

UDC 81'42=811.111

DOI <https://doi.org/10.28925/2412-2491.2026.2616>

## VERBO-GESTURAL EFFECTS IN U.S. VICE PRESIDENT J.D. VANCE'S 2025 MUNICH SPEECH

**Serhiy Potapenko**

Kyiv National Linguistic University

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8623-3240>

[serhiy.potapenko@knl.u.edu.ua](mailto:serhiy.potapenko@knl.u.edu.ua)

**Vasyl Andriyko**

Kyiv National Economic University named after Vadym Hetman

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0006-5354-9445>

[andriyko\\_vasyl@kneu.edu.ua](mailto:andriyko_vasyl@kneu.edu.ua)



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

*The paper reveals how US vice president J.D. Vance's hand gestures accompanying the 2025 Munich speech support the accusation effect created by the verbal means. The applied "transforming idea into effect" procedure takes into account discursive and cognitive semiotic perspectives of speech production. The gestures studied in the paper comprise outstretching the right or the left hand as well as outstretching or clasping both hands. The gestures are interpreted relative to the three parts of accompanied utterances: pre-gestural, expressing the speaker's intention prior to hand movement; gestural, simultaneous with the hand movement; post-gestural, following the gestural part if it opens the statement. It is found that the outstretching of the right or left hand is associated with the visuospatial and logical functions of the corresponding hemispheres of the brain. Consequently, the pre-gestural parts of the utterances involving the right-hand movement refer to the speaker's personal experience while the utterances accompanied by the left-hand movement refer to mental operations related to thinking over the past, present or future as well as to the use of negation. Meanwhile, the simultaneous use of both hands combines the visuospatial and logical functions of the right and left hemispheres of the brain contributing to the formation of image schemas, i.e. dynamic recurring patterns of organism-environment interactions. The outstretching of both hands evokes the CONTAINER schema, which outlines boundaries, underlying the verbal reference to unity, big quantities or textual cataphoric relations. The clasping hands gesture represents the BLOCKAGE schema symbolizing the speaker's resentment to particular European policies which is also reflected in a substantial length of the corresponding utterances and in fronting the gestural component to emphasize the accusations made.*

**Keywords:** hand gesture, effect, verbal means, discourse, cognitive semiotics, brain, image schema, J.D. Vance, 2025 Munich speech.

**Потапенко С.І., Андрійко В.І. Словесно-жестові ефекти у виступі віце-президента США Джей Ді Венса в Мюнхені у 2025 році**

У пропонованій розвідці показано, як жести рук віце-президента США Дж. Д. Венса під час його Мюнхенської промови 2025 року посилюють ефект звинувачення, створюваний вербальними засобами. Задіяна процедура «перетворення ідеї на ефект» ураховує дискурсивний і когнітивно-семіотичний ракурси продукування мовлення. Жести, розглянуті в статті, включають відведення вбік правої або лівої руки, з одного боку, та розведення або сплетення в замок обох рук, з іншого. Названі рухи можуть співвідноситися з трьома частинами висловлювання: дожестовою, яка позначає намір мовця перед виконанням рухів руками; жестовою, яка супроводжує рухи; післяжестовою, яка промовляється після руху рук. Встановлено, що відведення убік правої або лівої руки пов'язано з візуально-просторовими й логічними функціями відповідних півкуль мозку. Як наслідок, дожестові частини висловлювань, які передують відведенню вбік правої руки, вказують на особистий досвід мовця, а фрагменти, що передують рухові лівої руки, відбивають виконувани мисленеві процедури. Натомість одночасне використання обох рук поєднує візуально-просторові й логічні функції правої та лівої півкуль мозку у формі образ-схем, динамічних повторюваних моделей взаємодії тіла людини й навколишнього середовища. Розведення обох рук окреслює образ-схему КОНТЕЙНЕР, що фіксує обмеження, покладені в основу репрезентації єдності, значних кількостей або текстових катафоричних відношень. Сплетення обох рук перед собою співвідносне з образ-схемою ПЕРЕШКОДА, яка символізує неприйняття мовцем певних європейських реалій, підсилене значною довжиною відповідних висловлень і висуненням на їх початок жестових частин, які акцентують декларовані звинувачення.

