

Points during lighthearted teasing in Mandarin-speaking interactions

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Abstract

Lighthearted teasing elicits amusement, instead of getting the target annoyed or embarrassed (Haugh, 2010, 2017). Social relation between interactants is one of the factors that make the teasing conventionally “permitted”. That is, the target of teasing is not supposed to take offense or take it seriously. The speaker’s point directed at a co-participant recurs in Mandarin-speaking lighthearted teasing sequences. Interestingly, the pointer is not the interactant who has the first-hand experience of what is being addressed. The direction of the point shows the effect of social relation and intimacy on the selection of the target. This seminar will explore the point’s functions in relation to epistemics, sequence organization, and social solidarity.

References

- Haugh, M. (2010). Jocular mockery, (dis)affiliation, and face. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 42(8), 2106–2119.
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Biodata

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