

## Appendix 4 Gestures

Kokota speakers employ the following gestures:

### **Assent/agreement**

Assent and agreement is indicated by a brief sharp raising of both eyebrows. This may be accompanied by a brief sharp tilt upwards of the head. The more emphatic the assent or agreement the greater the movement of the head. As with verbal assent and agreement (using *ehe* 'yes'), this gesture is used to confirm negative as well as positive propositions.

### **Beckoning**

Another person may be beckoned by holding the hand palm down with the thumb tucked under and all four fingers moving together towards and away from the body. An attempt is often made to beckon discretely to avoid those other than the beckonee seeing the gesture. This is done by holding the arm outstretched towards the ground, making hand gesture low. The gesture is often accompanied by looking around to see if others are observing the gesture. Beckoning can be palm up if it is being done publicly, but the palm down is more usual.

### **Stop**

The approach of others is halted by holding the hand palm outwards with fingers outstretched and pointing up.

### **Pointing - directions**

Directions are indicated by an upward movement of arm, with the hand held out flat aligned in the direction indicated.

### **Pointing - locations and objects**

Pointing to locations and objects, rather than directions, is done with the face, primarily the lips. The lips are rounded and extended in the direction of the indicated location or object. This is usually accompanied by a slight movement of the head to face the indicated location or object, along with a slight tilt of the head to make the lips the most prominent part of the face. This is also typically accompanied by pointing with the eyebrows by drawing them together. Emphasis or distance is marked by increased intensity of the gesture. This gesture may be accompanied by uttering the location or object name. A linguistic effect of the gesture is the rounding of all phonemes in the accompanying utterance.

### **Eating gesture**

Eating is gestured by holding the right arm against the front of the body, with the upper arm vertical, the forearm horizontal across the waist, and the hand is cupped with the palm facing upwards. The cupped hand is moved up and down in a small movement while the arm itself remains still.