

## RESEARCH OUTPUTS / RÉSULTATS DE RECHERCHE

### Sign language and aging

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*Publication date:*  
2017

*Document Version*  
Other version

[Link to publication](#)

*Citation for pulished version (HARVARD):*

Meurant, L, Sinte, A & Bernagou, É 2017, 'Sign language and aging: The French Belgian Sign Language Corpus Data', Language use in later life - CLARE 3, Berlin, Germany, 6/03/17 - 8/03/17.

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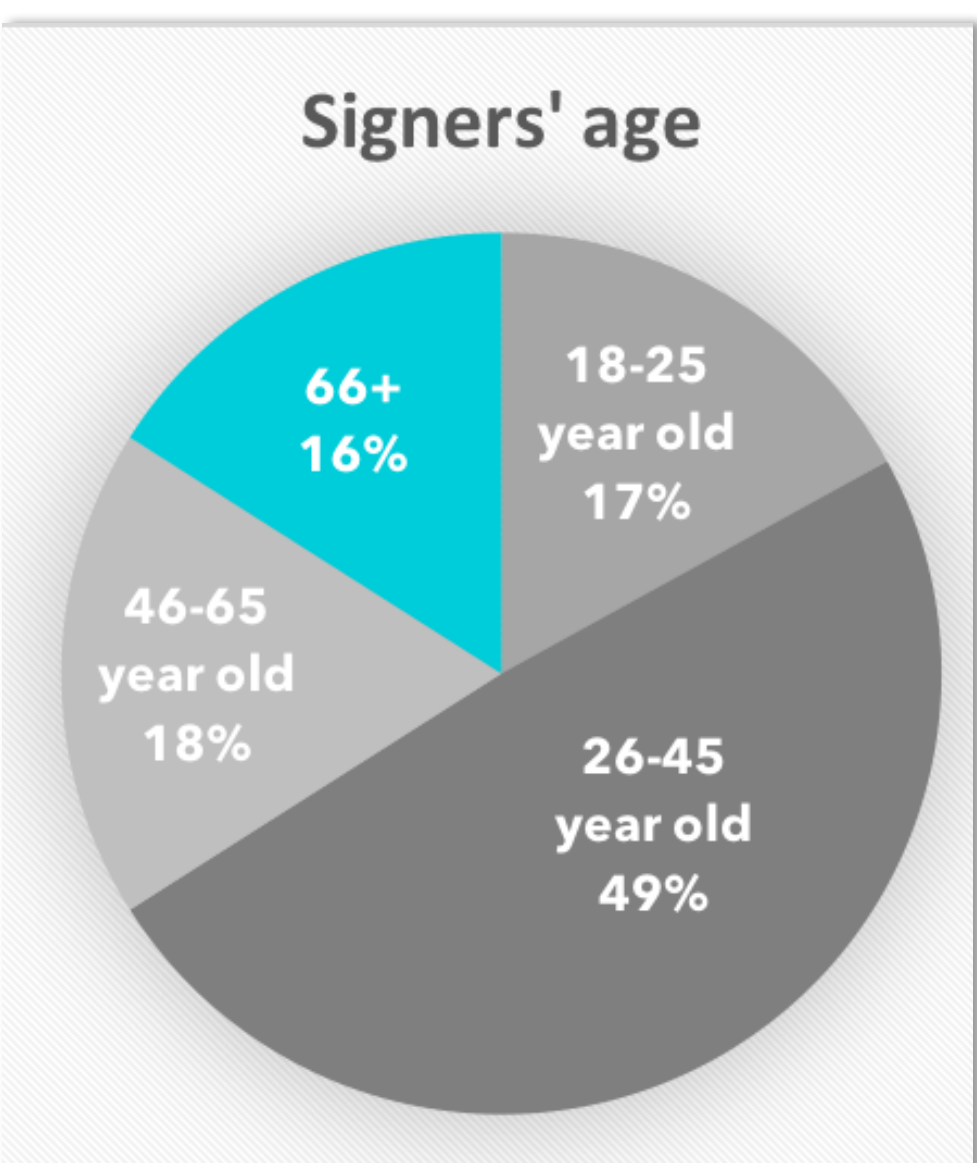
### 1. The LSFB Corpus



