



The Facial Action Coding System

Forschungskolloquium der Phonetik, 28.01.2019

Abstract

The Facial Action Coding System (FACS) by Ekman/Friesen/Hager (1978/2002) offers a comprehensive description system of facial nonverbal communication. It describes facial expressions through muscular activity with the goal of enabling and unifying the notation of facial movement and underlying emotions in an international and interdisciplinary way. FACS is mostly applied in emotion research and robotics. The basic approach is to determine visible facial movement through 44 action units (AU) which summarize the activity of one or more underlying facial muscle. Additionally, FACS encodes head and eye movements and describes the intensity of every AU. Contrary to the anatomical basis which describes and locates every single muscle in the human face, FACS analyzes the facial movement that leads to facial expressions. Through the description of the AUs and their combination, a correlation of facial movement and basic emotions like anger or joy becomes possible. To become a certified FACS coder, it is necessary to pass a FACS test of the Paul Ekman group. This talk gives an overview of what FACS is and invites interested people to train and describe some AUs. It also offers information of how to become a FACS coder.

*** Bring a hand mirror or a mobile device with camera***