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The noun-verb distinction in established and emergent sign systems: Supplemental Material

Natasha Abner, Molly Flaherty, Katelyn Stangl, Marie Coppola, Diane Brentari, Susan Goldin-Meadow

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Supplementary materials for

‘The noun-verb distinction in established and emergent sign systems’,

by Natasha Abner, Molly Flaherty, Katelyn Stangl, Marie Coppola, Diane Brentari, & Susan Goldin-Meadow.

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LANGUAGE	DISTINCTION TYPE	DISTINCTION DESCRIPTION
American Sign Language (ASL)	Repetition, Amplitude, and Manner of Movement	Verbs are articulated with longer movement that may or may not be repeated and does not have a restrained or tense manner. Nouns are produced with short, restrained movements that are repeated. Nouns show a preference for object handshapes. (Supalla & Newport 1978, Brentari et al. 2015)
Australian Sign Language (Auslan)	Repetition and Amplitude of Movement; Mouthing	Nouns are more frequently produced with repeated movements that are shorter than the movement of the associated verbs. Nouns are more frequently accompanied by mouthing of the spoken language equivalent word. (Johnston 2001)
Austrian Sign Language (ÖGS)	Duration of Movement; Mouthing	Verbs are articulated with a longer duration than nouns. Nouns are more frequently accompanied by the mouthing of the spoken language equivalent word. (Hunger 2006)
Italian Sign Language (LIS)	Amplitude and Duration of Movement	Verbs are articulated with a larger amplitude of movement. Verbs are articulated with a longer duration than nouns. Nouns show a preference for object handshapes. (Pizzuto & Corraza 1996, Brentari et al. 2015)
Jordanian Sign Language (LIU)	Repetition and Manner of Movement	Nouns are reduplicated. Verbs may or may not be; nouns are articulated with a restrained manner of movement. (Hendriks 2008)
Quebec Sign Language (LSQ)	Mouthing	Nouns are more frequently accompanied by the mouthing of the spoken language equivalent word. (Voghel 2005)
Russian Sign Language (RSL)	Repetition and Amplitude of Movement; Mouthing	Nouns are reduplicated; verbs may or may not be. Verbs are articulated with a larger amplitude of movement. Nouns are more frequently accompanied by the mouthing of the spoken language equivalent form. (Kimmelman 2009)
Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT)	Repetition of Movement	Nouns are not reduplicated; verbs may or may not be. (Schreurs 2006)
Turkish Sign Language (TİD)	Repetition of Movement	Nouns are not reduplicated; verbs may or may not be. (Kubus 2008)

TABLE S1. Formational patterns that have been documented to distinguish nouns from verbs. The patterns documented in this table are not intended to be exhaustive and focus on findings from conventionalized Deaf community sign languages.

ITEM	TARGET	VIGNETTE DESCRIPTION	ITERABILITY OF ASSOCIATED ACTION
Glasses	Practice	A woman drops a pair of glasses into a trash can.	N/A
Glasses	Practice	A man drops a pair of glasses into a glass of water.	N/A
Glasses	Practice	A woman puts a blanket over a pair of glasses.	N/A
Nail Polish	Noun	A woman drops a jar of nail polish into a glass of water.	Iterable
Nail Polish	Verb	A woman paints a fingernail with nail polish.	Iterable
Ring	Noun	A man drops a ring into a glass of water.	Noniterable
Ring	Verb	A man puts on a ring.	Noniterable
Bucket	Noun	A man digs in the dirt with a bucket	Iterable
Bucket	Noun	A man drops a bucket into a trash can.	Iterable
Bucket	Noun	A bucket falls off a table.	Iterable
Bucket	Verb	A man pours water from a bucket.	Iterable
Bottle	Noun	A woman drops a bottle into a trash can.	Iterable
Bottle	Verb	A baby drinks from a bottle.	Iterable
Chair	Noun	A man puts a blanket over a chair.	Noniterable
Chair	Verb	A man sits in a chair.	Noniterable
Machete	Noun	A man drops a machete into a trash can.	Iterable
Machete	Verb	A man cuts brush with a machete.	Iterable
Camera	Noun	A man digs in the ground with a camera.	Iterable
Camera	Noun	A camera falls off a table.	Iterable
Camera	Noun	A man drops a camera into a trash can.	Iterable
Camera	Verb	A man takes a picture with a camera.	Iterable
Hammer	Noun	A woman drops a hammer into a glass of water.	Iterable
Hammer	Verb	A woman hits a wall with a hammer.	Iterable
Yucca	Noun	A man drops a yucca into a trash can.	Noniterable
Yucca	Verb	A man cuts a yucca in half.	Noniterable
Scissors	Noun	A man puts a pair of scissors into a glass of water.	Iterable
Scissors	Noun	A pair of scissors falls off a table.	Iterable
Scissors	Noun	A man digs in the dirt with a pair of scissors.	Iterable