**Ключові слова:** жест руки, ефект, мовні засоби, дискурс, когнітивна семіотика, мозок, образ-схема, Дж. Д. Венс, мюнхенська промова 2025 року.

## Introduction

The notion of effects goes back to Aristotle who related their creation to metaphors, similes, jokes (Aristotle, 1926, p. 397, 409). With time this modest list of means of effect formation came to cover argumentation, subordination, repetition, surprise (Perelman, Olbrechts-Tyteca, 1991, p. 45, 157, 326), alongside distinguishing different types of effects: comic, humorous, ludicrous, poetic, aesthetic (Perelman, Olbrechts-Tyteca, 1991, p. 117, 189, 225, 137, 142). The more modern list of means of creating effects suggested in rhetorical stylistics includes congeries, amplification, bracketing, homiginization (Fahnestock, 2011, p. 242, 252). Naturally, the ever broadening list of types of effects and of the means of their formation poses a question of their limits which compels some scholars to give up the idea of making up a compendium of effects altogether and to turn to their more general interpretations. One of those ways is to use the confluence of logos, ethos, and pathos (de Oliveira, Oswald, 2023, p. 7) subdividing the effects into four categories, with respect to whom or what the message impacts. Effects of the speaker are linked to ethos, those on the audience are related to pathos, those on

the message are connected with logos, with all of them affecting conversational dynamics (de Oliveira, Oswald, 2023, p. 7). A different way of dealing with effects is to replace them with pragmatic perlocutionary force concerning the impact on the addressee (de Oliveira, Oswald, 2023, p. 6) though it overlooks the speaker's illocutionary force.

Besides generalizing the classification of the effect types two more things need elaboration. First, it is the distinction between planned and achieved effects. Their existing interpretations seem to focus only on the impact that language choices have on the audience, their thoughts, emotions, and actions, as well as on a specific response or reaction from readers or listeners (Fiveable, 2024). However, as it has been noted, the passage of time generally, but not always, diminishes the effect of a speech (Perelman, Olbrechts-Tyteca, 1991, p. 49). Consequently, besides effects achieved it is important to distinguish the intended types which urge the speakers to employ particular linguistic and cognitive means. The opposition between planned and achieved effects is in line with the enormously influential pragmatic distinction between illocutionary and perlocutionary forces (Cummings, 2005, p. 7-8), on the one hand, and the traditional rhetorical relations of effect and cause (Aristotle, 1926, p. 265) or cause, effects, and conditions (Perelman, Olbrechts-Tyteca, 1991, p. 344), on the other. This opposition constitutes the basis of the "transforming idea into effect" procedure which is meant to reveal how a belief outlined in the beginning of a speech transforms into verbal effects, i.e. practical outcomes. This procedure has been applied to the study of the effects achieved by President Zelensky's speech to the Polish parliament (Głaz, Potapenko, 2025, p. 23) and by his two addresses to the British parliament (Petlyuchenko, Potapenko, 2026, p. 131), on the one hand, and the intended effects of his addresses to a number of parliaments worldwide (Potapenko, Talavira, 2026) as well as of the speech delivered by J.D. Vance, the American vice president, at the security conference in Munich on 14 February 2025 (Vance, 2025). Since the European media branded the speech as "stunning" the mismatch between the reasonable main idea of *shared values* announced in the first lines of the address and the media's negative assessment was explained in the article (Potapenko, Andriyko, 2025, p. 51). The current contribution turns to the verbo-gestural means of evoking the accusation effect permeating J.D. Vance's Munich speech. Consequently, **the research question** of this paper is how J.D. Vance's gestures support the accusation effect created by the verbal means in his 2025 Munich address. The achievement of this objective involves the fulfilment of

the following **tasks**: to investigate the approaches to the study of the relations between gestures and speech, to develop the methodology of revealing the co-verbal use of gestures, to determine the cognitive semiotic patterns of creating intended effects.

