



HAL
open science

On the Practices of Doing Thinking or Doing Hesitation: Documenting recurrent visible practices and their synchronization with vocal actions

Loulou Kosmala

► **To cite this version:**

Loulou Kosmala. On the Practices of Doing Thinking or Doing Hesitation: Documenting recurrent visible practices and their synchronization with vocal actions. International Society of Gesture Studies, Jul 2022, Chicago, United States. hal-04335787

HAL Id: hal-04335787

<https://hal.science/hal-04335787>

Submitted on 11 Dec 2023

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Uhm...



On the practices of Doing Thinking or Doing Hesitation:

Documenting recurrent visible features and their synchronization with vocal actions



Loulou Kosmala
Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, France

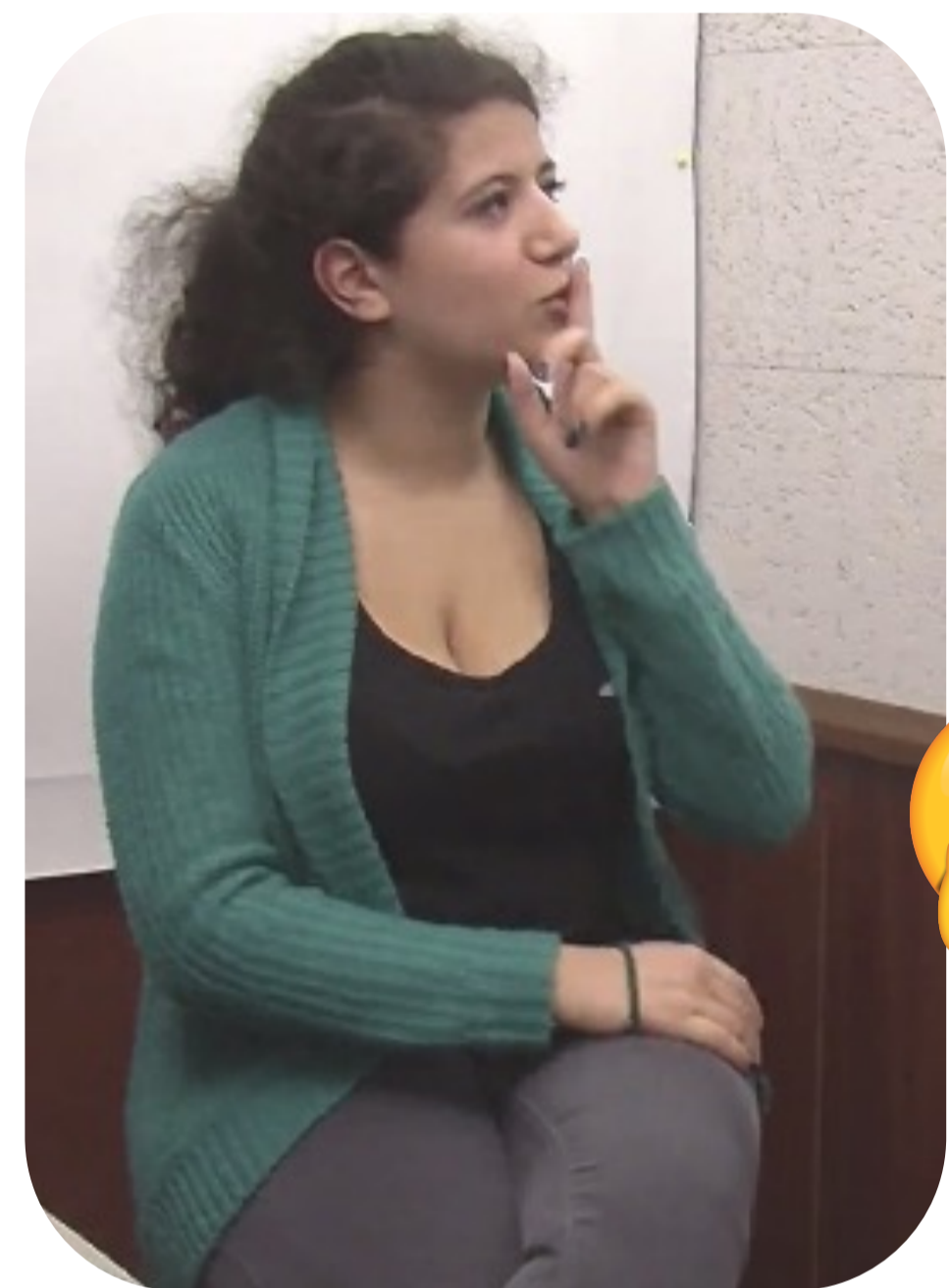


Doing thinking as an interactional practice

- Interactive display of **"thinking faces"** (Goodwin & Goodwin, 1986) to signal an ongoing search.
- Practices of **"doing thinking"** (Heller, 2021): thinking faces, wandering of the eyes, "inflexible" body posture, gaze withdrawal.
- Defined as "somewhat **stylized gestures in which the speaker pauses with a blank, puzzled, or thoughtful face**" (Bavelas & Chovil, 2018: 14).
- **Relevant public practice** performed for the co-participants to shape participation frameworks.



(Kosmala, 2021)



Conventional display of skeptical stance

Body oriented to the side, head leaning back and forth, self-touch (ear, face, chin); frown; gaze withdrawal.

Study of a corpus of semi-guided interactions in French and English

SITAF Corpus (Horgues & Scheuer, 2015)

- Tandem interactions between French and American students performing an interactive argumentative task in L1-L2 settings.

DisReg Corpus (Kosmala, 2020)

- Semi-guided interactions in French between French undergraduate students from university.

Gestural practices of doing thinking

"thinking gestures" (Gullberg, 2011), "word-searching gestures" (Stam & Tellier, 2017) or "Butterworths" (Tellier & Stam, 2012) defined as **metapragmatic gestures that enact a thinking or word searching activity.**



"Cyclic gesture"
(Ladewig, 2014)



"Finger-snap"
(Poggi, 2001)



"Finger-tap"
(Kosmala, 2021)

Towards multimodal gestalts of Doing Thinking / Doing Hesitation

- **Thinking posture** (thinking face, inflexible posture, frown, gaze withdrawal)
- **Self-touch** (hand resting on chin, touching one's face)
