

CENTRE LANGUAGE – VARIATION – MULTILINGUALISM  
LINGUISTIC LECTURE SERIES  
WINTER TERM 2022-23

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“HOW’S LIFE TREATING YOU”: A LONGITUDINAL  
STUDY OF OPENINGS IN TRANSMODAL CHAT  
INTERACTIONS OF MULTILINGUAL TANDEM  
PARTNERS

**Time:** Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (4.15 p.m.)

**Place:** Campus Neues Palais, University of Potsdam



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## Abstract:

Mobile learning applications have become ubiquitous in daily life and are impacting the way additional languages (L2) are learned. This talk will examine data stemming from one of such applications, called Tandem, which serves as a platform for geographically dispersed multilinguals to engage in transmodal chat interaction (König, 2022), i.e., involving text and audio messaging in the same platform, with the primary goal of learning languages. The micro analyses, informed by conversation analysis (Sacks, Schegloff and Jefferson, 1984) and interactional linguistics (Couper-Kuhlen & Selting, 2018), will explore how participants start first-time and subsequent exchanges with other users. In particular for this talk, I will zoom in on the *howareyou*-formatted questions (Schegloff, 1986) used by one app user/multilingual speaker/L2 English learner. I will track how the formats deployed by the focal participant change over time as a result of recurrent use of *howareyou*s to open conversations in the app as well as users' shared interactional history (Deppermann & Pekarek Doehler, 2021). I will argue that the initial findings observed longitudinally in the data of the focal participant so far index the development of interactional competence (Doehler, 2018; Hall, Hellermann & Doehler, 2011; Malabarba, forthcoming). They also further support usage-based and conversation-analytic second language acquisition claims that L2 learning is rooted in speakers' situated language use in social interaction and that interactional competence, rather than a readily available mental capacity, involves co-construction and adaptation to here-and-now interactional exigencies (Berger & Pekarek Doehler, 2018).

## References

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- Malabarba, T. (forthcoming). Requesting on WhatsApp: The interplay of interactional competence and deontics in English as an additional language. *TESOL in Context*.
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- Schegloff, E. A. (1986). The routine as achievement. *Human Studies*, 9(2), 111-151. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF00148124>