

Dialogic Resonance and Engagement in Naturalistic Interaction: Theory and Methods

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This presentation is centred on the key role of creativity as a form of engagement and categorisation in naturalistic interaction. One crucial component of dialogic engagement involves speakers' resonance, that is whether they re-use parts of the utterances they heard from others (cf. Du Bois 2014). In this respect, recombinant creativity (RC) (Tantucci & Wang 2022a, 2022b, 2022c; Tantucci 2021, forthcoming) is a key cognitive mechanism that underpins speakers' proactive re-elaboration of utterances and illocutionary forces of their interlocutors, as well as the creative intervention on patterns of behaviour in context. When resonance occurs creatively, it involves two key pragmatic and conceptual mechanisms: relevance acknowledgement and schematic categorisation. A persistent tendency towards the proactive reformulation of linguistic material that is produced by a peer is a textual indicator of relevance acknowledgement. This is because what is said by the other speaker is overtly put on record and treated as useful information for the continuation of the interaction. The opposite trend – to be measured on a large scale – is an indicator of lack of engagement. RC is also key for speakers' interactional ability to jointly establish constructional and socio-pragmatic schemas and generalise form and meaning as a process of shared categorisation that occurs during the here-and-now of a dialogic exchange. In the presentation I will present an operational framework for the statistical analysis of RC and discuss applications of this model for language change (Tantucci et al. 2018), the analysis of ontogenetic development (Tantucci & Wang 2022b), cross-cultural interaction (Tantucci & Wang 2021; 2022a) and ASD speech (Tantucci & Wang 2022c).

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