

SPREMI 25 February 2021

TIME: 15:15-17

PLACE: <https://aboakademi.zoom.us/j/66312703059> (Meeting ID: 663 1270 3059)

Ylva Biri (University of Helsinki, English Philology)

PARTICIPANT POSITIONING IN INTEREST-BASED ONLINE COMMUNITIES

My research project applies quantitative corpus linguistic methods to study how participants in interest-based online communities position themselves as interactants and invested members. Positions (Davies and Harré 1990) refers to the situational identities that a writer ascribes to themselves through discourse in interaction. Using pragmatic frameworks of stance (Du Bois 2007) and metadiscourse (Hyland 2005), I describe how users construct positions by referring to themselves in a specialized English-speaking text corpus scraped from the popular social media platforms Twitter, Tumblr and Reddit. Through a series of comparative analyses of communities around different interests, this presentation how self-mentions in particular are used by interactants for identity-work and face-work, to establish themselves as knowledgeable, invested and connected participants in the interactive settings of different platforms.

References

- Davies, Bronwyn, and Rom Harré. 1990. "Positioning: The Discursive Production of Selves." *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour* 20 (1): 43–63.
- Du Bois, John W. 2007. "The Stance Triangle." In *Stancetaking in Discourse*, edited by Robert Englebretson, 139–82. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.
- Hyland, Ken. 2005. *Metadiscourse: Exploring Interaction in Writing*. Continuum Discourse Series. London: Continuum.