

## LEARNER LANGUAGE, DISCOURSE AND INTERACTION

How do language learners interact with those who already speak the language they are learning? It is more than just a question of learning vocabulary and grammar – learners also need to learn how to put together conversations in their new language and to vary the way they interact across different contexts. This book shows, using millions of words of data, how this happens. It is the first large-scale, corpus-based exploration of the discourse macro-structures in conversational interaction between L1 and L2 speakers, and explores three corpora to show, in spoken interaction with L1 speakers across a range of tasks, the dynamics of discourse construction. Considering factors including cultural background, task and proficiency, it characterises the repertoire of discourse functions used in these interactions and shows how they vary according to a range of variables. This title is also available as open access on Cambridge Core.

TONY MCENERY is Distinguished Professor of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University and Advisory Professor at Shanghai International Studies University. He is the author of *Corpus Linguistics* (Cambridge University Press, 2011), with Andrew Hardie, and *Fundamental Principles of Corpus Linguistics* (Cambridge University Press, 2022), with Vaclav Brezina. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.

ISOBELLE CLARKE is a Leverhulme Trust Early Career Research Fellow at Lancaster University. She has developed three methodologies for the analysis of short texts.

GAVIN BROOKES is Reader and UK Research and Innovation Future Leader Fellow in the Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University. His recent books include *Corpus Linguistics for Health Communication* (Routledge, 2023), with Luke C. Collins, and *Obesity in the News* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), with Paul Baker. He is a Fulbright Scholar and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

STUDIES IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

*General editor*

Merja Kytö (Uppsala University)

*Editorial Board*

Bas Aarts (University College London),

John Algeo (University of Georgia),

Susan Fitzmaurice (University of Sheffield),

Christian Mair (University of Freiburg),

Charles F. Meyer (University of Massachusetts)

The aim of this series is to provide a framework for original studies of English, both present-day and past. All books are based securely on empirical research, and represent theoretical and descriptive contributions to our knowledge of national and international varieties of English, both written and spoken. The series covers a broad range of topics and approaches, including syntax, phonology, grammar, vocabulary, discourse, pragmatics and sociolinguistics, and is aimed at an international readership.

Already published in this series:

Haruko Momma: *From Philology to English Studies: Language and Culture in the Nineteenth Century*

Raymond Hickey (ed.): *Standards of English: Codified Varieties around the World*  
Benedikt Szmrecsanyi: *Grammatical Variation in British English Dialects: A Study in Corpus-Based Dialectometry*

Daniel Schreier and Marianne Hundt (eds.): *English as a Contact Language*

Bas Aarts, Joanne Close, Geoffrey Leech and Sean Wallis (eds.): *The Verb Phrase in English: Investigating Recent Language Change with Corpora*

Martin Hilpert: *Constructional Change in English: Developments in Allomorphy, Word Formation, and Syntax*

Jakob R. E. Leimgruber: *Singapore English: Structure, Variation, and Usage*

Christoph Rühlemann: *Narrative in English Conversation: A Corpus Analysis of Storytelling*

Dagmar Deuber: *English in the Caribbean: Variation, Style and Standards in Jamaica and Trinidad*

Eva Berlage: *Noun Phrase Complexity in English*

Nicole Dehé: *Parentheticals in Spoken English: The Syntax-Prosody Relation*

Jock O. Wong: *The Culture of Singapore English*

Marianne Hundt (ed.): *Late Modern English Syntax*

Irma Taavitsainen, Merja Kytö, Claudia Claridge and Jeremy Smith (eds.): *Developments in English: Expanding Electronic Evidence*