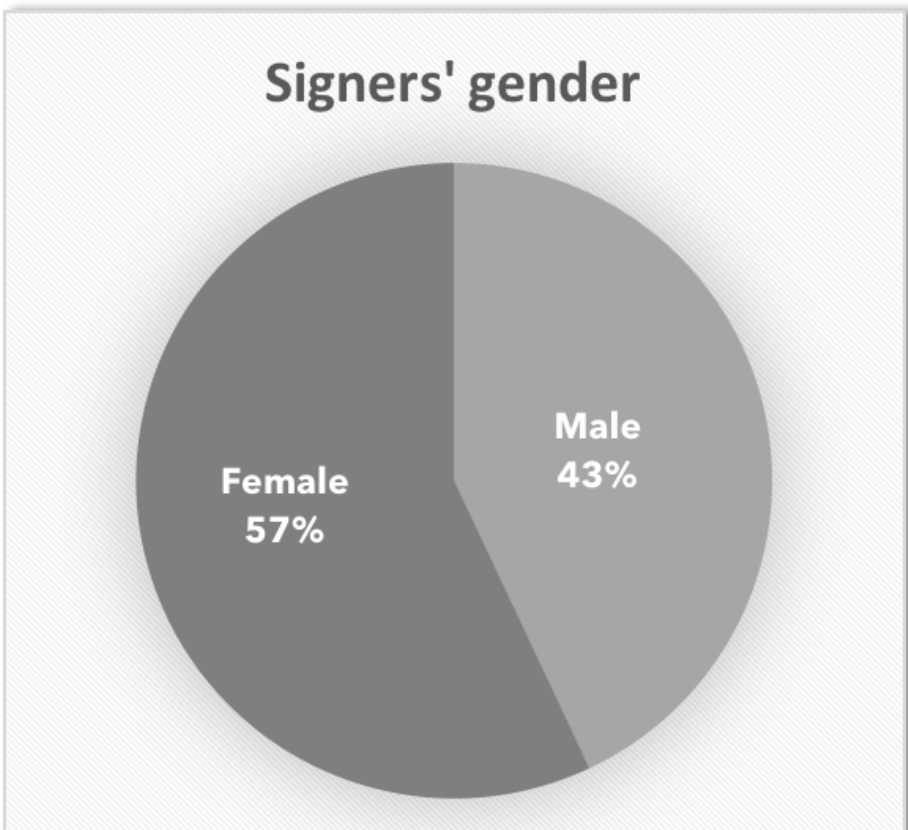
**The LSFB CORPUS** has been collected at the University of Namur (Belgium) between 2012 and 2015.

- = a representative sample of the LSFB signs currently in use in Brussels and Wallonia
- = data for linguistic research
- = a useful tool for teachers, interpreters and students
- = a safeguard of the cultural and linguistic heritage of the Deaf Community

