

UNICollaboration

UNICollaboration Research Methods in Telecollaboration Seminar

Universitat de Valencia & Universitat Politècnica de Valencia

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<http://anglotic.blogs.uv.es/unicollaboration-research-seminar-2017>

Keynote Talks

Pascual Perez-Paredes (Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge)



What electronic corpora can tell us about foreign language learning

It is no longer uncommon to see corpora being used by researchers across different disciplines in order to gain insight into a wide range of areas that, for the most part, examine communication in various forms. Social scientists, in particular, have found in corpus linguistics (CL) a complementary method that enriches other standard approaches in their research fields. In fact, this complementarity adapts extremely well to research contexts where language is either the vehicle or the outcome of human activity. This session will present an overview of the research methodology behind corpus linguistics where I will briefly discuss the epistemological perspective that underpins CL practice and then outline the main methods that are currently used by CL researchers in language learning contexts. Special attention will be placed on areas of research where telecollaboration practitioners may wish to use language generated by learners and teachers as a source of data.

Regine Hampel & Helen Lee (Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies, the Open University)



Multimodal meaning-making in the digital age: The effect of technology mediation on communication and interaction in language learning and teaching contexts and the implications for research

The ubiquity of digital technologies today means that new communication opportunities have become available to language learners and teachers. While communication has always incorporated multimodal elements, digital technology has made it easier to bring together different modes in one medium. This presentation and the follow-up workshop will focus on how the new digital media are shaping communication and interaction in language learning and teaching contexts and explores what the implications are for language learners and teachers as well as for researchers. Opportunities and challenges include communicating on the move and in the 'wild' as well as being able to use a variety of tools, ranging from those designed for learning purposes to communication technologies that have become common in everyday use to online gaming environments. This has implications not only for supporting learners but also around collecting data and devising appropriate approaches to data analysis and representation. The workshop will allow for discussion of this and offer a hands-on opportunity to work with some data.

Erika Darics (School of Languages and Social Sciences, Aston University)



Understanding digital communication: an interactional sociolinguistic approach

The concept of digital literacy and the critical awareness of the wide range of digital communicative strategies have been discussed extensively in academic scholarship in the last decade. One of the reasons behind this interest has been the problematic nature of developing communication skills necessary for the digitally mediated communicative media, both for students and for communication or business professionals.

In this presentation I set out to demonstrate how an immersive, interactional sociolinguistic approach to naturally occurring digital communication data can provide an invaluable insight into how exactly communication happens in an online environment. In the presentation I propose an analytical method that could be used both in digital communication research as well as communication training.

The proposed method (deanex) is based on the detailed, immersive examination of naturally occurring interactional or language data, and combines techniques from conversation analysis and interactional sociolinguistics. It promises to develop an understanding of how one's choices of linguistic features and discursive strategies shape meaning as well as interpersonal relations, or contribute to impression formation, and consequently affect productivity and effectiveness. The deanex method consists of three stages, and is based on the deconstruction-analysis-explanation of real language examples. During the presentation, I demonstrate how the method can be used to explore the meaning of non-verbal signals in digital interactions.