

Affect in Language

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Gathering and separating communities: Affects and discourse in digital communication

Albin Wagener (University of Nantes / Campus Tech)

Human interaction works through affects in a cognitive way (Frijda 2003), insofar as we use perceptions and representations in order to communicate (Auchlin 2003). Such perceptions are directly drawing on the emotional stances that link us to the social world and the meaning we make of it (Danziger 2006). We call these meaningful ties *semantic nodes* (Wagener 2012), and our goal in this presentation is to look at the way these nodes shape digital communication, especially when it comes to gathering people online-and separating them through discrimination. We will draw on previous studies (Wagener 2014, Wagener 2015, Wagener 2017) and present their corpora in order to take a look at the way the expression of affect in language actually creates communities. However, such online communities may share the same emotions, yet construct themselves against other imagined communities, thus developing a collective narrative of their own (Benhabib 2002, Meinhof & Galasinski 2005). We need to underline the fact that our definition of language is rooted in the ontologic multimodality of digital and human interaction, (Fairclough 1992), thus giving a semiotic flavour to our work (Stockinger 2001). In this perspective, affects are not only materialized through linguistic utterances, but also drawing on interdiscursive and argumentative processes (Garric & Longhi), which may involve images, communicational constraints, digital forms of interaction and, of course, rhetorics and styles.

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**Can people identify NSM based explications for words for emotions?
Preliminary findings concerning native speakers of Finnish**

Ulla Vanhatalo (University of Helsinki), Heli Tissari (University of Stockholm),
Mari Siironen (University of Helsinki), Taru Lilja (University of Helsinki)

This is a first report of how well native speakers of Finnish can identify previously published explications of words for emotions in the Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM). It relates to the semantic conceptualization of various emotions in the Finnish language but also compares the English and Finnish languages. The findings will be based on a questionnaire which we will launch in November 2017. The purpose of the questionnaire is to investigate whether it is easy for the respondents to understand meaning as explicated in NSM and, secondarily, if explications published for central words for emotions in English (and translated into Finnish) correspond to their understanding of similar words in Finnish. It will also be interesting to see if the respondents agree in their answers to the questionnaire. The questionnaire will focus on the explications of the following words: anger, disgust, fear, joy, love, sadness and surprise. This research is not only relevant in testing whether NSM lends itself to uses that concern laypeople – for example, when talking about how they feel – but also contributes to our understanding of the universality of emotions.

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Talking about emotional pain in healthcare consultations with migrants in France

Vanessa Piccoli (ICAR, ENS Lyon)

To make their asylum application, migrants arriving to France have to pass through a number of physical and mental health consultations. In these encounters, effective communication is frequently hard to reach: asylum seekers and healthcare professionals do not always speak the same language, interpreters are not always available and, even when they are, difficulties in conversations are not solved (see Ticca & Traverso 2015).

During healthcare consultations, asylum seekers are often asked to talk about their feelings. The doctor's correct understanding of their emotional and psychological state can be crucial for their treatment as well as for the success of their asylum application. But putting into words painful and complex feelings is especially hard in these plurilingual contexts where participants can have different ways to display and conceptualise emotions (Dewaele 2010) and asylum seekers have to speak a second language or to rely on an interpreter.

Grounded on a conversation analytic approach (Sacks 1992) and based on a large corpus of video-recorded naturally occurring interactions, this contribution deals with communication between French-speaking healthcare professionals and asylum seekers (including or not interpreters). In particular, it focuses on sequences where participants talk about painful feelings, using a large variety of practices (gestures, vocal productions, etc.). Through a sequential and fine-grained multimodal analysis, this study will show how asylum seekers, interpreters and healthcare professionals work cooperatively to reach mutual understanding in these delicate sequences and it will highlight participants' interactional creativity.

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Multilingual expression of affect in a Finland-Swedish girl's texting with friends

Martina Björklund (Åbo Akademi University)

In today's Finland all young people have at least some competence in more than one language: through growing up in bilingual families or bi-/multilingual societies, through migration, foreign language study, or through a combination of these. There is a growing body of research into and theorizing about multilingual language practices that see bilingual and multilingual knowledge (in the mind of individuals) as consisting not of separate linguistic systems (L1, L2, etc.) but as one single repertoire of linguistic features, associated with different named languages and language varieties, with the possibility of choosing among them and combining them (García and Li 2014). This happens in what Li Wei calls a 'translanguaging space' and involves a 'translanguaging instinct' (Li 2017).

