

Abstract

Lichtkoppler, Julia. 2006. *Repetition in English as a Lingua Franca Talk: Forms and Functions*. M.A. Thesis, University of Vienna.

This thesis sets out to contribute to the description of the use of English as a lingua franca (ELF) by exploring one feature of it, namely repetition as it occurs in dyadic conversations between speakers of a range of first languages.

The theoretical background of this paper is provided by an overview of different studies of repetition in conversation, which show it to be a frequent phenomenon that is very important in everyday discourse. Following on from this research, it is suggested in the present study that repetition is especially significant in a non-native speaker context since it provides a valuable resource for coping with linguistic problems.

This claim is substantiated in the second part of this thesis, in which an empirical investigation is presented that explores the particular functions of repetition in ELF conversations. The analysis of various ELF dialogues recorded and transcribed by the author shows that repetition is a highly important device in non-native speaker/non-native speaker discourse and that it helps ELF speakers to facilitate the production and comprehension of language as well as to establish rapport with each other. In this sense, repetition can be seen as a significant means of overcoming linguistic problems and of making ELF conversations successful.

The analysis of the data furthermore reveals that there are many different forms and functions of repetition occurring in ELF conversations. Since the various functions constantly overlap and interact with each other, the existing models proved inadequate for the purposes of this study. Therefore a new model had to be devised to account for the particular features that were being focused on. This involved elaborating a three-dimensional graph representing the interactions among the various functions of repetition.