

Laughter in conversation: Form, function and multimodality

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Laughter is a ubiquitous phenomenon occurring in spontaneous conversations, being recognized cross-culturally and playing various roles in human communication. For these reasons, it has received considerable interest in the research community, having been studied from the prism of its form, its function, as well as its multi-modal realization. However, each of these aspects tend to be investigated by different disciplines and previous work has mainly focused on only one aspect at a time, neglecting any possible interaction between them. We intend to fill this gap, by aiming to offer a more connected view of the use of laughter in conversation, one which takes into account the three aspects together with their interplay, in an interactive setting. A more complete view of laughter in interaction could open new directions of study in relevant fields, such as linguistics, phonetics or conversation analysis, as well as in technology, by enabling more naturalistic human-machine interactions in applications.