

---

# From gesture to emoji: Experimental evidence for a semantic typology

Lyn Tieu<sup>\*†</sup>, Vaishnavy Puvipalan , Jimmy Qiu , and Robert Pasternak

<sup>1</sup>UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO – Canada

## Abstract

Schlenker (2018) proposes a typology of *co-speech*, *pro-speech*, and *post-speech* gestures, distinguished by whether the gestures are *external* (eliminable without affecting acceptability of the sentence) or *internal*, and whether they occupy their own timeslot. Pierini (2021) extends the typology to emoji: *co-text emoji* immediately follow written text and trigger ‘cosuppositional’ inferences that project; *pro-text emoji* fully replace words, have an at-issue semantics, and trigger standard presuppositions; and *post-text emoji*, separated from accompanying text by a pause, generate supplements, which project from antecedents of conditionals and are degraded in negative environments. We present four experiments supporting this proposed typology of emoji.

**Keywords:** gesture, emoji, inferences, presupposition, projection

---

\*Speaker

†Corresponding author: lyn.tieu@utoronto.ca