Abstract


The present study aims at investigating some linguistic features which typically characterize the language function of opinionating in British English conversation. It specifically aims at identifying the most recurrent realization patterns that express and ask for opinions, express or inquire about agreement and disagreement. It also attempts to analyze the syntactic structure and into national patterns of these utterances, discover types of lexical cohesion in the spoken texts in which they recur and examine the frequency and uses of different fillers in a corpus of material representing spontaneous conversational English. The corpus of the study consists of twenty texts selected from four British TV programs.

The analysis of the corpus revealed that argumentative discourse is characterized by a dense use of the language function of opinionating. Utterances expressing opinions, agreement and disagreement may be divided into different semantic categories and can be distinguished by a number of syntactic and prosodic features. Furthermore, lexical cohesion is a salient feature in spoken British discourse and a number of fillers are frequently used by different speakers in the corpus.