ITEM	TARGET	VIGNETTE DESCRIPTION	ITERABILITY OF ASSOCIATED ACTION
Scissors	Verb	A man cuts a sheet of paper with scissors.	Iterable
Earring	Noun	A woman drops an earring into a glass of water.	Noniterable
Earring	Verb	A woman puts on an earring.	Noniterable
Door	Noun	A man puts a blanket over a door.	Noniterable
Door	Verb	A man opens a door.	Noniterable
Sewing Machine	Noun	A woman puts a blanket over a sewing machine.	Iterable
Sewing Machine	Verb	A woman sews fabric on a sewing machine.	Iterable
Backpack	Noun	A woman drops a backpack into the trash.	Noniterable
Backpack	Verb	A woman puts on a backpack.	Noniterable
Cart	Noun	A man puts a blanket over a cart.	Iterable
Cart	Verb	A man pulls a cart.	Iterable
Paintbrush	Noun	A man drops a paintbrush into a trash can.	Iterable
Paintbrush	Verb	A man paints a single line of paint down a wall.	Iterable
Baby	Noun	A woman puts a blanket over a baby.	Iterable
Baby	Verb	A woman rocks a baby.	Iterable
Umbrella	Noun	A woman drops an umbrella into a trash can.	Noniterable
Umbrella	Verb	A woman opens an umbrella.	Noniterable
Hammock	Noun	A woman puts a blanket over a hammock.	Iterable
Hammock	Verb	A woman swings in a hammock.	Iterable

TABLE S2. Description of all video stimuli used in Studies 1–3, including vignettes that were used to familiarize the participant with the task and were not coded or analyzed (‘Glasses’ vignettes). The first column (‘Item’) is the object present in all noun- and verb-target stimuli. The second column (‘Target’) is the noun- or verb-target classification of each video. The third column (‘Vignette description’) describes the event that takes place in the vignette. The final column (‘Iterability of associated action’) is the iterability classification of the action associated with each item. For example, the action associated with an umbrella is opening the umbrella. This action cannot be immediately repeated (an already-open umbrella cannot be opened again), so all ‘Umbrella’ stimuli are coded as ‘noniterable’ because that associated action is noniterable.