### **Theoretical Background**

Gestures as co-verbal signs are currently studied from the perspectives of multimodality, semiotics, and cognitive sciences.

Cognitively, gestures are considered to be the nexus of the body, mind, and world (Alibali, Hostetter, 2024, p. 515) relating the frame of reference to the human body with respect to left – right, back – front, far – in front coordinates (Boutet, Cienki, 2024, p. 276). More generally, they represent a visual scheme extracted from other perceptual experiences (Calbris, Copple, 2024, p. 218) or derived from practical actions (Payrató, 2024, p. 32).

Semiotically, gestures are important due to their multimodality (Bressem, 2024, p. 172) and polysemiotic nature (Cienki, 2024, p. 4) constructing and negotiating interaction in human communication. Being characterized by dual semiosis, gestures convey the same meaning in different semiotic modes (Harrison, 2024, p. 482) while being polysemous they relate to different referents (Mittlberg, Hinnell, 2024, p. 69). The most important semiotic distinction between gestures and verbal signs is that the former are motivated while the latter are arbitrary (Calbris, Copple, 2024, p. 220).

Discursively, gestures constitute an integrated part of speech but not its accompaniment (Harrison 2024, p. 478). They boost language production and comprehension reducing the cognitive load on the participants (Bressem 2024, p. 170). Due to their perceptual origins gestures are considered to occur most frequently when people are thinking or speaking about visual, spatial, motoric topics (Alibali, Hostetter, 2024, p. 501).

Therefore, the study of the formation of verbo-gestural effects in a public speech is to combine cognitive, semiotic, and discursive perspectives.

### **Methodological notes**

With respect to their cognitive foundations gestures as a co-verbal phenomenon are considered to be not only expression of thought but thought itself (Harrison, 2024, p. 478), a heterogeneous phenomenon, represented by a number of

conceptual structures. They comprise concepts, frames, image schemas, conceptual metaphor, etc. (Evans, Green, 2011).

The study of gestures according to the "transforming idea into effect" procedure merging discursive, semiotic, and cognitive perspectives involves two steps: those of correlation and explanation.

The *correlation* step consists in relating a gesture to the accompanying linguistic units in a delivered public speech. As a co-verbal phenomenon gestures are divided into pointing, depictive, referring to the world, and pragmatic, accompanying the relation between the speaker and addressee (Müller, 2024, p. 192). The three types of gestures seem to differ in the way they are related to speech production: pointing movements correlate with the linguistic units uttered while depictive and pragmatic ones seem to be related not only to the parts accompanied by gestures but to the utterance as a whole. Therefore the latter can be divided into two main components: pre-gestural, expressing the speaker's stance prior to the forthcoming gesture and indicating how it should be interpreted, and gestural, which is simultaneous with the hand movement performed (1):

(1) *The threat that I worry the most about vis-à-vis Europe is not Russia, it's not China, it's not any other external actor.* (Vance, 2025)

In (1), the pre-gestural part of the utterance, which is not underlined, contains the lexical units *threat* and *worry* rendering the speaker's attitude to the coming – gestural – part of the statement which is underlined. The main linguistic unit of the pre-gestural part is *threat* whose meaning is intensified by the construction *that I worry the most about*. The gestural part accompanied by the speaker clapping his hands is verbalized by two negative constructions *it's not China, it's not any other external actor*.

The *explanation* step of the analysis is aimed at interpreting the gestures accompanying the verbal segments. The most frequent cognitive method of clarifying the meaning of gestures is the use of image schemas, i.e. dynamic recurring patterns of organism-environment interactions (Johnson, 2005, p. 19). They are considered to constitute the basis of the human conceptual systems (Evans, Green, 2011, p. 180) and to motivate and structure gestures for cognitive and communicative purposes (Williams, 2019, p. 411). Moreover, it is claimed that practical actions become typified and differentiated into signs with the help of mimetic schemas underlying young children's gestures (Zlatev, 2014).

