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BIONOTE

I am a speech therapist (Faculty of Medicine of Lille-France) and I joined the MoDyCo team in October 2014 thanks to a PhD grant from the University of Paris-Ouest Nanterre.

The topic of my thesis concerns a longitudinal study of the continuum between normal and pathological ageing from a multimodal perspective (Verbal, Prosody, Gestural features).

Pragmatic Markers and their intersubjective relations are the anchor point of this analysis in order to identify early markers of dementia.

This doctoral thesis is supervised by Anne Lacheret (University of Paris-Ouest Nanterre, Modyco UMR7114) and Catherine Bolly (University of Köln and scientific researcher at the University of Louvain la Neuve).

My work is part of the European Marie-Curie Project (PIEF-GA-2012-328282) led by Catherine Bolly, which aims to establish the verbal and gestural profile of elderly people, looking at their pragmatic competence from a naturalistic and ecological perspective using video recordings.

CONTEXT & RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Abstract :

The field of linguistics is increasingly interested in cognitive and language markers in healthy and pathological ageing. Although research in this area is sparse (Mathey and Postal, 2008), there has been an increase of studies since the 1990s. However, it might be difficult to establish a protocol for linguistic data collection that is both ecologically sound and scientific (Rimé et al., 2005). Our work was conducted within this aim in view.

We focus specifically on pragmatic markers (PM; Brinton, 2006) that can potentially inform us about the psychosocial and pragmatic remedies at work among highly vulnerable elderly people at risk of developing cognitive impairments.

Pragmatic markers (PM) contribute to the cohesion and coherence of speech (Halliday & Hasan, 1976); they trigger and regulate interactive and intersubjective processes (Fitzmaurice, 2004) while offering a contextualized vision of the exchange. PM can also be manifested by gestural and prosodic features (Fernandez, 1994). Early psychosocial and therapeutic support for elderly people in situations of cognitive frailty (Rockwood, 1994) requires the ability to decipher their pragmatic, emotional and conversational abilities to ensure individual care (Duboisdindien, 2015, 2016).

It has been suggested that older people assessed as cognitively vulnerable develop compensatory strategies to maintain the exchange (Davis, 2014; Tacconnat & Lemaire, 2014)

as well as their psychological identity as they get older, using verbal and gestural pragmatic markers (either together or separately) which could inform us about their cognitive resources. The purpose of this behaviour would be first (i) to organize their speech (structuring function); (ii) to express their views and to preserve their identity through narration (expressive function), and also (iii) to optimize the interaction between speakers (interactive function). We assume that the use and combination of pragmatic markers in various communicational modes could provide information about methods to preserve intersubjective functions and about the preferential strategies used as cognitive deterioration develops, depending on the discursive task at issue.

Method :

Our study is based on CorpAGEst protocol (Bolly & Boutet, 2017) and provides a comprehensive analysis of multimodal aspects of the cognitively vulnerable ageing language by the review of longitudinal corpus which have been created using intergenerational exchanges filmed in natural situations (Allwood, 2008). We use the PM identification and annotation protocol developed by the MDMA Project (Bolly, Crible, Degand & Disteshe Uygur, 2015).

A special effort has been made to create a protocol including four ecological interviews with elderly participants spread over fourteen months. Tasks facilitating life stories have been created, guided by the following principles: (i) presence of a close friend (or family member) (Kessler *et al.*, 2007); (ii) interview recorded at home; (iii) respect of the elderly person's susceptibility to tiredness and ethical principles.

This led us to ask: what is the least invasive method to make autobiographical discourse easier for the elderly in an ecological perspective? Which tools used in psycholinguistics and clinical investigations can also be of interest for a linguist when collecting a language data corpus?

The natural choice was to use sensory reminiscence activities because they generate the emergence of past memories and take the elderly person back to a time or even a moment that they hold dear, in accordance with clinical care. The same phenomenon has been observed with people with Alzheimer's disease (Baines, 1987).

This longitudinal study adopts both a psychosocial and sensory approach to verbal and non-verbal competence through the use of reminiscences (visual, olfactive, auditive) and the use of questions adapted to the context.