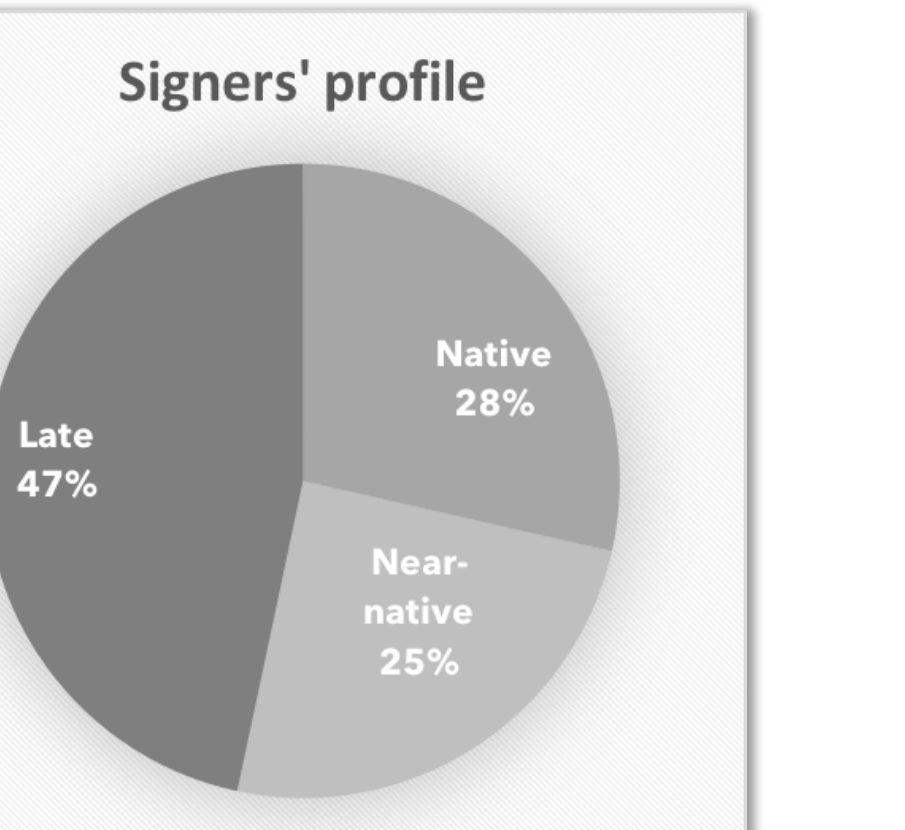
**Signers' age**



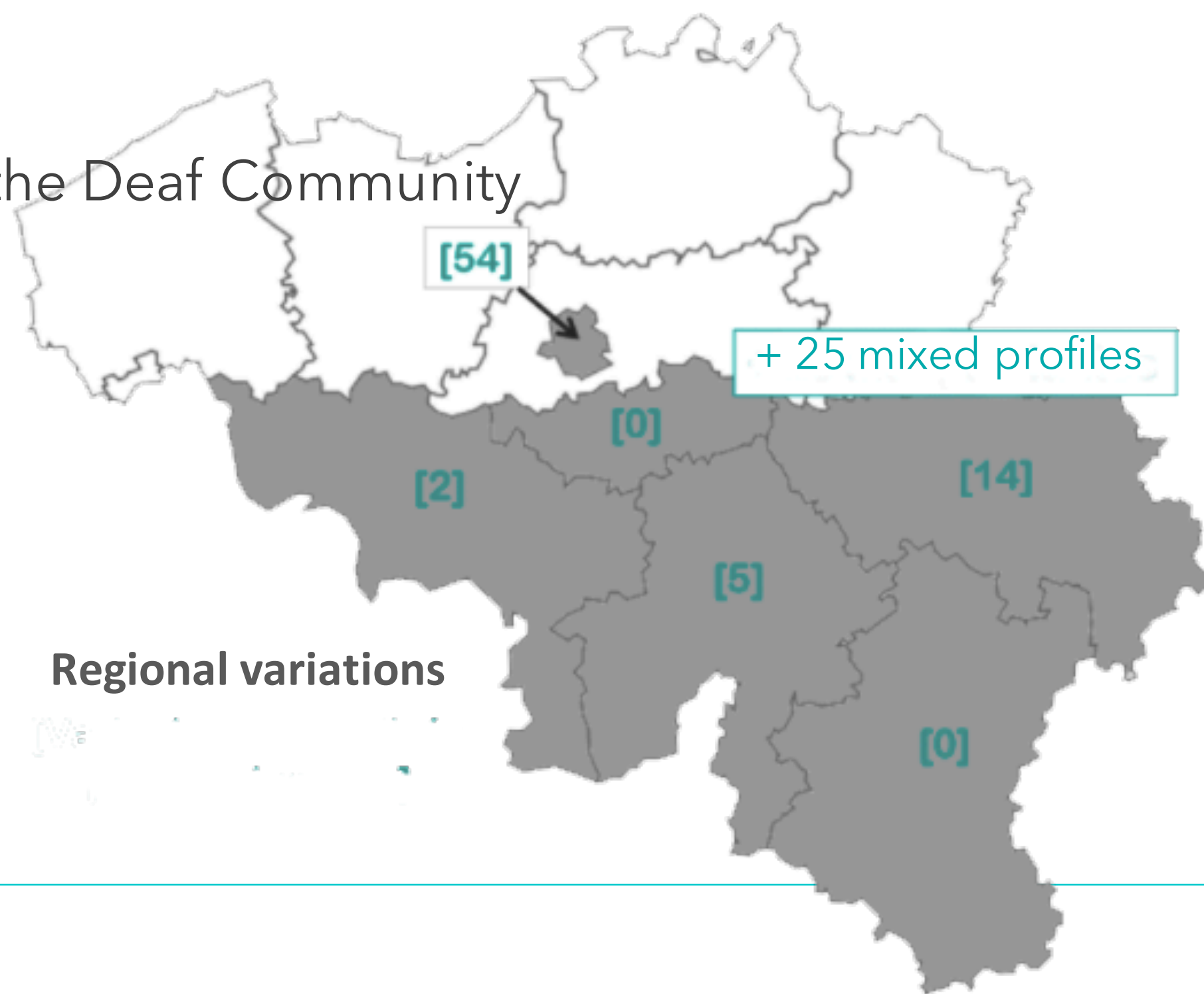
**Signers' gender**



**Signers' profile**

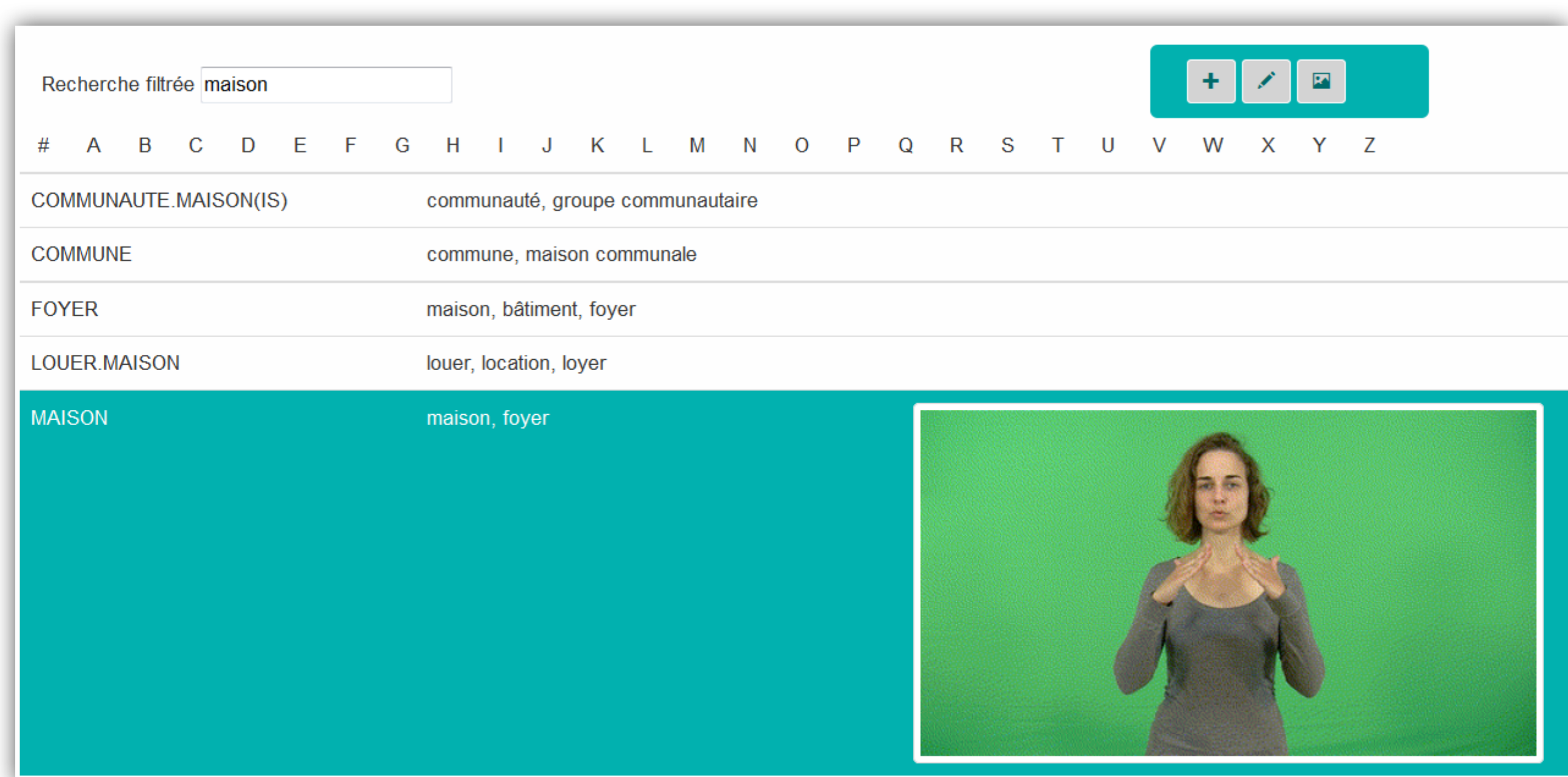


**Regional variations**



- **100 signers** in pairs (50 sessions for a mean length of 3 hours of edited video per session)
- **13 elderly signers** (66+)
- **19 tasks** in part inspired by other SL's corpus projects: AUSLAN, NFT, DGS, VGT (telling stories/memories/jokes, explaining maps/routes/pictures, comparing, arguing, classifying objects/symbols, explaining name sign/hobby, talking about SL and the deaf community)
- **various genres** (narratives, explanations, descriptions, argumentations, discussions)
- **> 12 hours annotated** so far with ID-glosses
- **2.5 hours translated** so far (2.400 sentences) by a multidisciplinary team (interpreters, linguists, bilingual teachers and deaf people in collaboration with Alain Bacci)