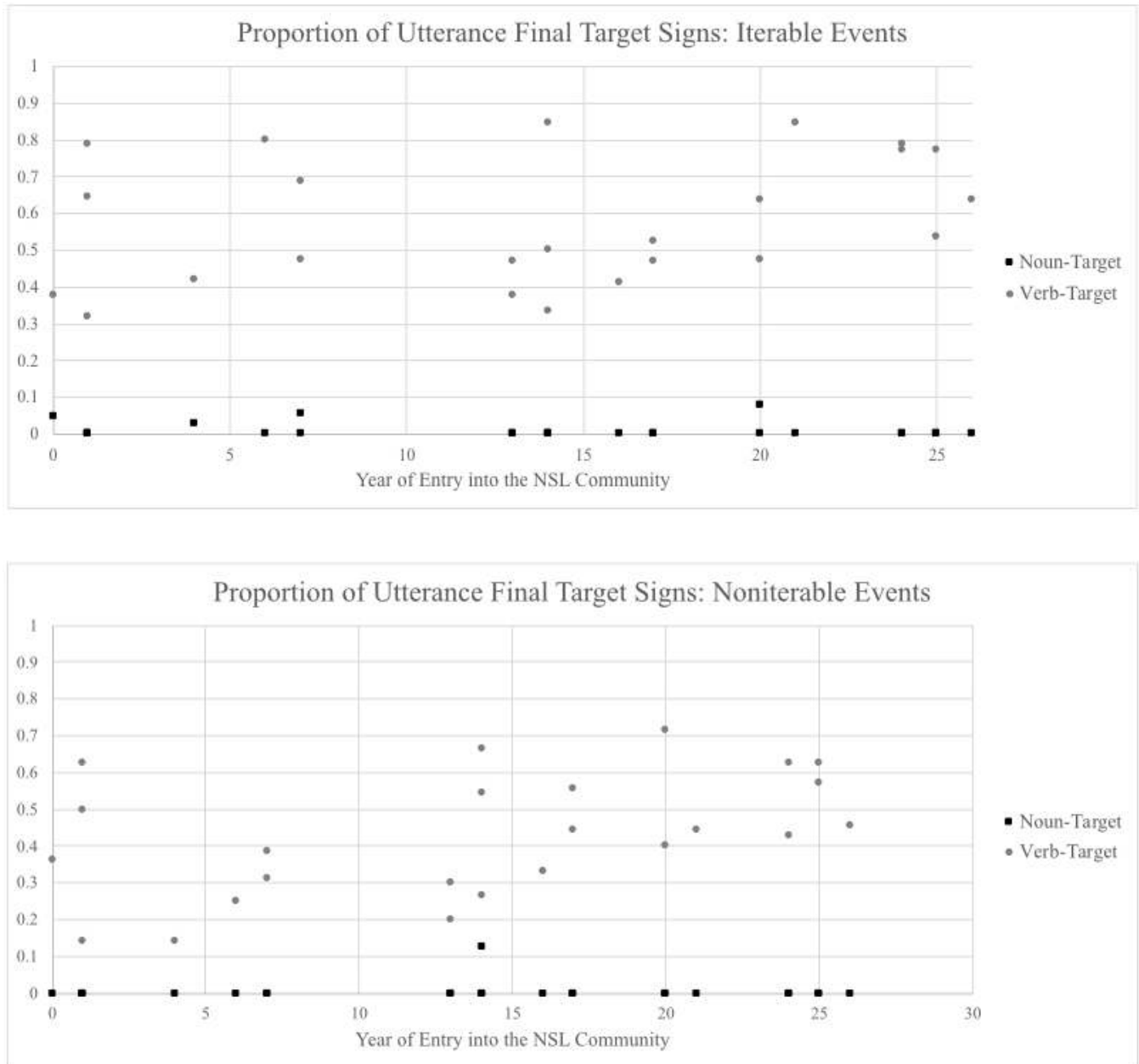


FIGURE S1. Proportion of utterance-final target signs produced by NSL signers in response to noun-target (black squares) and verb-target (gray circles) vignettes. Each point represents an individual signer. Signers are ordered by their year of entry into the NSL community (starting with the year of entry of the first individual).

