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Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Where do nouns come from?; Editorial page; Title page; LCC data; Table of contents; Introduction; References; The noun-verb distinction in two young sign languages; Introduction; Distinguishing nouns and verbs; Ways to distinguish between nouns and verbs; Modality-specific characteristics of sign languages; Previous noun-verb studies in sign languages; Languages in our study; Methodology; Participants; Stimuli and procedure; Results; Discussion; Conclusion; References; Appendix 1; Appendix 2; Patterned iconicity in sign language lexicons; Introduction A different notion of iconicity in sign languagesMethod; Participants; Materials; Procedure; Coding; Results; Preferential patterning in hearing non-signing gesturers; Preferential patterning in a new sign language, Al-Sayyid Bedouin Sign Language; Preferential patterning in an established sign language, American Sign Language; Preferential

patterning in another established sign language, New Zealand Sign Language; Summary of results; Discussion; Conclusion; References; The emerging grammar of nouns in a first generation sign language; Words, things, and nouns; Zinacantec Family Homesign  
Theoretical background: Nouns in homesignZ specifier-noun constructions; Descriptions of static scenes; Strategies of enactment; Specifier + Noun concatenations; Contrasting iconic strategies: phonological distinctions between nouns and verbs?; Handshapes and handling; Action and object in Z nouns; Inconsistent strategies; A grammaticalized locative/existential copula; From locative verb to copula?; Evidence from interaction: repair; Conclusion: A part-of-speech conspiracy?; Acknowledgements; References; How handshape type can distinguish between nouns and verbs in homesign; Methods ParticipantCoding; Coding types of handshapes; Results; Types of gestures; Types of handshapes; Handshapes in nouns vs. verbs; Discussion; Using handshape type to distinguish nouns and verbs; Situating homesign within other languages in the manual modality; Conclusion; References; Subject index; Name index

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### Sommario/riassunto

All established languages, spoken or signed, make a distinction between nouns and verbs. Even a young sign language emerging within a family of deaf individuals has been found to mark the noun-verb distinction, and to use handshape type to do so. Here we ask whether handshape type is used to mark the noun-verb distinction in a gesture system invented by a deaf child who does not have access to a usable model of either spoken or signed language. The child produces homesigns that have linguistic structure, but receives from his hearing parents co-speech gestures that are structured differently f

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