### 2. The lexical data base

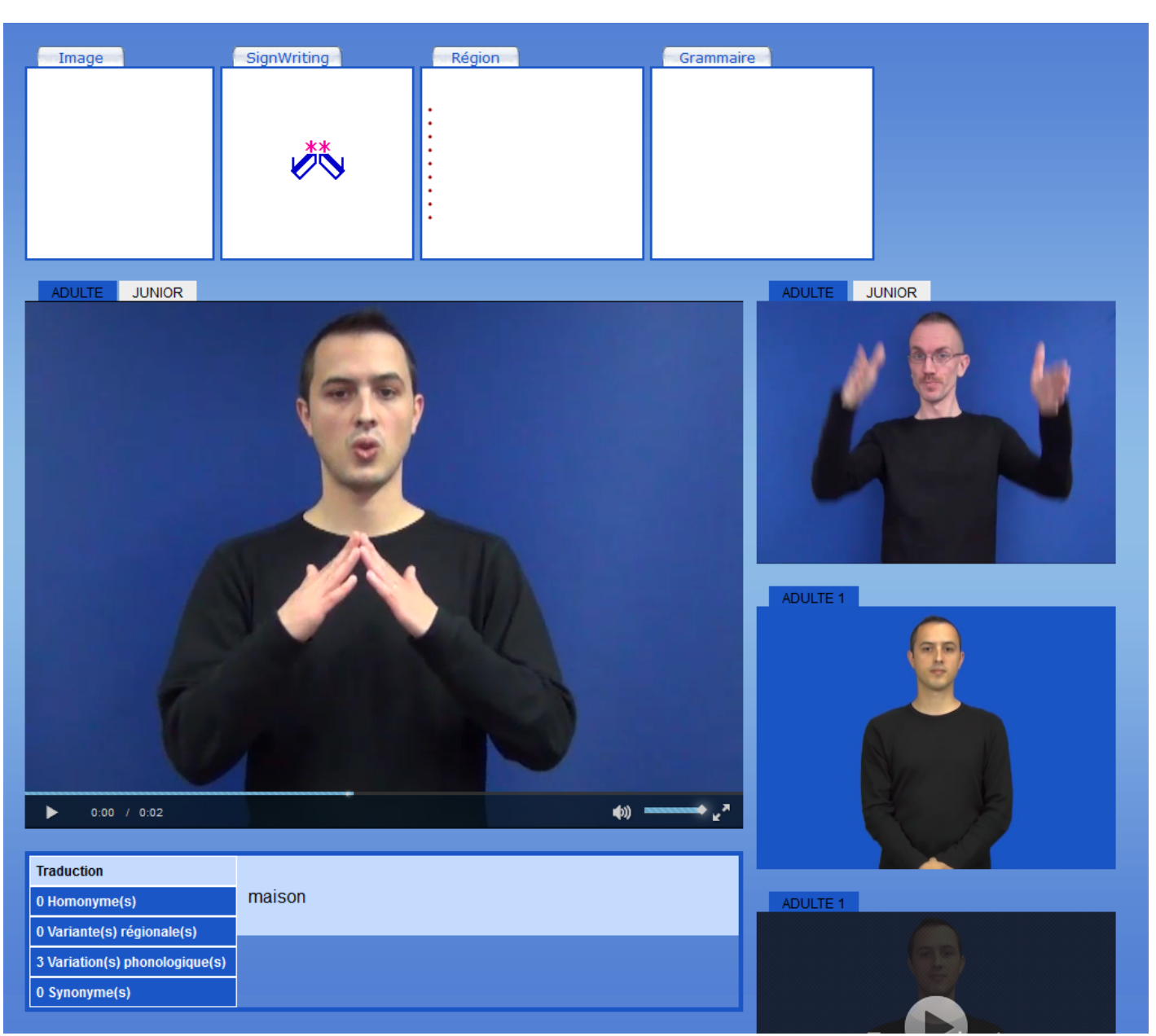


In order to improve the quality and the reliability of the annotation work, we developed an online lexical database: **the Lex-LSFB**.

It allows to

- 1) gather the ID-glosses encountered in the data