There seem to be two approaches to the analysis of the relations between gestures and image schemas: complex, relating a sequence of analyzed gestures to

all known schemas (Mittelberg, 2018), and consecutive, beginning with the analysis of simple hand movements followed by a gradual shift to the complex ones which is applied in this paper.

## Results and Discussion

The simple hand gestures made by J.D. Vance comprise outstretching the right or the left hand as well as outstretching or claspings both hands. They are interpreted drawing on the interaction of pre-gestural and gestural parts of utterances.



Figure 1. Outstretching right hand



Figure 2. Outstretching left hand

The outstretching of the right hand (Figure 1) is explained by the pre-gestural part of the utterance containing the stimuli involving visuospatial processing which elicits brain activity lateralized to the right hemisphere (Nielsen, et.al, 2013). The access to those stimuli is signaled by the following means: existential utterances, e.g. *It's great to be back in Germany* (Vance, 2025); by the perception verbs, e.g. *You hear this term, "burden sharing"* (Vance, 2025), or practical actions, e.g. *win an election; accomplish anything of value* (Vance, 2025). The outstretching of the left hand (Figure 2) is preceded by the pre-gestural components, naming mental activity which is associated with the logical thinking ascribed to the left hemisphere (Nielsen et.al, 2013). The pre-gestural parts of utterances indicate the mental operations related to thinking over the past, present or future as well as to expressing negation. The gestural parts of corresponding utterances are preceded by the noun *argument*, e.g. *The argument was that Russian disinformation had infected the Romanian elections* (Vance, 2025); the verb *know*, e.g. *And we know the situation, it didn't materialize in a vacuum* (Vance, 2025); followed by the verb *bill*, e.g. *Everything from our Ukraine policy to digital censorship is billed as a defence of democracy* (Vance, 2025).

The pre-gestural parts of utterances preceding references to the future solutions of the current problems include the verbs *focus*, e.g. *America focuses on areas of the world that are in great danger* (Vance, 2025), and *can*, e.g. *Much of value that can be accomplished with the kind of democratic mandate* (Vance, 2025). The negative pre-gestural parts of utterances precede the gestural components referring to the perceived phenomena associated with the right hemisphere, e.g. *It's not in these stone buildings or beautiful hotels* (Vance, 2025), or combine with units denoting thinking, e.g. *Expressing opinions isn't election interference even when people [...]* (Vance, 2025).



Figure 3. Outstretching both hands

The outstretching of both hands (Figure 3) is supposed to transform the visuospatial and logical functions of the right and left hemispheres into image schemas, i.e. dynamic recurring patterns of organism-environment interactions (Johnson, 2005, p. 19). Being pre-conceptual structures, in discourse they underly varying semantics revealed by the comparison of three entities: the outstretched hands, their relation to the CONTAINER image schema, representing boundedness (Johnson, 1987, p. 21), and the accompanying pre-gestural and gestural parts of utterances.

First, the outstretched hands follow the pre-gestural part with the pronoun *we*, denoting unity and indicating the speaker's support for the viewpoint expressed by the gestural part of the utterance, e.g. *We do not need to be afraid of the future* (Vance, 2025). The outstretched hands indicating unity correlate with the attribute *shared*, e.g. *What is the positive vision that animates this shared security* (Vance, 2025), or with the combination of the pronoun *we* with the adverb *together*, e.g. *The crisis I believe we all face together* (Vance, 2025).

Second, the outstretched hands emphasize the size denoted by the units *a lot, more, many*, e.g. *I see many great military leaders* (Vance, 2025), by the pronoun *they*, e.g. *In England, they voted for Brexit* (Vance, 2025), by the noun *people*, e.g. *Europeans, the people have a voice* (Vance, 2025). Consequently, the co-occurrence of the outstretched hands with the pronoun *somebody* imparts the indicated indefinite individual with a large scope, e.g. *Somebody with an alternative viewpoint might express a different point* (Vance, 2025).