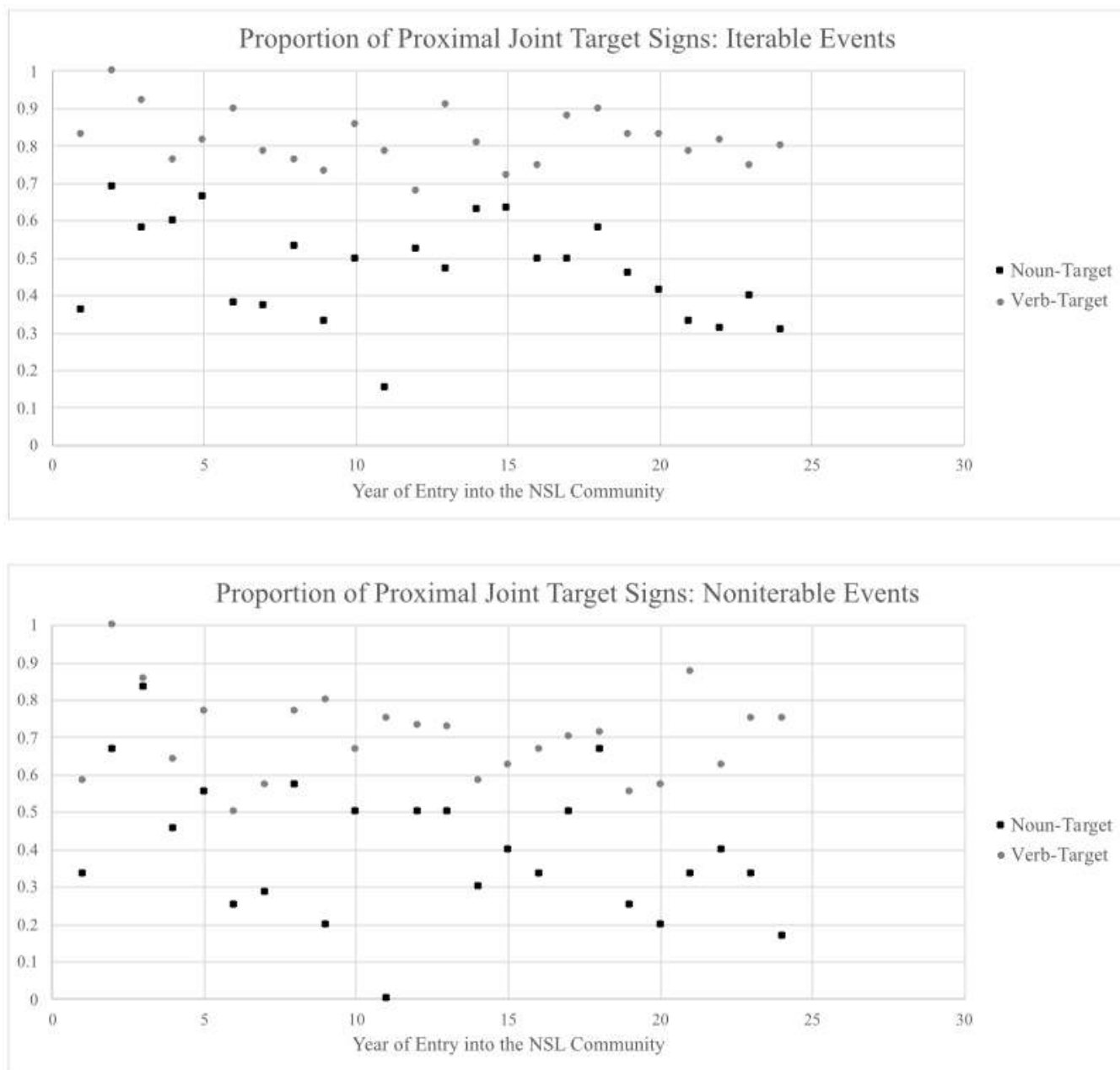


FIGURE S2. Proportion of target signs using proximal joints produced by NSL signers in response to noun-target (black squares) and verb-target (gray circles) vignettes. Each point represents an individual signer. Signers are ordered by their year of entry into the NSL community (starting with the year of entry of the first individual).