- 2) associate each Id-gloss with a video of the sign
- 3) share them with the team.
- 4) add or edit glosses in the database
- 5) add meta-information about each entry (gif file)

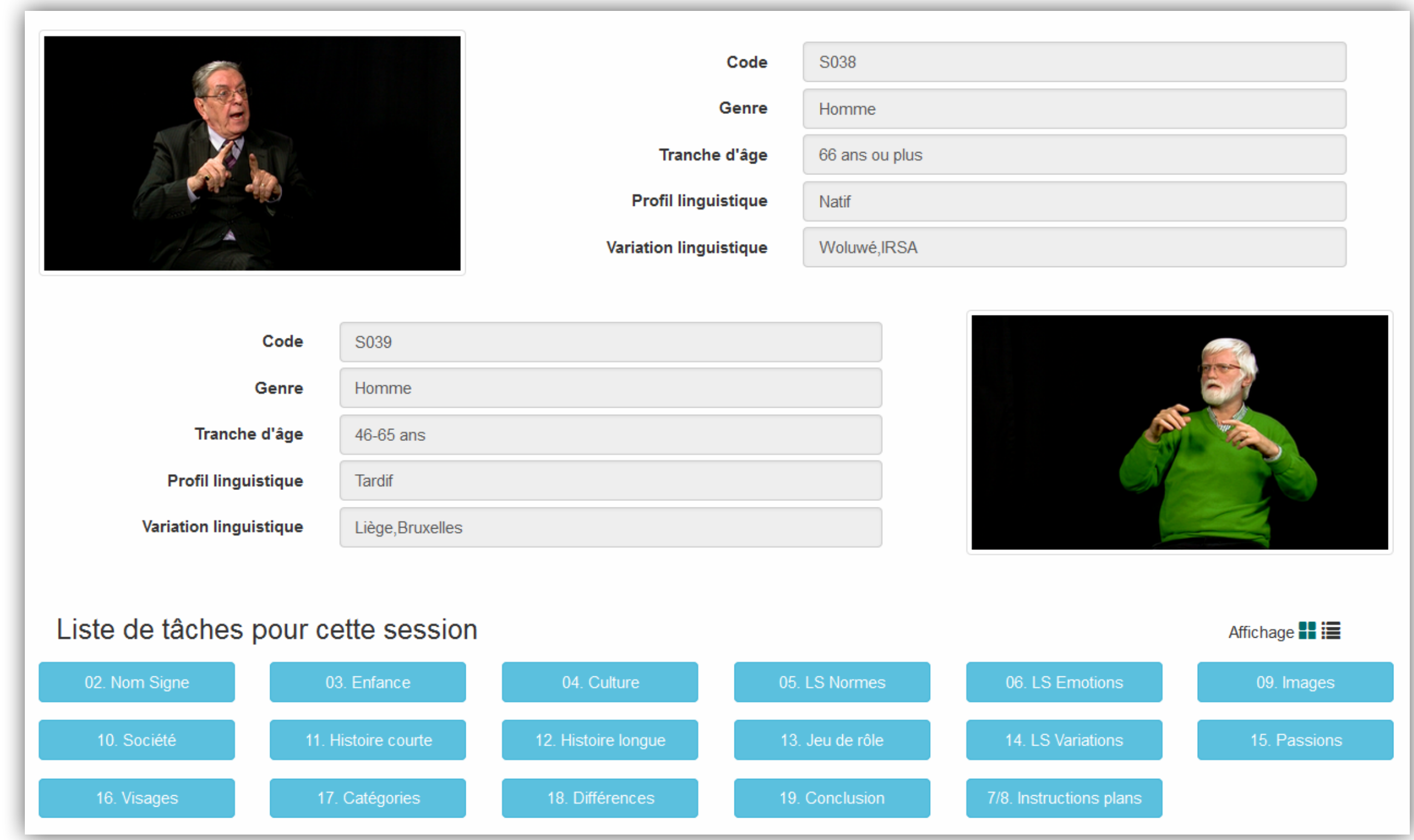
The application is **linked to ELAN** as an External Controlled Vocabulary.

