

Workshop “Argumentation and maneuvering agreement in discourse”

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Hosted jointly by projects C02 & C06 (CRC 1252, University of Cologne)

Venue: Spitzboden (House of Prominence), Luxemburger Straße 299, 50939 Cologne

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Abstract

Argumentation is a ubiquitous phenomenon in human communication (van Eemeren et al. 2020). Arguments and conclusions are presented as part of texts and determine the structure of monological and dialogical discourse, which in turn interacts with properties such as temporality. Typical indicators of argumentative functions and argumentative orientation are connectors and discourse markers, while temporal structuring is typically indicated by tense-aspect-mood forms and adverbial expressions. Written and highly planned argumentative texts or passages (see Smith 2003; Koch & Oesterreicher 1985) may adhere to the classical scheme elaborated by Toulmin (1958). However, other text types and orally produced texts may show a less distinctive structure. In addition, argumentative orientation can also be realized with or without explicit markers (Taboada 2006), which may make its analysis more difficult. Finally, argumentation is not an automatized phenomenon as speakers may choose to disinform or manipulate hearers (Schumann 2022).

In interactional data, which may be realized orally or via text messaging, speakers and recipients need to assure the correct delivery of the content. Therefore, they may include different markers of (dis-)agreement in their utterance and feedback. Feedback may trigger elaborations and explanations, which solve misunderstandings and disagreement. Thereby, they contribute to discourse structuring as a kind of further layer beyond temporal structuring and argumentative orientation.

A crucial factor for different kinds of discourse structuring is prominence (Himmelmann & Primus 2015). For instance, the prominence of propositions may be evaluated in terms of the rhetorical relations they hold with respect to the surrounding context (Jasinskaja & Karagjosova 2020). In addition, prominence is crucial in temporal discourse structure (Becker & Egetenmeyer 2018). However, prominence in the realm of argumentation (Egetenmeyer submitted) and feedback still needs further investigation.

References

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