1 L2 ENTÃO DESCOBRIR NÃO ('I didn't realize the difference between L1 and L2'). This relationship is explicitly marked by the signs IGUALDADE and IGUAL, with the latter serving as the lexical item to compare the two clauses. Here, the participant draws a comparison between her own experience—perceiving no distinction between her first and second languages—and the experience of CODAs (Children of Deaf Adults), who similarly struggle to categorize their languages. Notably, a blink occurs on the sign CODA; this non-manual marker serves to emphasize the comparative link between the signer's experience and that of the CODAs.

Complex Clause 2 – Syndetic Comparative Adverbial Hypotaxis





LER

ESPANHOL

EMOCIONAR

MAIS



DO-QUE [LER] PORTUGUÊS

[Link do vídeo](#)

Source: Vilhalva's Interview, 2017.

Write Spanish is emotion more what I see read Spanish emotion more than [read] Portuguese.

Translation: Writing in Spanish makes me emotional, when I see and read in Spanish, I feel more emotion than (when I read) in Portuguese.

Complex Clause 2 exemplifies a syndetic comparative adverbial hypotaxis of superiority. The lexical connectives MAIS (more) and MAIS... DO-QUE (more... than) explicitly link the two propositions, as the deaf informant compares the act of reading in Portuguese versus Spanish. This structural choice highlights the signer's affective preference for Spanish literature. In accordance with the principle of linguistic economy, the verb LER (read) is omitted in the second segment, MAIS DO-QUE [LER] PORTUGUÊS, as it is easily recovered from the prior mention in the first segment, VER LER ESPANHOL.

The sentence is further delineated by prosodic markers: an eye-blink immediately follows the sign MAIS, serving as a boundary marker between the internal clauses, a phenomenon documented by Quadros et al. (2023) and Ludwig (2021; 2022). Additionally, raised eyebrows during the construction É EMOCIONAR MAIS O-QUE serve to intensify the

comparative relationship, aligning with established research on non-manual markers as mechanisms for enhancing clausal links.

UOC – Syndetic Comparative Adverbial Hypotaxis

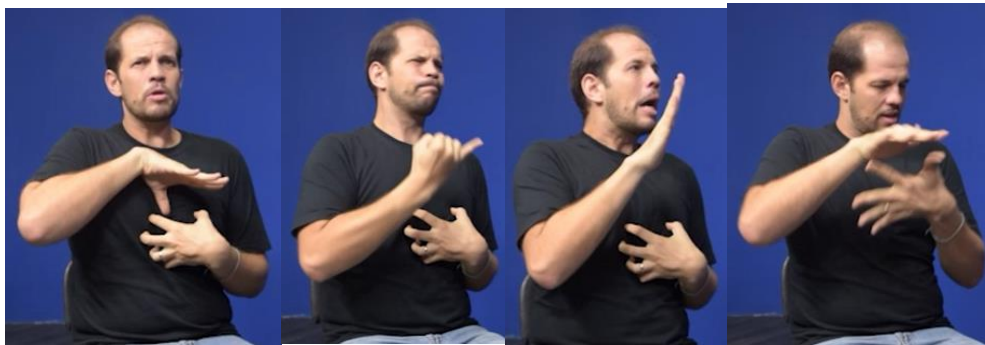


COMO

[É] DIFERENTE

IX-eu

SENTIR

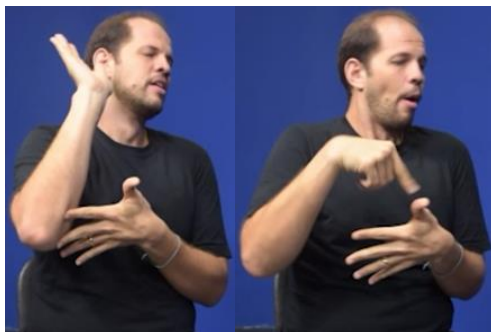


PORTUGUÊS

[É] IMPORTANTE

MAS

LIBRAS



MAIS [IMPORTANTE] IX-Libras



[Link do vídeo](#)

Source: Machado's interview, 2017.

how [is] different ix-I feel Portuguese [is] important but libras more [important] ix-libras

Translation: What is the difference? I feel that the Portuguese language is important, but Libras, the sign language, is more important (than Portuguese).

Complex Clause 3 presents a syndetic comparative adverbial hypotaxis articulated through the sign MAIS (more). Serving as the lexical connective, this sign facilitates the

comparison between the relative importance of Libras and Portuguese in the informant’s life. While the adjective *IMPORTANTE* (important) is omitted in the second segment, it remains semantically accessible through contextual recovery.

This omission aligns with the common practice in Libras of suppressing the verb *SER* (to be) when paired with adjectives (Quadros et al., 2023). This phenomenon is supported by Givón’s (2001) framework for state verbs, which defines states as propositions devoid of temporal change, whether they be temporary, permanent, or of intermediate duration. In Libras, as noted by Quadros et al. (2023), signs representing ‘states’, such as *IMPOSSÍVEL*, *IMPORTANTE*, or *DIFERENTE*, frequently function without an explicit copula (*É*). Consequently, the verbal function is derived directly from the discursive relationship rather than lexical presence.

