

The role of interpersonal features in multimodal presentations: a case study of a Spanish academic preparing to present research in English at an international conference

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The use of English as the *lingua franca* (ELF) at international conferences and academics' use of a broader range of modes of communication (Kress, 2010) is becoming common practice. Consequently, many researchers whose mother tongue is other than English need not only to verbally communicate their work in ELF, but also to develop their multimodal competence (i.e., ways of representing and communicating meaning). Thus, in some higher education institutions throughout Europe, courses are being offered to train academics of different disciplines to use ELF and to develop their use and combination of modes. Such is the case at the University of Alicante, Spain, where the 20-hour workshop "Academic English for Teaching and Presenting" is offered for those who will deliver their research at an international conference. In this study we carry out a multimodal discourse analysis based on a Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) framework (Morell, 2015) of one workshop participant's video recorded presentation. The choice of the particular performance was due to the audience's positive feedback. In the analysis we focus on the multimodal ensembles, i.e., the combinations of modes, which the speaker used to connect with the audience. Our findings provide further evidence of the important role of interpersonal information in fostering rapport between the speaker and the audience.

References

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Biodata

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