My paper reports findings from a case study of texting between a plurilingual Finland-Swedish young adult (18 years of age when the material was collected) and three constellations of likewise plurilingual schoolmates/friends (18–19 years, with more or less knowledge of at least three languages). The base language of the messages is Southern Finland urban Swedish spoken in Turku. The exchanges contain a lot of affect, both linguistic (affect bursts (Schoebelen 2012) and emotive evaluative expressions) and iconic (smileys and likes). The great majority of linguistic expressions of affect demonstrate linguistic features from other named languages than Swedish, mostly English.

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A phenomenological understanding of the pathemic competence: towards a qualitative model of the pragmatic modulation of emotional expressions in young adults

Matthieu Josselin (University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières / University of Nantes)

The ability to adapt the expression of our emotions to the interactional context (the pathemic competence) is influential in maintaining positive social relations, as multimodal expression of emotions can be modulated to the context (Herndon et al., 2013). Studies have focused more on verbal dimensions than on non-verbal aspects of communication (Wagener & Gazaille, 2013). Studies on pragmatic dimensions have mainly focused on second language acquisition and less on adults in first language contexts (Matthews, 2014). Yet, we know little about the pragmatic and multimodal dimensions of the pathemic competence in adults, and its execution lacks further documentation. This study aims at developing a qualitative model of the pathemic competence by identifying its pragmatic processes, characteristics and contingencies. Thus, phenomenological data is collected through explicitation interviews with students (Vermersch, 2014). Following three conflict management workshops, classes, students went through three individual interviews to recall and analyze recent interactional episodes of their own pragmatic modulation of emotional expressions during class. Data is then analyzed using Grounded Theory to conceptualize the produced meaning through induction (Luckerhoff & Guillemette, 2012). Such an empirical model of the pathemic competence could be a step further to a broader understanding of the competence, and would nurture empirically-based intervention.

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Explicating or implying: Conventionalization, scalarity and contextualization of the expression of affect

Marja-Leena Sorjonen (University of Helsinki)

In this paper I will discuss the distinction between explicating and implying affect verbally, and the continuum between them. I will do that with the help of analyzing language in spoken everyday interactions; data from interactions in social media and fictional dialogues are also used.

I will suggest that there is an interplay between the character of expressing affect and the character of social action, so that some affective elements (e.g. evaluative adjectives) have conventionalized as core elements of the design of certain social actions labelled as affective (e.g. assessments). This conventionalization may have resulted in affectively weak language and action. On the other hand, declining to understand the non-affective meaning expressed by the co-participant (e.g. reference of a pronoun) may make the interaction affective. I will also discuss ways in which affective verbal responses within an affiliate-relevant activity can be placed on a scale of affiliative force.

Hostility and expressive prosodic patterns during political debates: a perceptive and acoustic analysis of Montreuil-sous-bois' municipal council in 2013

Charlotte Kouklia (University of Paris III: Sorbonne Nouvelle)

In order to be convincing and increase their chances to be elected, politicians have to give the image of a moral, benevolent and competent individuals. For contemporary psycho-sociologists (Poggi & D'Errico, 2010), politicians should also appear to be dominant, especially in political debates, where it becomes an essential quality. Dominance signals may include a strong displaying of self-control and more or less tacit aggressive expressions. This study questions the relationship between the construction of a favorable ethos and the display of phonetic and prosodic cues of expressiveness during political debates.

Perceptive (perception of hostility, 22 listeners) and acoustic analysis have been conducted on a dataset of extracts of debates from Montreuil's city council in 2013, period in which it was held in a climate of great tension. 125 audio extracts from the Mayor (Dominique Voynet) and 4 of her political opponents have been analyzed through a manual cross annotation of prosodic and syntactic boundaries following the recommendations of Degand & Simon (2011) in order to establish a typology of basic discourse units.

Results show a positive correlation between perceived hostility and the number of prosodic structures incongruent with syntactic structures. Moreover, the phonetic realization of such boundaries were correlated with characteristics deviating from canonical expected characteristics (Léon, 2005) such as a loss of syllabic isochrony, absence of progressive lengthening, or descending or flat continuative melodic contours.