The method involves the intervention of a close friend or a family member of the elderly person and the realization of a face to face interview at home, in order to build bonds of trust despite the progression of dementia. Currently, our data include 5 hours of samples recorded during three interviews (M+1, M+5, M+9).

Data and results :

Our data includes 20 hours of video recording corresponding to a total of 36 interviews with 9 female speakers (mean age 83 years; average score Moca-Test: 20/30). After sampling, the volume of analysis data for this study includes a total of 6 hours (30 minutes per speaker). Early trends indicate functional patterns in the use of PM and an increase in their use and

combinations of verbal and gestural markers as compensation. In general, as cognitive deterioration increases, PM with expressive functions are preferred to maintain the discursive channel and the approval of the speaker.

The significance of pragmatic marker functions in elderly speech, as well as approaches induced by linguistics and specifically pragmatics, contributes to broaden the urgent request to develop non-medicinal and psychosociable methods (Van der Linden, 2014) for vulnerable old people to ensure their well-being.

ACADEMIC
INTERESTS

Pragmatics : pragmatic competencies and social abilities across the lifespan.

Multimodality: multimodal features of discourse (structures, identification and function attribution).

Discourse analysis : description and annotation of potential pragmatic markers.

Autobiographical narrative and narrative identity : memory and emotion through sensorial reminiscence objects, storytelling or autobiographical events (psychosocial dimension of identity, memories and emotions in ageing).

Ageing : pathological or health status of ageing continuum, pragmatic resources of elderly (+ 75 y. old).

Speech Pathology and Rehabilitation, Speech-therapy , Ethics & Health.

CLINICAL INTERESTS

Speech and neurological diagnosis, rehabilitation, family support.

Speech-pathology ; Psycholinguistics; social inclusiveness and ethical approach; speech ageing ; neurodegenerative diseases : Alzheimer disease, fronto-temporal dementia, primary progressive aphasia; A.A.C : Alternative and Augmentative Communications (Tools, linguistic status of pictograms , Sign language and gestures, social interactions) ; Oral feeding and swallowing disorders (neonatology and pediatric unit).

PUBLICATIONS

2017 :

Duboisdindien, G.; & Lacheret, A. (to appear in sept 2017) collective book chapter "atypical linguistic features and aging"- DeBoeck Ed. Paris.

2016 :

Duboisdindien, G.; Bolly, C.; & Lacheret, A. (2016) conference proceedings. From linguistic semiology to clinical semiology : The advantage of multimodal approach in aging and frailty. COLDOC 2015 PhD Students and junior researchers international workshop- Paris-Ouest Nanterre La Défense University (France).

Prudhon, E., & Duboisdindien, G. (2016) Chapter 4 : Communicate differently ; 1 – Linguistic potentials of Alternative and Augmentative Communication programs (AAC) in Autism Vol 1. Rééducation Orthophonique ; Ortho-édition – n°265.

COMMUNICATIONS

2017 :

Bolly, C.; & Duboisdindien, G. (16-21th July 2016) The 15th International Pragmatics Conference (IPrA2017) "And... and... you see, sweetheart?": Verbal and gestural pragmatic markers to compensate for the effects of cognitive frailty in language aging. Belfast. Ireland.

2016 :

Duboisdindien G. (14 - 15th November 2016) International conference in speech therapy and audiology- "Aging and cognitive frailty : multimodal approach of pragmatics and emotional features of older people with risk of dementia. (Montréal, Canada)

[guest] Bolly C., Duboisdindien G. (21-22th October 2016) The 19th International Conference of the Belgian Society of Geriatrics "Linguistics and Geriatrics : How to communicate with elderly ?(Liège, Belgium).

[guest] Guidetti M., Duboisdindien G. (18-22th July 2016) The 7th International Gesture Conference. Scientific exhibition : "Aging and strategic gestures to compensate". (Paris, France)

2015 :

Duboisdindien G. (7-9 December 2015) Making autobiographical discourse easier for the elderly. The use of sensory reminiscence tasks. International Workshop Language use in later life Université catholique de Louvain, Valibel – Discours & Variation (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium).

