

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

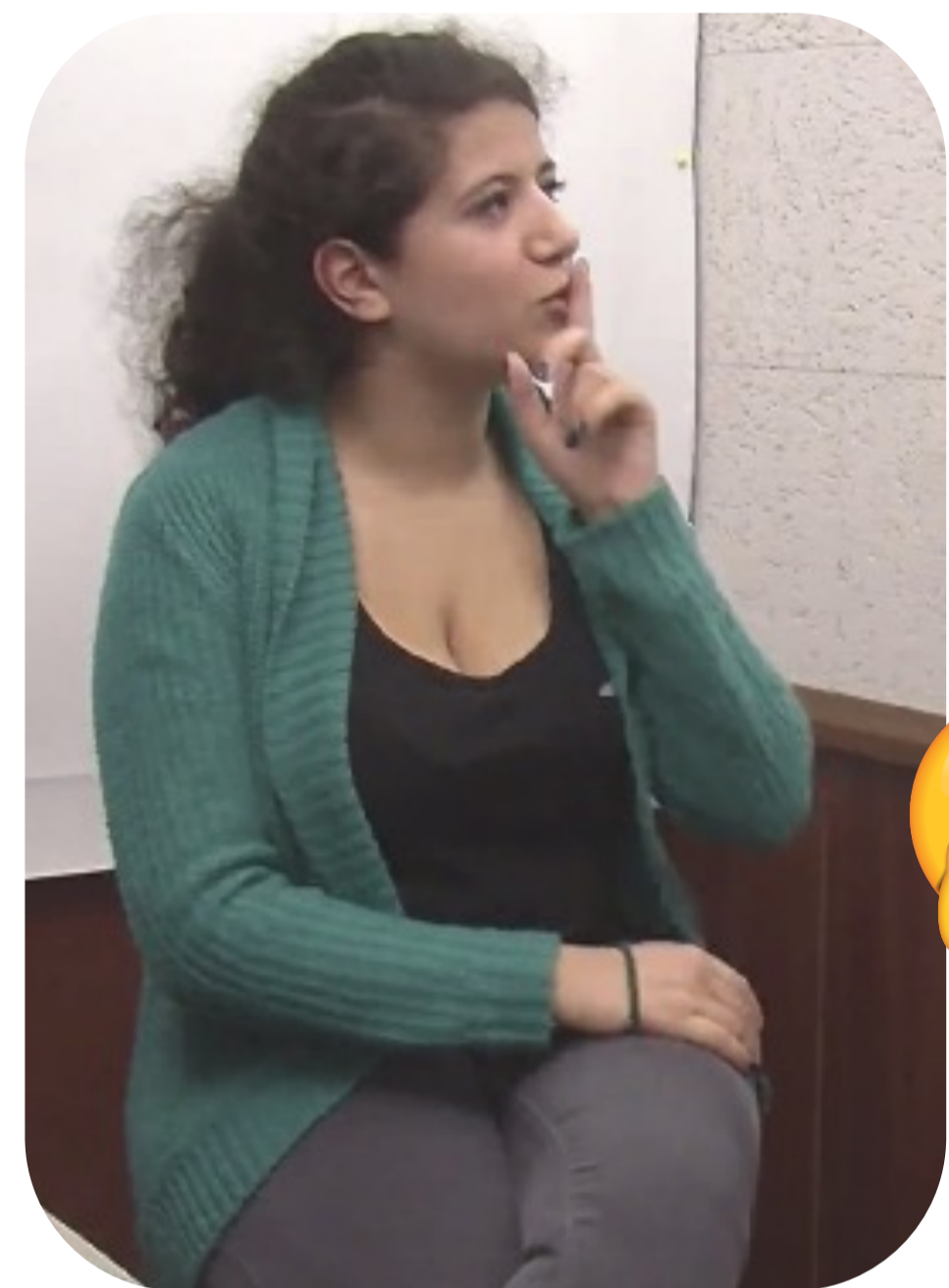
Sorbonne  
Nouvelle  
université des cultures

### 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., & 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](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.