

Subject: the effect of editing phrases for comprehenders – an experimental study

In natural conversations, we frequently amend our speech using editing phrases. For example, “I live in the better, well, the best part of the city”/ “Mais j’ai tendance à, à penser par phrases disowns, et pas à penser par pensées. “. In these examples, the unlined parts are editing phrases. Different languages have different repertoire of editing phrases. Do different EPs have different effects for the comprehender? E.g. what’s the difference between “I live in the better, well, in the best part of the city” and “I live in the better, no, in the best part of the city”? We hypothesize that different EPs signal different level of corrections of the referendium. In English, EP “no” signals 100% correction, “or”, “actually” and “I mean” signal high degrees of correction, “you know”, “well”, “like” and “yeah” signal low degrees of correction. If this is the case, EPs should help comprehenders make predictions of the upcoming utterance. To test this hypothesis, we will design and run a series of studies, using corpus, questionnaire and eye-tracking methods. You will be a part of all stages of the investigation, including the design of the experiment, experiment programming, running the experiment and data analysis. Help and guidance are provided throughout. This stage is situated in a research project in Labex ELF (<http://www.labex-eFl.org/?q=en>) strand 2.

To apply, you must have an interest in the semantics and pragmatics of dialogue. Experiences in corpus studies, experimental methods, and/or statistical analysis are desired but not required (as long as you are eager to learn, guidance in all these areas will be provided).