Furthermore, the use of the sign *DIFERENTE* (different) in the initial segment establishes a comparison of inequality, reflecting the distinct roles Libras and written Portuguese play in the signer’s life. The eye-blink synchronized with the sign *MAIS* (more) acts as a linguistic articulator, marking the boundary of the complex sentence—a function consistent with the findings of Quadros et al. (2023) and Carneiro and Ludwig (2020a).

The comparison is further reinforced by a clear prosodic contrast: when referring to Portuguese, the signer employs focus markers (widened eyes and raised eyebrows), whereas references to Libras are marked by squinted eyes. This systematic variation in non-manual markers not only delineates the clausal boundaries but also intensifies the established comparative relationship through visual contrast.

Complex clause 4 – Syndetic Comparative Adverbial Hypotaxis



TER

PASSADO

CLARO

COMEÇAR



BARREIRA

ESSÊNCIA

ENSINAR

POUCO



IGUAL

BICICLETA

DV-andar-bicicleta-cambaleiar

[Link do vídeo](#)

Fonte: Entrevista de Albuquerque, 2017.

There-be past of-course start barrier not-clear teach little equal bicycle DV-ride-bicycle-stagger

Translation: Of course, there were limits in the past, when I started (learning Portuguese), I didn't understand it properly, they taught me little by little, it was like learning to ride a bike, you keep staggering.

Complex Clause 4 utilizes a syndetic comparative hypotaxis, facilitated by the manual sign IGUAL (equal). The signer establishes a metaphorical comparison between the process of teaching Portuguese and the experience of learning to ride a bicycle. While IGUAL acts as the formal connective, the specific nature of the comparison is defined by the discursive context and the use of the descriptive verb DV-andar-bicicleta-cambaleiar (staggering while riding a bicycle). This classifier construction provides a visual representation of the 'staggering' or unsteady progress common to both actions, effectively grounding the abstract concept of language learning in a physical, iconic experience.

Complex Clause 5 – Syndetic Comparative Adverbial Hypotaxis



SABER

MAIS

O-QUE

PORTUGUÊS



ADORAR

ESCREVER

PORTUGUÊS

MATEMÁTICA



OUTRO [SABER] MAIS-OU-MENOS

[Link do vídeo](#)

Source: Souza's interview, 2017.

Know more what Portuguese love write Portuguese Mathematics other [know] more-or-less

Translation: I knew more Portuguese, I loved writing in Portuguese, (but) mathematics and other (subjects) (I knew) more or less.

Complex Clause 5 provides an instance of syndetic comparative hypotaxis of superiority, utilizing the lexical markers MAIS (more) and MAIS-OU-MENOS (more-or-less). The informant contrasts her proficiency in the Portuguese language with her knowledge of other academic subjects, specifically mathematics. Consistent with earlier examples, an eye-blink is

synchronized with the sign MAIS, serving as a prosodic highlighter for the comparative relationship. Furthermore, the construction exhibits lexical ellipsis; the verb SABER (to know) is omitted in the second segment – MATEMÁTICA OUTRO [SABER] MAIS-OU-MENOS – as it is contextually redundant. In this structure, the signs MAIS and MAIS-OU-MENOS function as the primary connectives, defining the gradient of knowledge between the two domains.

Complex Clause 6 – Asyndetic Comparative Adverbial Hypotaxis



ESSE-esquerda

CONGRESSO

SURDO

PROFUNDO



DAR

EMOCIONAR

DAR

PODER



EMPODERAMENTO ESSE-esquerda

ESSE-direita Não



ESSE-direita

IX-você

CURSO

PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO



LÍNGUA-DE-SINAIS

LIBRAS

ESSE-direita

FAZER



CURSO

ESSE-direita

LEVAR

LÁ



ENSINAR



[Link do vídeo](#)

Source: Vilhalva's interview, 2017.

This left deep deaf conference give emotion give power empowerment this-left this-right no ix-you this-right postgraduate course sign language libras this-right take course this-right take ix-there teach

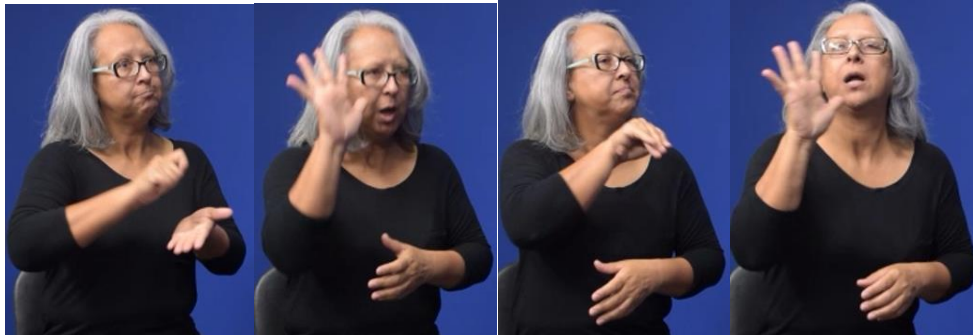
Translation: These deaf conferences are deep, provoke emotions, enable empowerment, whereas those (academic conferences) do not (have this same depth), (they are related to) postgraduate studies in sign language, Libras, you take those courses and then take (this knowledge to) teaching.