Third, the outstretched hands perform a cataphoric function representing enumeration as a CONTAINER, e.g. *what no democracy, American, German, or European* (Vance, 2025), or referring to the temporal CONTAINER, e.g. *Trust me, I say this with all humor guys can survive a few months of Elon Musk* (Vance, 2025).



Figure 4. Clasping hands gesture

The clasping hands gesture (Figure 4) is considered in non-linguistic sources to exercise some sort of ‘self-restraint’, symbolically ‘clenching’ themselves back and withholding a negative reaction, usually anxiety or frustration (Parvez, 2025). The enumerated features display a link to the BLOCKAGE image schema defined as a force vector encountering a barrier and then taking any number of possible directions (Johnson, 1987, p. 45).

In the speech under analysis, the clasped hands evoking the BLOCKAGE schema indicate the speaker’s resentment to particular European policies which is also underscored by a substantial length of the corresponding utterances in comparison with those discussed above, on the one hand, and by fronting the gestural part of the utterance to emphasize the accusations made (Potapenko, Andriyko, 2025, p. 51), on the other hand.

In the first group, the accusation utterances accompanied by the clasped hands gesture are introduced by the pronoun *you* (2), (3), (4) in the pre-gestural part or

refer to the outcome of the audience's activities denoted by the construction *your democracy* (5):

(2) *If you are running in fear of your own voters, there is nothing America can do for you.* (Vance, 2025)

(3) *There is no security if you are afraid of the voices, the opinions, and the conscience that guide your very own people.* (Vance, 2025)

(4) *If you going to enjoy competitive economies, if you're going to enjoy affordable energy and secure supply chains, then you need mandates to govern.* (Vance, 2025)

(5) *If your democracy can be destroyed with a few hundred thousand dollars of digital advertising from a foreign country, then it wasn't very strong to begin with.* (Vance, 2025)

In utterances (2-5) the subordinate clauses of condition mitigate the accusation stance expressed by the gestural part with the clasped hands evoking BLOCKAGE which demonstrates the speaker's resentment to the audience's conduct.

The accusation stance can be emphasized by fronting the gestural part of an utterance beginning with the pronoun *you* (6) or *we* (7):

(6) *You can embrace what your people tell you, even when it's surprising, even when you don't agree. And if you do so, you can face the future with certainty.* (Vance, 2025)

(7) *Now we're at the point, of course, that the situation has gotten so bad that this December, Romanian court straight up cancelled the results of a presidential election.* (Vance, 2025)

In (6), in addition to the clasped hands gesture, the emphasis is made by the four-time repetition of the pronoun *you* and by the construction *your people* while the positive outcome of this activity is expressed by the non-gestural part concluding the utterance. In (7), the accusation stance is signaled by the interaction of the clasped hands gesture with fronting the pronoun *we* and by the negative meaning of the construction *has gotten so bad*.

In the accusation utterances of the second group the pre-gestural part denotes the subjects criticized while the gestural component accompanied by the clasped hands names the activities the speaker resents. The subjects blamed include police (8), a judge (9), British law enforcement (10) denoted in the pre-gestural parts of the utterances:

(8) *Police have carried out raids against citizens suspected of posting anti-feminist comments online as part of, quote,"combating misogyny on the internet, a day of action.* (Vance 2025)

(9) *The judge in his case chillingly noted, Sweden's laws to supposedly protect free expression do not .. grant ... a free pass to do or to say anything.* (Vance 2025)

(10) *British law enforcement spotted him and demanded to know what he was praying for, Adam replied, simply, it was on behalf of the unborn son he and his former girlfriend had aborted years before.* (Vance, 2025)

The gestural parts of the utterances (8-10) denote the activities of the European authorities which the speaker detests, namely, how they deal with suspects (8), protect free speech (9), or interrogate the subjects (10).

