



Universität
Basel

Research Project

Dialogue in Spontaneously Produced Fiction

Project funded by own resources

Project title Dialogue in Spontaneously Produced Fiction

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Organisation / Research unit

Departement Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaften / English Linguistics (Landert)

Project start 01.02.2020

Probable end 31.01.2024

Status Completed

The overall focus of the project lies on the linguistic analysis of dialogue in three different communicative forms: improvised drama comedy, telecinematic discourse and conversational interaction. The aim is to identify possible (dis)continuities between those genres, i.e. to show whether improvised drama comedy shares characteristics with both scripted fiction and with spontaneous conversation. Relying on a quantitative as well as a qualitative approach, I concentrate on the analysis of planners, proper names, stance and emotional language. The results obtained will provide insights into how both the fictional nature of a text and its degree of composition influence its form, ultimately helping to disentangle the dimensions of fiction and writing on the one hand, and spontaneity and non-fiction on the other. The findings will also affirm the importance of pragmatics for the investigation and theory-building in improvisation studies.

Keywords Pragmatics, Pragmatics of Fiction, Dialogue, Planners, Proper Names, Stance, Emotional Language

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