

Helsinki Lectures on Intersubjectivity

Main building, aud XIII (Unioninkatu 34)

at 12.15 - 13.45

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Matching perspectives: joint processing across languages and speakers

Speakers assume intersubjectivity in communication as a default state of affairs. If nothing goes noticeably wrong, the assumption holds, allowing joint construction of communication to build on it despite the impossibility of complete or 'perfect' mutual understanding. Instead of a perfect match, then, we can talk of fuzzy matching of speaker perspectives, which speakers keep constructing as they go along. In this talk I presume that the default assumption pertains across speakers' various language repertoires and sustains interlocutors' efforts to achieve and maintain intersubjectivity in languages that are not their first. To illustrate how speakers go about it, I look at them using English as a lingua franca, employing discourse reflexivity and translanguaging towards the matching of perspectives. Finally I go on observe the moment-to-moment on-line processing of these speakers which results in a seamlessly joint product.