

## Multimodal profiling of intersubjectivity in spoken English: A multifactorial quantitative account

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**Problematic:** This study is a multifactorial quantitative account of the profiling of intersubjective markers in spoken English (Kärkkäinen 2003, 2006, 2007). The markers under investigation are the assertive uses of five cognition verbs, characterized by different degrees of inter-subjectivity: *I know, I believe, I think, I mean, you know*. Their usage will be examined for verbal and nonverbal contextual characteristics across three registers from less to more prepared types of discourse: informal, spontaneous conversational discourse, multipartite media debate and public address to an audience. The objective is to reveal frequency-based multimodal usage patterns of the five markers across the three registers.

**Hypotheses:** We have three hypotheses that will be tested quantitatively. Firstly, it is assumed that register effects will be observed, with more dynamic nonverbal expressivity emerging in the less prepared context of use. Secondly, it is expected that the position of the intersubjective marker within the clause will reflect varying degrees of speaker certainty and commitment with regard to the proposition. This, in turn, will exhibit differences in nonverbal expression. Finally, it is also hypothesized that a correlation will be observed between utterance initial- and final-alignment of the markers and turn-taking in terms of gestural contour.

**Data:** The data consist of videotaped semi-guided conversations between university students who are native speakers of British English and who discuss environment issues; TV debates on environmental issues broadcast in relation with COP15 (in Copenhagen in 2009) and COP21 (in Paris in December 2015); and TED talks on the theme of the environment extracted from the TED website ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)). The data amount to 6 hours in total, 2hrs for each type of discourse, and are annotated in ELAN for a range of nonverbal usage attributes that are directly relevant to the comprehensive description of epistemic stance, i.e.: manual gestures and their main functions (representational, pragmatic, discourse structuring, after Kendon 2004) components of the shrugging posture (Kendon, 2004, Streeck 2009, Debras submitted) self-adaptors (Ekman & Friesen 1969), which can take on a communicative function in indicating uncertainty (Debras 2015), head movements (McClave 2000, Kendon 2002). The discourse topic is controlled for as the data centers on environmental discourse. The data are also annotated for a range of semantic and pragmatic variables, such as speaker's commitment, epistemic function or verifiability (Krawczak 2015).

**Method & results:** The methodology employed is the profile-based or multifactorial usage-feature analysis (Geeraerts *et al.* 1994; Gries 2003; Gries & Stefanowitsch 2006; Glynn & Fischer 2010; Glynn & Robinson 2014). This approach assumes that contextualized language use is indicative of language structure, which can be identified through generalization across many usage events. By combining detailed multifactorial annotation of data with exploratory and confirmatory multivariate modeling, this method enables the identification of frequency-based patterns of multimodal language use that are statistically significant. We expect to find evidence in our data that will support the three hypotheses put forward above.



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