For more emphasis the accused authorities are denoted by the noun *government* (11) in the fronted gestural part or both in the pre-gestural and gestural components of utterances by the constructions *European courts* and *senior officials* (12):

(11) *Naturally, the government urged readers to report any fellow citizens suspected guilty of thought crime.* (Vance, 2025)

(12) *European courts canceling elections and senior officials threatening to cancel others, we ought to ask whether we're holding ourselves to an appropriate high standard.* (Vance, 2025)

In the accusation utterances of the third group the pre-gestural parts denote the activities the speaker personally dislikes, namely, censorship (13) and Soviet-era words (14):

(13) *I will admit that sometimes the loudest voices for censorship have come not from within Europe but from within my own country.* (Vance, 2025)

(14) *Old, entrenched interests hiding behind ugly, Soviet-era words like "misinformation" and "disinformation," who simply don't like the idea.* (Vance 2025)

The analysis of the accusation utterances reveals that the clasped hands gesture evoking BLOCKAGE schema demonstrates the speaker's personal resentment to the activities of the denoted subjects representing him as the mentor teaching the audience good manners.

The main findings of this section of the paper reveal that the gestures mainly emphasize mental structures related to perception and thinking, on the one hand, and to the activities of the brain and the mind, on the other.

## Conclusion and prospects for the research

The update of the "transforming idea into effect" procedure with the study of hand gestures allows to reveal additional means of forming the accusation effect the verbal means created in J.D. Vance's 2025 Munich speech. It is found that hand gestures are to be interpreted relative to the three parts of an utterance: pre-gestural, expressing the speaker's stance before hand movement; gestural, accompanying the hand movement; post-gestural, following the gestural part which opens the statement. The updated methodology discovers that the outstretching of the right or left hand separately is associated with the visuospatial and logical functions of the corresponding hemispheres of the brain. As a result, the pre-gestural parts of the utterances involving the right-hand movement refer to the speaker's personal experience while the utterances accompanied by the left-hand movement refer to mental operations related to thinking over the past, present and the future as well as the use of negation. The simultaneous use of both hands merges the visuospatial and logical functions of the right and left hemispheres of the brain into image schemas, known as dynamic recurring patterns of organism-environment interactions. The outstretching of both hands evokes the CONTAINER schema, representing boundedness, which underlies the portrayal of unity, big quantities or performs a cataphoric function. The gesture of clasping hands in front underlies the BLOCKAGE schema symbolizing the speaker's resentment to the European authorities' particular policies which is also signaled by a substantial length of the corresponding utterances and by fronting the gestural component to emphasize the accusations made. The prospects for further research concern the investigation of verbo-gestural effects in the speeches of other English-speaking politicians or participants of TV programs.

## REFERENCES

1. Alibali, M.W., Autumn, B.H. (2024). Gestures in Cognition: Actions that Bridge the Mind and the World. *The Cambridge Handbook of Gesture Studies*, 501-524. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. Aristotle (1926). *The Art of Rhetoric*. London: William Heinemann.
3. Boutet, D., Cienki, A. (2024). A Kinesiological Approach to Gesture Analysis. *The Cambridge Handbook of Gesture Studies*, 273-305. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
4. Bressem, J. (2024). Systems of Gesture Coding and Annotation. *The Cambridge Handbook of Gesture Studies*, 158-181. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
5. Calbris, G., Copple, M.M. (2024). The Gestural Sign: A Concrete and Reasoned Analysis of Co-Speech Gesture. *The Cambridge Handbook of Gesture Studies*, 217-248. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

