

Modeling Politeness Production: Adaptive and Rule-Governed Politeness

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In this talk I will present a model for politeness production that is based on our own previous research especially on the results from an interview study on lay peoples' conceptualizations of politeness (Lumer & Buschmeier, 2023, Submitted). The model is constituted by so called "adaptive" and "rule-governed politeness" types of processes. These two can either be combined or used independently to form an appropriate (polite) utterance. I will argue, that for rule-governed politeness, the speaker produces linguistic expressions "automatically" based on previous experiences and knowledge about the situation ("context frames"). While adaptive politeness includes the adaptation to the listener and a previously (at least partly) unknown situation. I will discuss how the distinction between adaptive and rule-governed can be related to the cognitive effort of the speaker. The model and the concepts behind it will be discussed based on previous research by Terkourafi (2023) and others.

References

- Lumer, E., & Buschmeier, H. (2023). Should robots be polite? Expectations about politeness in human–robot interaction. *Frontiers in Robotics and AI Human–Robot Interaction*, 10, Article 1242127. <https://doi.org/10.3389/frobt.2023.1242127>
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- Terkourafi, M. (2023). Reconfiguring the strategic/non-strategic binary in im/politeness research. *Journal of Politeness Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1515/pr-2023-0070>