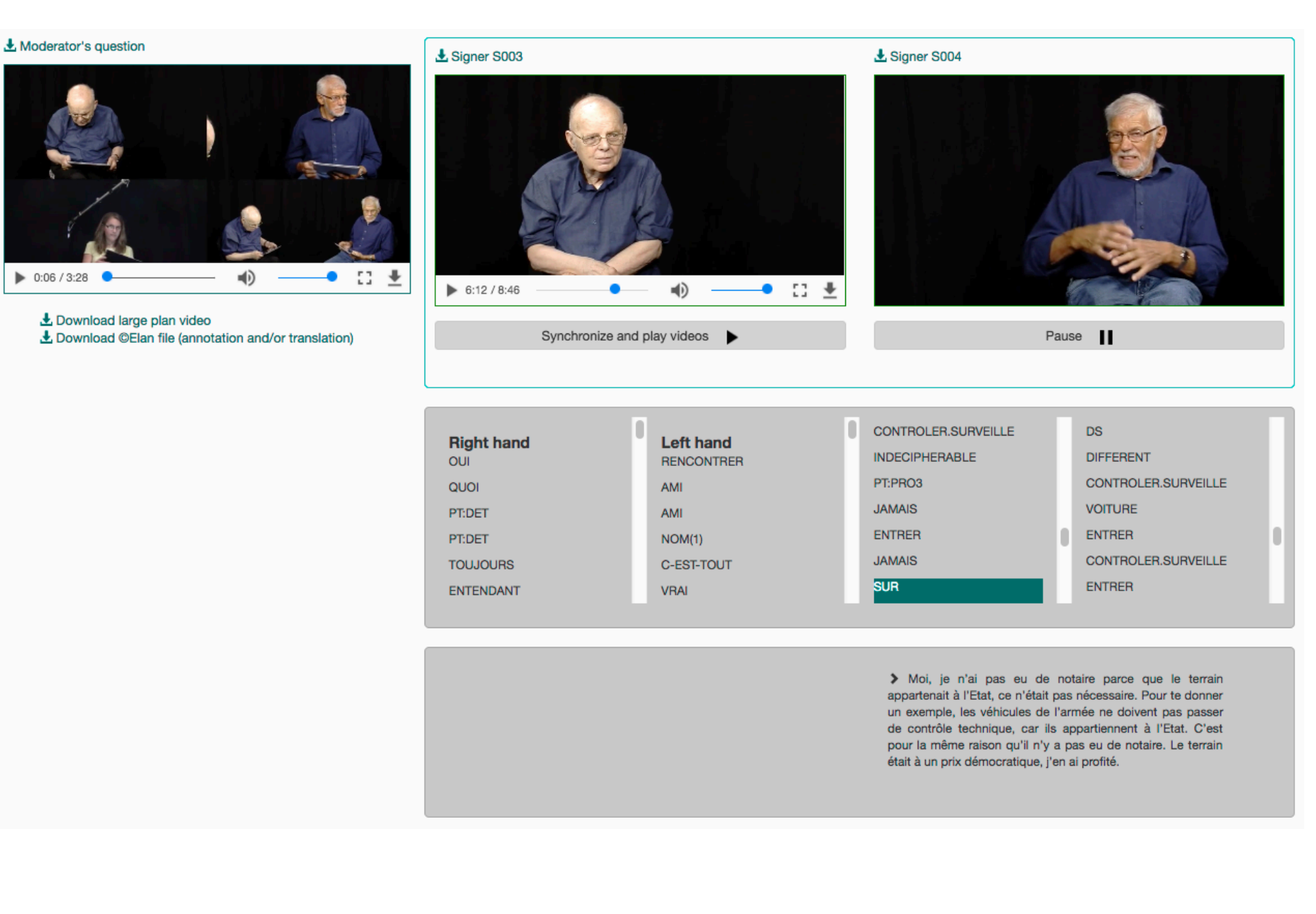


- **available on the website** to any visitor without any hard installation and without any system requirement
- **searchable directory** containing all the glosses used in the annotation files (with keywords and video-like view of the sign)
- **linked to an external online dictionary of LSFB** developed by the LSFB Association in collaboration with the LSFB Lab (<http://dicto.lsfb.be/dico>) (with definition, examples in LSFB, etymological information when available, information about the regional distribution of the sign, links towards regional variants, homonyms and synonyms.)

### 3. The Website

- Access to the whole content of the corpus :**
- **data** (all videos and eaf ELAN files can be downloaded)
  - **metadata** (about signers and the tasks)
  - **annotations**
  - **translations**
- (displayed in real time while the videos are playing)





- **browse and query the data and metadata**
- **3 kinds of entries :** search, free consultation, consultation by signer
- **six different ways to find videos**
  1. by signer's profile
  2. by regional variants
  3. with descriptors that depict the content of the video
  4. by ID-Glosses or keywords,
  5. choosing the visual materials used for the tasks
  6. by showing only the videos that are accompanied by annotations and/or translation.
- **simple visit or create an account**
- **3 profiles of account :** public, professional (teacher, interpreter) or researcher
- each registered user has a **personal session**: add comments linked to a specific video, tag videos as favorites, choose parameters (the automatic display of annotations and/or translation, the main colour of the website, etc.)



Par signeur



Par variante régionale



Par descripteur



Par signe ou par entrée lexicale



Par support visuel



Filtre annotation / traduction



Dans 95% des cas, les enfants sourds naissent de parents entendants. Cela implique que les locuteurs d'une langue signée sont rarement des signeurs nés (et plus rarement encore des signeurs nés de deuxième génération). Nombreux sont ceux qui ont acquis la LSFB dans leurs premières années de scolarité (signeurs quasi-natifs). Pour d'autres encore, la LSFB est devenue une langue quotidienne après l'âge de 7 ans, voire à l'adolescence (signeurs tardifs). Le corpus représente la variété de ces profils.

D'autres variables liées aux participants sont également présentes et comparables : les variations régionales, les variétés liées à l'âge des signeurs et à leur sexe. Pour l'appariement des signeurs au sein d'une session, les critères ont été, par ordre hiérarchique, le profil linguistique, la région, l'âge et le sexe.

The website is available in **French, English, LSFB and International Signs**. All the videos are made available for people with Usher syndrome.

[www.corpus-lsfb.be](http://www.corpus-lsfb.be)

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