Duboisdindien G., Lacheret A., Bolly C. (27-28th November 2015). International conference Atylang - Atypical language: what are we really talking about? "Talking to Constance: multimodal study of pragmatic markers in aging and frailty. (Paris, France) [Poster session]

Duboisdindien G. (5-6th November 2015). From linguistic semiology to clinical semiology : The advantage of multimodal approach in aging and frailty. COLDOC 2015 PhD Students and junior researchers international workshop- Paris-Ouest Nanterre La Défense University (France).

Duboisdindien G. ; Bolly C. (18th may 2015) – Linguistic pathologies Workshop "Aging and communication through a multimodal analysis". (Paris, France).

PARTICIPATION / ORGANISATION

Conference co-organizer COLDOC 2015 (5-6th November 2015).

Conference co-organizer ATYLANG 1 (27-28th November 2015).

EDUCATION

2014 : Research Master's degree with honours. Linguistics and speech pathology. Paris-Ouest La Défense University, France.

2010 : Speech Therapist University degree with and academic distinction. (research & health award) Faculty of Medicine of Lille, France.

2007 : Law and political science degree. University of Montpellier, France.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1 Research :

Projects, research funding and scientific collaboration :

2014 – 2015 : scientific associate in European project 'CorpAGEst Multimodal corpus for the elderly's language'. Research funding Marie-Curie (PIEF-GA-2012-328282) CNRS – POUCHET [Paris 8] – UMR 7023 – Structures Formelles du Langage – Dir. Catherine Bolly.

2014 – 2018 : scientific associate in 'ReVES' interdisciplinary network. Research funding 'PLUM' : Paris-Lumière University - UMR 7023 SFLUPO, UMR 7114 MODYCO and EA 4430 Clipsyd CNRS.

2014 – 2017 : PhD grant from Paris-Ouest University.

2011 – 2015 : speech and cognitive stimulation workshop for kinder garden children supervisor. Regional and minister of health funding. Speech therapy expertise and teacher trainer.

2 Teaching :

2017 : Research awareness session in Evidence Based Practice and speech therapy Program. (using linguistics and clinical psychology tools) Speech pathology and therapy department - Faculty of Medicine of Lille.

2017 : U.E.5.1.4. Spoken language and communication (specific tools for language disorders). 4th year. Speech pathology and therapy dept department - Faculty of Medicine of Lille.

2016 : U.E.1.1.4. Linguistics approaches. 2d year. Speech pathology and therapy department - Faculty of Medicine of Lille.

3 Clinic :

2015-2016 :

medical practitioner trainer (MGForm organization) : speech acquisition / evaluation / Clinic strategies in Evidence Based Practice. (early screening of speech disorders).

2010- 2014 :

Independent Speech therapist (neurology, gerontology, feeding and swallowing disorder, genetic disease, diagnosis and early care).

Speech therapist – geriatric and neurological units.

2014-2016 :

Blog articles and supervising in Labortho.fr (supervisor : R. Martin): Medical Ethics and Health, Speech-Therapy, Caring, Philosophy and linguistics.

Blog articles in : "PONTT Partage Orthophonie Neuropsychologie Théories Thérapies." [speech-therapy, Neuropsychology, Theories and Therapies sharing]

Medical practitioner trainer (MGForm organization) : speech acquisition / evaluation / Clinic strategies in Evidence Based Practice.

2013 :

MAKATON-France Training : Alternative and Augmentative Communication Program. (cognition, pictograms and sign language).

Metacognition Training. dyslexia evaluation, assessment and therapy . F. Médina, linguist and speech-therapist. (2/2).

2011 :

Metacognition Training. dyslexia evaluation, assessment and therapy. F. Médina, linguist and speech-therapist. (2/2).

HOBBIES

Artwork (Fantasy & Nature) – Sport – World culture / Tales & Folklores – Reading – Medicine & Neurosciences – Kayaking – Cooking.