

On the distribution of clicks and inbreaths in class presentations and spontaneous conversations: **Blending** vocal and kinetic activities

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INTRODUCTION

- Clicks and inbreaths, despite distinct phonetic properties display “**regular patterns of usage in situated social situation**” (Hoey, 2014: 2)
- Often used to display stance, but also handle aspects of **sequence management** (Ogden, 2013, Wright, 2011)
- Have **similar patterns of distribution**, mainly pre-turn position, medial, final, or standalone (Ogden 2013, Hoey 2014)
- Do not only have vocal properties but **kinetic** ones as well (e.g. parted lips, eyebrow flashes, manual gestures; Schegloff, 1996; Ogden, 2018; Pinto & Vigil 2019)

The present study aims to compare their pattern of distribution in **two different communication settings** and explore their kinetic properties.

CORPUS AND METHOD

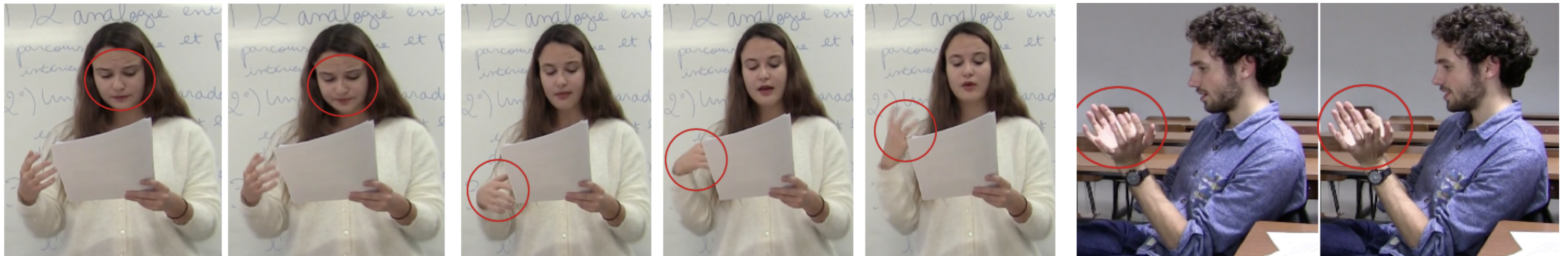
- **DisReg Corpus:** 18 videotaped recordings of 12 French undergraduate students who were filmed in two conditions: (1) in class while giving an oral presentation on French literature (semi-read speech) (2) in pairs during a casual conversation. Selected data for the preliminary study: 4 pairs (41 minutes approx.)
- **Coding:** utterance position (initial, medial, final, isolated) function (adapted from Ogden 2013, 2018: marking incipient speakership, speech management, stance, new sequence indexing)
- **Qualitative analyses:** specific attention paid to the gestural-visual modalities accompanying discourse (facial expression, gaze, manual gestures)

DISTRIBUTION OF CLICKS AND INBREATHS

- 68 clicks and 152 inbreaths extracted from the data
- Both were more frequent during presentations (78% inbreaths, 82% clicks) than conversation
- Both were more frequent in initial position during presentations (73% inbreaths, 76% clicks) than conversation
- Both were used more frequently to index a new sequence of talk during presentations (85% inbreaths, 80% clicks) than during conversations (39% and 0%)
- During conversations, clicks were more used to deal with speech management (67%) than inbreaths (15%), which may highlight one distinctive feature of **clicks as search markers**.

Preliminary findings reflect the kinds of talk produced: during a presentation, speakers need to structure their talk and talk continuously without interruption in order to mark prosodic-syntactic boundaries (Trouvain et al. 2019) during conversations, they rely more on intersubjective mechanisms.

EXAMPLES OF ACCOMPANYING KINETIC ACTIVITIES



Parted lips, eyebrow flash, and swallowing activity during the click

Mouth open, hand gesture in preparation during the inbreath in pre-utterance position

Click and hand gesture referring to a lexical affiliate (“little bags”)

These examples illustrate the different physical and kinetic activities associated with clicks and inbreaths, in line with Ogden, 2013; Schegloff, 1996, Pinto & Vigil, 2019). An accompanying hand gesture can be more informative about the **communicative aspect of a lexical search** associated with a click, and a **hand preparation may also reflect speech preparation** (with inbreaths) This highlights the need to consider both the auditory/acoustic and kinetic aspects of non-lexical vocalizations.

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