

Multimodal feedback in social interaction

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This paper presents an analysis of spoken and nonverbal feedback in two multimodal corpora reflecting quite different communicative situations. The first consists of eight video recordings of map task dialogues, in which one of the participants explains to the other an itinerary on a map. The two participants sit in different rooms and communicate via headphones without being able to see each other. The other corpus is a collection of twelve video recordings of free face-to-face conversations in which the participants, who met for the first time, were recorded in a studio while standing in front of each other talking. The language used in both corpora is Danish. We describe how spoken and nonverbal feedback have been annotated and give an account of the distribution of different types of feedback expressions in the two corpora. The analysis uncovers interesting differences in both amount and type (e.g. unimodal vs. multimodal) of feedback differences. These differences can be explained in terms of the different physical settings as well as the nature of the interaction, which is functional to the map task in the one corpus whereas in only serves the purpose of talking for the sake of talking in the other.

KEYWORDS: multimodal feedback, nonverbal expressions, interaction corpora, head movements