- **Body crouched**, oriented to the side
- Head **leaning back and forth**
- Continuous **cyclic movements** of the hand and wrist
- Repetitive **finger-snap** motions
- Repetitive **finger-tap** motions

Synchronization with vocal actions

- Filled pauses (*uhm*), nasalized vocalizations (*mm*) tongue clicks (*tst*) vowel lengthening (*a:::a*) **were found to systematically co-occur with these specific gestural practices.**
- Hesitation as an **embodied, multimodal act**, blending kinetic and vocal activities.

References

- Bavelas, J., & Chovil, N. (2018). Some pragmatic functions of conversational facial gestures. *Gesture*, 17(1), 98–127.
- Goodwin, M. (2011). Multilingual multimodality: Communicative difficulties and their solutions in second-language use. In J. Streeck, C. Goodwin, & C. LeBaron (Eds.), *Embodied interaction: Language and body in the material world* (pp. 137–151). Cambridge University Press.
- Goodwin, M., & Goodwin, C. (1986). Gesture and coparticipation in the activity of searching for a word. *Semiotica*, 62(1–2), 51–76.
- Heller, V. (2021). Embodied Displays of "Doing Thinking." Epistemic and Interactive Functions of Thinking Displays in Children's Argumentative Activities. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12, 369.
- Horgues, C., & Scheuer, S. (2015). Why some things are better done in tandem. In *Investigating English Pronunciation* (pp. 47–82). Springer. http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1057/9781137509437_3
- Kosmala, L. (2020). Euh le savez-vous? Le rôle des (dis)fluences en contexte interactionnel : étude exploratoire et qualitative. *SHS Web of Conferences*, 78, 01018. <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/20207801018>
- Kosmala, L. (2021). On the Specificities of L1 and L2 (Dis)fluencies and the Interactional Multimodal Strategies of L2 Speakers in Tandem Interactions. *Journal of Monolingual and Bilingual Speech*.
- Ladewig, S. H. (2014). Recurrent gestures. In C. Müller, A. Cienki, S. H. Ladewig, D. McNeill, & S. Tessendorf (Eds.), *Body- Language- Communication: An International Handbook on Multimodality in Human Interaction*. Mouton de Gruyter.
- Poggi, I. (2001). From a typology of gestures to a procedure for gesture production. *International Gesture Workshop*, 158–168.
- Stam, G., & Tellier, M. (2017). The sound of silence. *Why Gesture?: How the Hands Function in Speaking, Thinking and Communicating*, 7, 353.