### Figure 2 *Communication strategies displayed by persons who are minimally conscious as reported by participants (Participant 1 (P1) -Participant 7 (P7))*

**Chronemics**

**Dependent on caregiver to perform activities of daily living as well as the caregiver’s willingness to create time to observe the person’s attempts to interact.**

**Silences**

Communication strategies

**Haptics**

**Reflexive behaviour:**

* Flushing of face (P7)
* Sweating (P7)
* Restlessness (P4, P7)
* Fidgeting (P4, P7)
* Turning L-R (P7)

**Kinesics**

**Eye movement:**

* Prolonged eye closure (P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6)
* Prolonged gaze (P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7)
* Lateral eye movement (P1)
* Eye blinking (P3, P7)

**Facial expressions:**

* Smiling (P2, P6)
* Frowning (P2)
* Crying (P2, P4)
* Pulling mouth (P4)
* Licking lips (P4)

**Head, neck and body movement:**

* Spitting food out (P3)
* Nodding (P2, P3, P6)
* Shaking head (P2, P3)
* Turning head slowly (P1)
* Pulling head and body away (P3)
* Hugging (P7)

**Gestures:**

* Squeezing hand of caregiver (P1, P7)
* Pointing (P2, P4, P6)
* Reaching (P3)
* Finger tapping (P3, P7)
* Grabbing hand (P3)

# Sign language (P7)

Proxemics

**Positioning of person**

**Vocalics**

**Vocalisations:**

* Humming (P5)
* Laughing (P2, P5)

**Word approximations:**

* Saying initial sound of name (P6)
* Mouthing (P3, P4, P7)
* Naming (P3, P4)

Active listening

**Artefacts**

**Physical objects available in environment**

**Low-technology communication aids:**

* Alphabet chart (P7)
* PCS symbols (e.g., toilet, shower & food) (P7)
* Writing (P7)
* Photos of real objects (P2, P3, P7)

**High-technology communication aids:**

* Light writer (P7)
* WhatsApp on mobile phone (P3, P7)
* Tablet (playing games such as Domino’s, Solitaire and Chess) (P3)