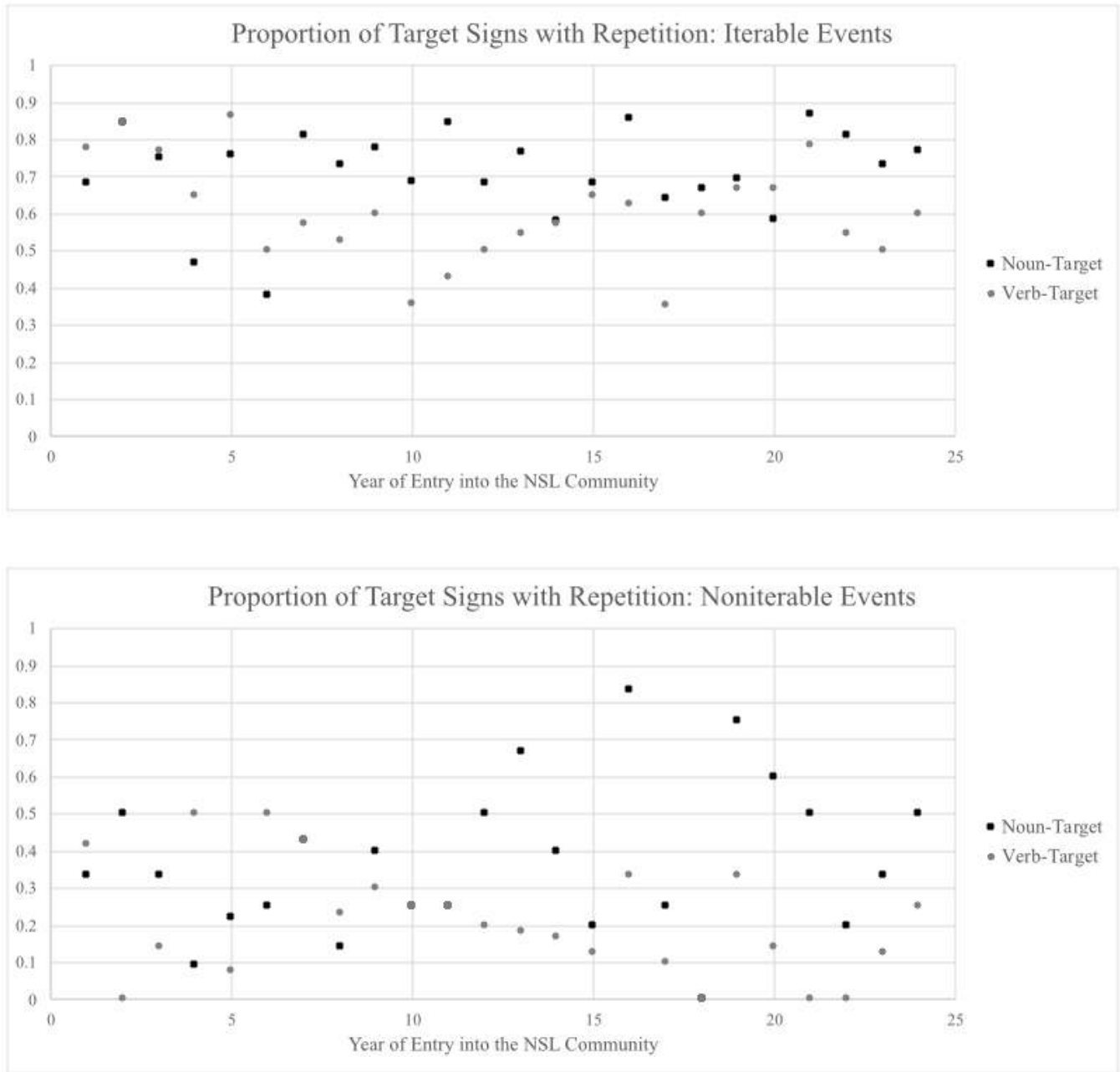


FIGURE S3. Proportion of target signs using repetition produced by NSL signers in response to noun-target (black squares) and verb-target (gray circles) vignettes. Each point represents an individual signer. Signers are ordered by their year of entry into the NSL community (starting with the year of entry of the first individual).

