Syntactic Complexity of Sanctioning Turns Across European Languages

In this presentation I show first results from an ongoing study about syntactic complexity of sanctioning turns in spoken language. This study is part of a larger project on sanctioning of misconduct in social interaction in different European languages (English, German, Italian and Polish). For the study I use video recordings of different everyday settings (family breakfasts, board game interactions and car rides) with three or four participants. These data come from the Parallel European Corpus of Informal Interaction (Kornfeld/Küttner/Zinken 2023; Küttner et al. submitted).

I focus on sanctioning turns with more than one turn-constructional unit (see among others for TCUs: Sacks/Schegloff/Jefferson 1974; Clayman 2013). The study asks how often TCUs are linked to each other in the different languages, for what function, and how language diversity enters into this. Note that complex sanctioning turns do not always come as complex sentences. Consider the following example (1):

Ex. 1 (PECII_DE_20160703_ 1421593):

```
01 DAD: dieter

02      (1.3)

03      ich möchte frühstücken
        I would like to have breakfast

04      hör bidde auf an meinem stuhl rumzuklettern
        please stop climbing my chair
```

By contrast, in the next example (2) we can see that Susanne links the second part (line 02) with a "weil" (engl. *because*) to the first part of the utterance (see e.g. Scheutz 2001 on *weil* in spoken German):

Ex. 2 (PECII_DE_Brkfst_20161025_ 1573431):

```
01 SUS: und das ist jetzt unfair
        and that is now unfair

02      weil Timon jetzt schon was hatte und ich noch nicht
        because Timon now already had something and I haven't
```

The presented study explores complex sanctioning turns cross-linguistically, asking how they are formulated and when speakers link elements of a sanctioning syntactically. The study examines how frequently different elements of a sanctioning attempt are syntactically linked, and whether there are specific contexts for such syntactic complexity.

References:

Clayman, Steven E. (2013): Turn-Constructional Units and the Transition-Relevance Place. In: Sidnell, Jack/Stivers, Tanya (eds.): The handbook of conversation analysis. Chichester, West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 150–166. http://www.123library.org/book_details/?id=54984.

Kornfeld, Laurenz/Küttner, Uwe-A./Zinken, Jörg (2023): Ein Korpus für die vergleichende Interaktionsforschung. In: Deppermann, Arnulf/Fandrych, Christian/Kupietz, Marc/Schmidt, Thomas (eds.): Korpora in der germanistischen Sprachwissenschaft. De Gruyter, pp. 103–128. http://doi.org/10.1515/9783111085708-006.

Küttner, Uwe-A./Kornfeld, Laurenz/Mack, Christina/Mondada, Lorenza/Rogowska, Jowita/Rossi, Giovanni/Sorjonen, Marja-Leena/Weidner, Matylda/Zinken, Jörg (submitted): Introducing the 'Parallel European Corpus of Informal Interaction': A novel resource for exploring cross-situational and cross-linguistic variability in social interaction.

Sacks, Harvey/Schegloff, Emanuel A./Jefferson, Gail (1974): A Simplest Systematics for the Organization of Turn-Taking for Conversation. In: Language, 50(4), pp. 696–735. http://doi.org/10.2307/412243.

Scheutz, Hannes (2001): On causal clause combining: The case of 'weil' in spoken German. In: Selting, Margret/Couper-Kuhlen, Elizabeth (eds.): Studies in Interactional Linguistics. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company (Studies in Discourse and Grammar), pp. 111–140. http://doi.org/10.1075/sidag.10.07sch.