6. Cienki, A. (2024). Introduction. *The Cambridge Handbook of Gesture Studies*, 1-5. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
7. Cummings, L. (2005). *Pragmatics: A multidisciplinary perspective*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
8. de Oliveira Fernandes, D., Oswald, S. (2023). On the Rhetorical Effectiveness of Implicit Meaning—A Pragmatic Approach. *Languages* 8: 6. <https://doi.org/10.3390/languages8010006>
9. Evans, V., Green, M. (2011). *Cognitive Linguistics: An introduction*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
10. Fahnestock, J. (2011). *Rhetorical Style: The Uses of Language in Persuasion*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
11. Fiveable. (2024). Rhetorical effect – English Grammar and Usage. <https://fiveable.me/key-terms/english-grammar-usage/rhetorical-effect>
12. Głaz, A., Potapenko, S. (2025). Speech effects from cognitive perspective: A case of president Zelensky's 2022 address to the Polish parliament. *Вісник Київського національного лінгвістичного університету*, 28 (2), 23-32. <https://doi.org/10.32589/2311-0821.2.2025.351718>
13. Harrison, S. (2024). On Grammar–Gesture Relations: Gestures Associated with Negation. *The Cambridge Handbook of Gesture Studies*, 446-476. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
14. Johnson, M. (1987). *The Body in the Mind. The Bodily Basis of Meaning, Imagination, and Reasoning*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.
15. Johnson, M. (2005). The philosophical significance of image schemas. In B. Hampe (Ed.), *From Perception to Meaning. Image schemas in cognitive linguistics*, 15-34. Berlin, New York: Mouton de Gruyter.
16. Mittelberg, I. (2018). Gestures as image schemas and force gestalten: A dynamic systems approach augmented with motion-capture data analyses. *Cognitive Semiotics*, 11 (1).
17. DOI: 10.1515/cogsem-2018-0002
18. Mittelberg, I., Hinnel, J. (2024). Iconicity, Schematicity, and Representation in Gesture. *The Cambridge Handbook of Gesture Studies*, 56-83. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
19. Müller, C. (2024). A Toolbox of Methods for Gesture Analysis. *The Cambridge Handbook of Gesture Studies*, 182-216. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
20. Nielsen, J.A., Zielinski, B.A., Ferguson, M.A., Lainhart, J.E., Anderson, J.S. (2013). An Evaluation of the Left-Brain vs. Right-Brain Hypothesis with Resting State Functional Connectivity Magnetic Resonance Imaging. *PLoS ONE* 8(8): e71275.
21. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0071275>
22. Parvez, H. (2025). Body language: Hands clasped in front. *PsychMechanics*. <https://www.psychmechanics.com/body-language-hands-clasped-in-front/>
23. Payrató, L. (2024). Emblems. *The Cambridge Handbook of Gesture Studies*, 7-31. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
24. Perelman, Ch., Olbrechts-Tyteca, L. (1991). *The New Rhetoric: A Treatise on Argumentation*. University of Notre Dame Press.
25. Petlyuchenko, N., Potapenko, S. (2026). Ukrainian President Zelensky's international charisma throughout the first year of war: British perspective. *Kulturwissenschaftliche Linguistik: Knotenpunkte und Netzwerke*, 131-167. Berlin: Frank & Timmer.
26. Potapenko, S., Andriyko, V. (2025). "The speech that stunned Europe": Verbal effects produced by U.S. vice president J. D. Vance's 2025 address in Munich. *Іноземна філологія: Український науковий збірник*, 138, 51-63. Львів: Львівський національний університет імені Івана Франка. <http://dx.doi.org/10.30970/fpl.2025.138.5067>
27. Potapenko, S., Talavira, N. (2026). Resistance effect in Ukrainian president Zelensky's international war discourse: cognitive-constructionist perspective. *Lodz Papers in Pragmatics*. DOI: 10.1515/lpp-2025-0033

28. Vance, J.D. (2025). Remarks by the Vice President at the Munich Security Conference. *The American Presidency Project*. <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/remarks-the-vice-president-the-munich-security-conference-0>
29. Williams, R.F. (2019). The SOURCE-PATH-GOAL image schema in gestures for thinking and teaching. *Review of Cognitive Linguistics*, 17(2), 411-437.
30. Zlatev, J. (2014). Image schemas, mimetic schemas, and children's gestures. *Cognitive Semiotics*, 7 (1), 3-29.

---

The author declares no competing interests.

\* This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>)

© The Author 2026

Publisher: Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University, Kyiv, Ukraine

Publishing history: Received 25.03.2026 ; Accepted 29.04.2026; Published 30.05.2026