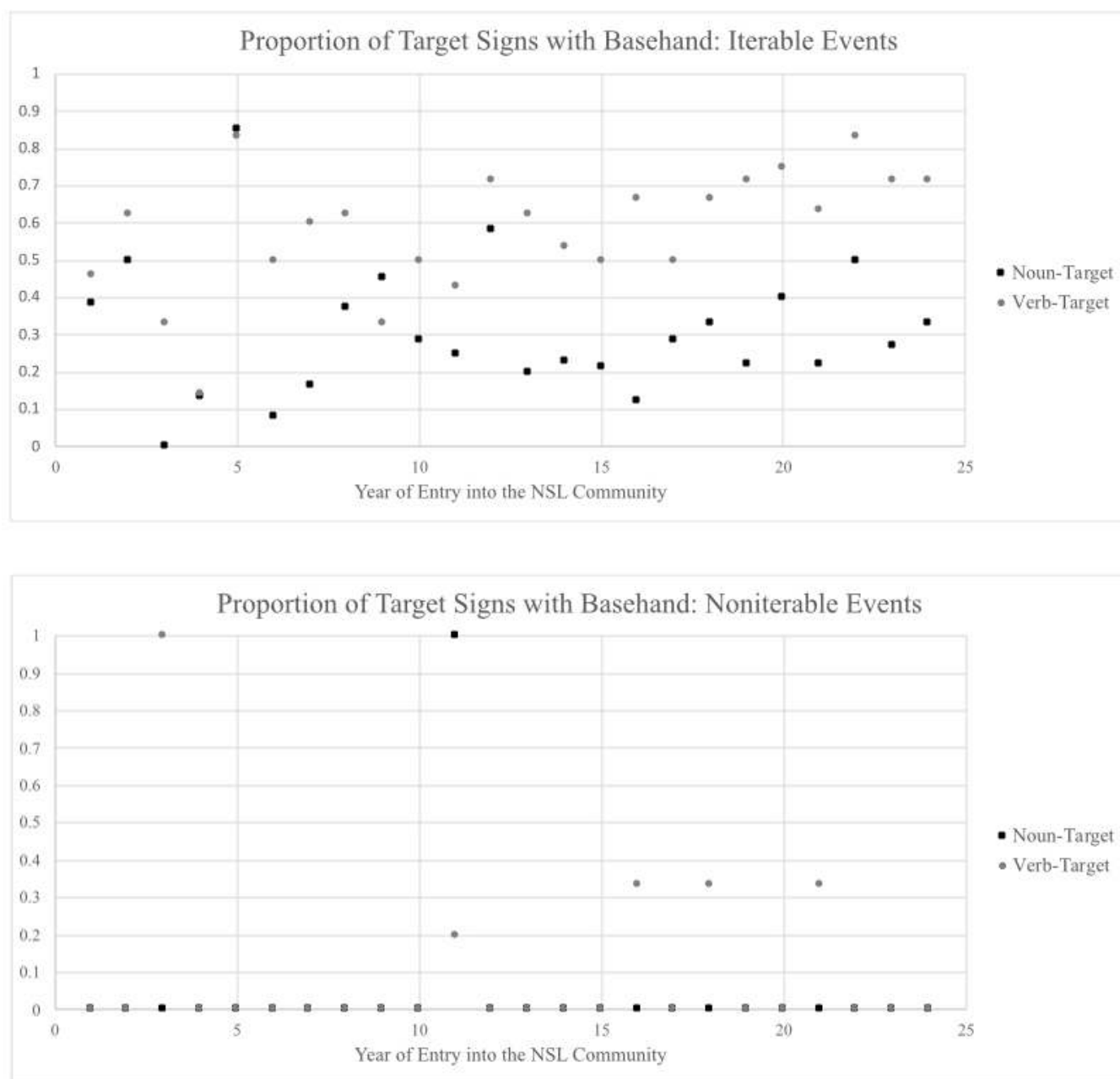


FIGURE S4. Proportion of target signs with a base hand produced by NSL signers in response to noun-target (black squares) and verb-target (gray circles) vignettes. Each point represents an individual signer. Signers are ordered by their year of entry into the NSL community (starting with the year of entry of the first individual).