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Reflection of emotive values of diminutives in dictionaries and Russian National Corpus

Irina Spita-Ivanov (Åbo Akademi University)

The Russian language abounds with linguistic means, among others affixes, for indexing speakers' age, sex, social status, relations and the attitude to the topic of conversation. But despite the frequent use of such affixes, especially diminutives, they remain sufficiently unexplored and the wealth of their emotional values is not fully reflected in the dictionaries.

One of the participants of a linguistic experiment by Dewaele (Dewaele 2017) called the absence of such linguistic resources as diminutives in English as one of the main reasons for the inability to express her emotions in full measure. Dewaele compared it with the lack of required sugar in a cup of tea. But with respect to Russian, I would compare it with tea without any brew at all. The fact is that the number of suffixes carrying a modification function in Russian is twice as large as in other languages, and apart from the actual diminutive value, they transmit "50 shades" of emotional context, like teasing, caressing, familiar, vulgar, pejorative, or scornful.

In my presentation, I will compare the meager description of words with diminutives in modern vocabularies and the variety of their meanings in texts and live speech on the basis of the analysis of the Russian language corpus. Such a comparison shows the lack of description of the emotive values of Russian diminutives, which entails, for instance, serious gaps in the textbooks of Russian as a foreign language, making them far from the real every-day speech, or incomplete, poor translation of texts with the help of online applications since they base on the uploaded dictionaries and no help of native speakers.

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Is movement a catalyst for affectivization? – The case of remaining becoming a marker of stance

Gäidig Dubois (University of Helsinki / University of Paris IV-Sorbonne)

Finnish traditionally distinguishes between two verbs of remaining, i.e. denoting the continuation of a spatial or more abstract relationship: the verb *pysyä* ('to remain, stay), which governs a locative argument in a stative case, and its near-synonym *jäädä* ('to remain, stay), requiring its locative argument to be marked with a directional local case, implicating motion (or change) towards something. The dynamic, motion-implying verb *jäädä* has developed an evaluative meaning, e.g. *Avoliitto jäi lyhyeksi, mutta elämä jatkuu* 'The marriage met an early end (lit. 'remained TOWARDS-short') but life goes on' (Suomi24). Virtanen (2015) defines the "evaluative *jäädä*" as a resource for reviewing elements – in his case, Finnish academic publications – "against a backdrop of shared communal norms, values and expectations": it expresses disalignment between two viewpoints.

While on the one hand *jäädä*'s motion-like dynamics seems to make it prone to evaluativity, its stative counterpart *pysyä* on the other hand does not present a similar tendency for stance marking. Is there something in oriented motion that ties it to affect? Herlin (2005: 124) raises the same question, while reflecting on the infinitive variation of the verb *ehdiä* ('to have time') between simple first infinitive and third infinitive in illative (*ehdiä tehdä* 'to have time to do' vs. *ehdiä tekemään* 'to have time TOWARDS-doing'). Other evidence points towards this idea: for instance, Huumo (2006: 71) mentions that instances of motionally oriented adverbials with perception verbs in Finnish mark a greater implicativity by the speaker than stative adverbials. In my talk, I consider this question from the point of view of the above-mentioned verbs of remaining, a category of verbs that in itself crystallises tension between motion and non-motion.

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Emotively motivated non-predicate-final utterance structures in Japanese

Halina Zawiszová (Palacky University in Olomouc)

Japanese is traditionally considered a predicate-final language, prioritizing the SOV constituent order. However, it has been repeatedly noticed that in conversational interaction, post-possible completion of turns, including prosodically integrated utterances featuring non-predicate-final constituent order are common (e.g., Tanaka 2005; Couper-Kuhlen and Ono 2007). The present paper focuses on several types of non-predicate-final utterance structures that serve as resources for conveying the speaker's affective stance, expressing specific types of affective meanings, foregrounding the expressivity of an utterance, etc. It elaborates on the findings from prior studies (e.g., Ono and Suzuki 1992; Ono 2006), but also discusses types of non-predicate-final utterance structures that have not yet received adequate attention. For instance, it demonstrates that second person deictic expressions realized in the post-predicate position within the same intonation contour as the preceding part of the utterance function as affective stance markers, comparable to utterance-final particles. The study is based on the analysis of face-to-face conversational interactions as well as online vernacular writing on social media, which allows the author to make judgements about the degree of pragmaticalization and grammaticalization of the utterance structures, as their use in the asynchronous forms of technically-mediated communication cannot be accounted for as afterthought, repair, or clarification.

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