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

Loulou Kosmala

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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.

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