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[Oliver Ehmer](#) ▾[Logout](#)[Overview](#) > [Your Submissions](#) > [Show Abstract](#)**Abstract of Contribution 252**A⁺ A^{*} A^U ?**ID: 252 / P122-S01: 2****Individual paper proposal submission (Panel ID 122: Divergent units and fuzzy boundaries – what do they tell us about practices in action?)**

Topics: Interactional Linguistics, Conversation Analysis, Embodiment, Multimodality

Fuzzy boundaries in quotations**Daniel Mandel, Oliver Ehmer**

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Quoting something that somebody else has said has been shown to be a ubiquitous phenomenon in talk-in-interaction (Günthner 2002). Quotations are multimodally accomplished phenomena that usually involve not only the verbal and phonetic dimensions but also bodily conduct (Keevallik 2010, Sidnell 2006, Stukenbrock 2012).

Previous research has pointed out that the 'boundary' between a quote and the surrounding talk may be fuzzy. For instance, voice quality may already change before the actual quotation occurs, a phenomenon that has been called foreshadowing (Klewitz/Couper-Kuhlen 1999). Furthermore, voice quality may also fade out after the end of a quotation (Bolden 2004).

Likewise, it has been shown that on the bodily level, the figure that is quoted in reported speech may be embodied before the actual quote (Ehmer 2011). There is, however, little research on (1) the precise multimodal realization of such transitions, and (2) their possible interactional relevance.

In our talk, we will focus on fuzziness at the beginning of a quotation, i.e., between the quotation and the preceding talk, typically a quotative device or narrative text. The aim of the talk is threefold:

- First, we will analyse in detail how different modalities are involved in the transition from the preceding talk to the quotation itself. In doing so, we will pay close attention to the inherently different temporalities of different modalities (Deppermann/ Streeck 2018).
- Secondly, we will distinguish between different ways of creating fuzziness between the preceding talk and the quotation. More specifically, we will pursue the idea of a "cesural area" (Barth-Weingarten 2013: 100), assuming that boundaries are not necessarily created at a single point but sometimes in an area of speech.
- Thirdly, we will discuss the interactional importance of different ways of shaping the cesural area between the quote and the preceding talk, particularly in regard to storytelling as a joint-activity of the participants.

Our data stems from collaborative storytelling in three Romance languages: friends, spouses or siblings have been filmed by two cameras while telling episodes of their lives as friends, couples or family.

References

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