

PhD Project: Feeling connected in conversations -
on the relation between language and perceived interpersonal connectedness

Abstract

In recent years, linguistic research on language and emotion has attracted considerable scholarly attention (Jensen 2014, Majid 2012). At the same time, there is a significant body of psychological research which has focused on interpersonal connection, some of which investigated how it relates to language and conversation (e.g. Templeton 2023, Koudenburg et al. 2013). My doctoral dissertation will be situated at the intersection of these two fields, aiming to investigate the relationship between language and feelings of interpersonal connectedness in conversations from a psycholinguistic perspective.

The empirical data will consist of semi-structured qualitative interviews based on reflective tasks previously administered to the participants, and will be complemented by questionnaires on their sociopsychological backgrounds. The analysis will examine how participants describe, narrate and conceptualise feelings of connectedness in conversations with strong and weak ties, in terms of both linguistic form and content. The overall objective is to explore how language relates to feelings of interpersonal connection and how it is used to express and objectify intense emotional experiences, such as feeling deeply connected to conversation partners. More generally, this could provide new insights into the relationship between language and emotional expression.

Keywords: psycholinguistics, conversation, emotions, interpersonal connection, qualitative interviews, content analysis

References

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