Complex Clause 6 demonstrates an asyndetic comparative adverbial hypotaxis achieved through the sophisticated use of contrastive loci. The informant establishes a comparison between Deaf community conferences and academic conferences by mapping them onto distinct spatial planes. The signer anchors Deaf congresses as a reference point on her left side, associating this space with empowerment and profound emotion: ESSE-esquerda CONGRESSO SURDO PROFUNDO DAR EMOCIONAR DAR PODER EMPODERAMENTO. By utilizing this spatial strategy, the comparative relationship is not dependent on a manual sign like MAIS (more), but emerges from the prosodic and affective contrast between the two established spaces. The "emotional superiority" of the Deaf conferences is conveyed through the intensity of the signs performed in the left locus, allowing the comparison to be understood through the discursive context and the topography of the signing space. It is noticeable that the signer conveys her emotion whenever she participates in these conferences.

The second segment presents her perception regarding academic conferences in the second part of the clause ESSE-direita NÃO IX-você ESSE-direita CURSO PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO LÍNGUA-DE-SINAIS LIBRAS ESSE-direita FAZER CURSO ESSE-direita LEVAR IX-LÁ ENSINAR (this-right no ix-you this-right postgraduate course sign language libras this-right take course this-right take ix-there teach). Thus, the relationship between the two types of conference is marked in the space on the right or left, in which the two clauses are performed. Furthermore, when making the transition from the actions regarding the deaf conferences to the actions regarding the academic conferences, the signer keeps her index finger pointing to the first event, at the same time as she points to the second referent. In this way, she uses both index fingers to mark the comparison between the compared actions. The use of space is quite

explored to construct this comparison. However, there is no lexical item that marks the comparative relationship between the linguistic events, but only the proposition that emerges from the discursive context.

UOC 7 – Asyndetic Comparative Adverbial Hypotaxis



ESCREVER

VALOR

FALAR-ORAL

VALOR



IX-eu

IX-ele

DIMINUIR



DIMINIUR IX-dois

NÃO


[Link do vídeo](#)

Source: Vilhalva's interview, 2017.

Write value speak-orally value ix-I ix-it diminish diminish ix-two not

Translation: Writing has its value, speaking in oral language has its value, I don't diminish this or that.

Complex Clause 7 provides another example of asyndetic comparative hypotaxis, where the absence of a manual connective is compensated for by the discursive framework and prosodic signals. The signer establishes a relationship of equality between two distinct linguistic skills: ESCREVER (writing) and FALAR-ORAL (speaking/oralism). By asserting that she does not diminish either modality, she assigns them equivalent value within her personal linguistic repertoire. The transition between these propositions is marked by an eye-blink, which functions as a clear prosodic boundary. This non-manual marker serves to delineate the syntactic and semantic limits of the clauses, ensuring the comparative logic is maintained even without a lexical ‘equalizer.’

Final Remarks

This article has explored the structural nuances of comparative adverbial hypotaxis in Libras. The analysis reveals that Libras employs a sophisticated array of linguistic mechanisms to establish comparison, including clausal juxtaposition, prosodic non-manual markers, and the strategic use of lexical connectives. Given the scarcity of literature on complex sentence structures in sign languages, this study contributes to the burgeoning field of Libras syntax. It provides empirical evidence of how manual and non-manual elements interact to construct meaning within the National Libras Inventory.

This study utilized data from the Libras Corpus, specifically focusing on the Deaf Reference Corpus (Surdos de Referência). The sample included four prominent Deaf individuals, two women and two men, selected for their linguistic authority. Data processing and analysis were conducted using ELAN (Eudico Linguistic Annotator), which facilitated the precise synchronization of video media with multi-layered annotations. Specific tiers were established to categorize Parataxis, Hypotaxis, and Embedding, each further divided into specific clausal subtypes. Within this framework, the present research details the findings specifically related to comparative adverbial hypotaxis.

The study identified several manual signs, including IGUAL, MAIS, MAIS... DO-QUE, POUCO, PARECER, and MAIS-OU-MENOS, that play the role of a lexical connectives within comparative constructions. The role of these signs is fundamentally tied to the discursive context and is frequently reinforced by non-manual markers such as eye-blinks, squinted eyes, or raised eyebrows. As this research is currently in its initial phase, these findings provide a

foundational mapping of comparative hypotaxis in Libras, with further data and analysis to be integrated as the study progresses.

Beyond manual connectives, the analysis identifies clausal juxtaposition as a primary strategy within comparative adverbial hypotaxis. This mechanism requires the integration of two or more clauses into a single discursive proposition to articulate a comparative relationship. The data reveal that this is often achieved through linguistic mechanisms unique to signed modalities, specifically the use of spatial mapping (utilizing right and left loci) and body lean (trunk and head rotation). These articulators serve as the structural framework that allows the comparison to emerge through the physical arrangement of the discourse.

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