- Arne Lohmann: *English Coordinate Constructions: A Processing Perspective on Constituent Order*
- Nuria Yáñez-Bouza: *Grammar, Rhetoric and Usage in English: Preposition Placement 1500–1900*
- Anita Auer, Daniel Schreier and Richard J. Watts (eds.): *Letter Writing and Language Change*
- John Flowerdew and Richard W. Forest: *Signalling Nouns in English: A Corpus-Based Discourse Approach*
- Jeffrey P. Williams, Edgar W. Schneider, Peter Trudgill and Daniel Schreier (eds.): *Further Studies in the Lesser-Known Varieties of English*
- Jack Grieve: *Regional Variation in Written American English*
- Douglas Biber and Bethany Gray: *Grammatical Complexity in Academic English: Linguistics Change in Writing*
- Gjertrud Flermoen Stenbrenden: *Long-Vowel Shifts in English, c. 1050–1700: Evidence from Spelling*
- Zoya G. Proshina and Anna A. Eddy (eds.): *Russian English: History, Functions, and Features*
- Raymond Hickey (ed.): *Listening to the Past: Audio Records of Accents of English*
- Phillip Wallage: *Negation in Early English: Grammatical and Functional Change*
- Marianne Hundt, Sandra Mollin and Simone E. Pfenninger (eds.): *The Changing English Language: Psycholinguistic Perspectives*
- Joanna Kopaczky and Hans Sauer (eds.): *Binomials in the History of English: Fixed and Flexible*
- Alexander Haselow: *Spontaneous Spoken English: An Integrated Approach to the Emergent Grammar of Speech*
- Christina Sanchez-Stockhammer: *English Compounds and Their Spelling*
- David West Brown: *English and Empire: Language History, Dialect, and the Digital Archive*
- Paula Rodríguez-Puente: *The English Phrasal Verb, 1650–Present: History, Stylistic Drifts, and Lexicalisation*
- Erik R. Thomas (ed.): *Mexican American English: Substrate Influence and the Birth of an Ethnolect*
- Thomas Hoffmann: *English Comparative Correlatives: Diachronic and Synchronic Variation at the Lexicon-Syntax Interface*
- Nuria Yáñez-Bouza, Emma Moore, Linda van Bergen and Willem B. Hollmann (eds.): *Categories, Constructions, and Change in English Syntax*
- Raymond Hickey (ed.): *English in the German-Speaking World*
- Axel Bohmann: *Variation in English Worldwide: Registers and Global Varieties*
- Raymond Hickey (ed.): *English in Multilingual South Africa: The Linguistics of Contact and Change*
- Jeremy J. Smith: *Transforming Early English: The Reinvention of Early English and Older Scots*

- Tobias Bernaisch: *Gender in World Englishes*
- Lorena Pérez-Hernández: *Speech Acts in English: From Research to Instruction and Textbook Development*
- Elisabeth Reber: *Quoting in Parliamentary Question Time: Exploring Recent Change*
- Marco Condorelli: *Standardising English Spelling: The Role of Printing in Sixteenth and Seventeenth-century Graphemic Developments*
- Irma Taavitsainen (ed.): *Genre in English Medical Writing, 1500–1820: Sociocultural Contexts of Production and Use*
- Elisa Mattiello: *Transitional Morphology: Combining Forms in Modern English*
- Theresa Neumaier: *Conversation in World Englishes: Turn-Taking and Cultural Variation in Southeast Asian and Caribbean English*
- Elnora ten Wolde: *The English Binominal Noun Phrase: A Cognitive-Functional Approach*
- Małgorzata Kowalczyk: *Borrowings in Informal American English*
- Daniela Landert: *Methods in Historical Corpus Pragmatics: Epistemic Stance in Early Modern English*
- Claudia Claridge, Ewa Jonsson and Merja Kytö: *Intensifiers in Late Modern English: A Sociopragmatic Approach to Courtroom Discourse*
- Leslie Arnovick: *Verbal Medicines: The Curative Power of Prayer and Invocation in Early English Charms*
- Earlier titles not listed are also available*

# LEARNER LANGUAGE, DISCOURSE AND INTERACTION

*A Corpus-Based Analysis of Spoken English*

TONY MCENERY

*Lancaster University*

ISOBELLE CLARKE

*Lancaster University*

GAVIN BROOKES

*Lancaster University*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,  
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of  
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009208932](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009208932)

DOI: [10.1017/9781009208932](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009208932)

© Tony McEnery, Isabelle Clarke and Gavin Brookes 2025

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions  
of relevant collective licensing agreements, with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link  
for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of  
Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

An online version of this work is published at [doi.org/10.1017/9781009208932](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009208932)  
under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC 4.0 which permits  
re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes  
providing appropriate credit to the original work is given and any changes  
made are indicated. To view a copy of this license visit  
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0>

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009208932](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009208932)

First published 2025

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

NAMES: McEnery, Tony, 1964– author. | Clarke, Isabelle, author. |  
Brookes, Gavin (Linguist), author.

TITLE: Learner language, discourse and interaction : a corpus-based analysis of spoken English / Tony  
McEnery, Lancaster University, Isabelle Clarke,

Lancaster University, Gavin Brookes, Lancaster University.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2025. | Series:  
Studies in English language |

Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2024026324 | ISBN 9781009208936 (hardback) |  
ISBN 9781009208932 (ebook)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: English language – Spoken English. | English language – Study  
and teaching – Foreign speakers. | English language – Discourse analysis. |  
English language – Data processing.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC PE1074.8 .M36 2025 | DDC 428.0071–dc23/eng/20240827  
LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2024026324>

ISBN 978-1-009-20895-6 Hardback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence  
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this  
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will  
remain, accurate or appropriate.