

L'evidenzialità nel parlato: comunicazione esplicita e implicita delle fonti percettive *in situ*

The *Infinita* project

This research work is part of the *Infinita FNS project – The categorization of information sources in face-to-face interaction: a study based on the TIGR-corpus of spoken Italian*, which is supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (funding no. 192771), started at USI - Lugano (CH) in September 2020, and is directed by Prof. Dr. Johanna Miecznikowski. The project studies the categorization of information sources in spoken Italian on the basis of a corpus that is currently being gathered (TIGR). Focusing on Italian, a language that does not encode evidentiality grammatically.

Two main research questions:

- Which evidential resources are available to participants in an interaction to signal/infer an utterance's information source?
- Which categories of information sources are relevant in talk-in-interactions?

State of the art

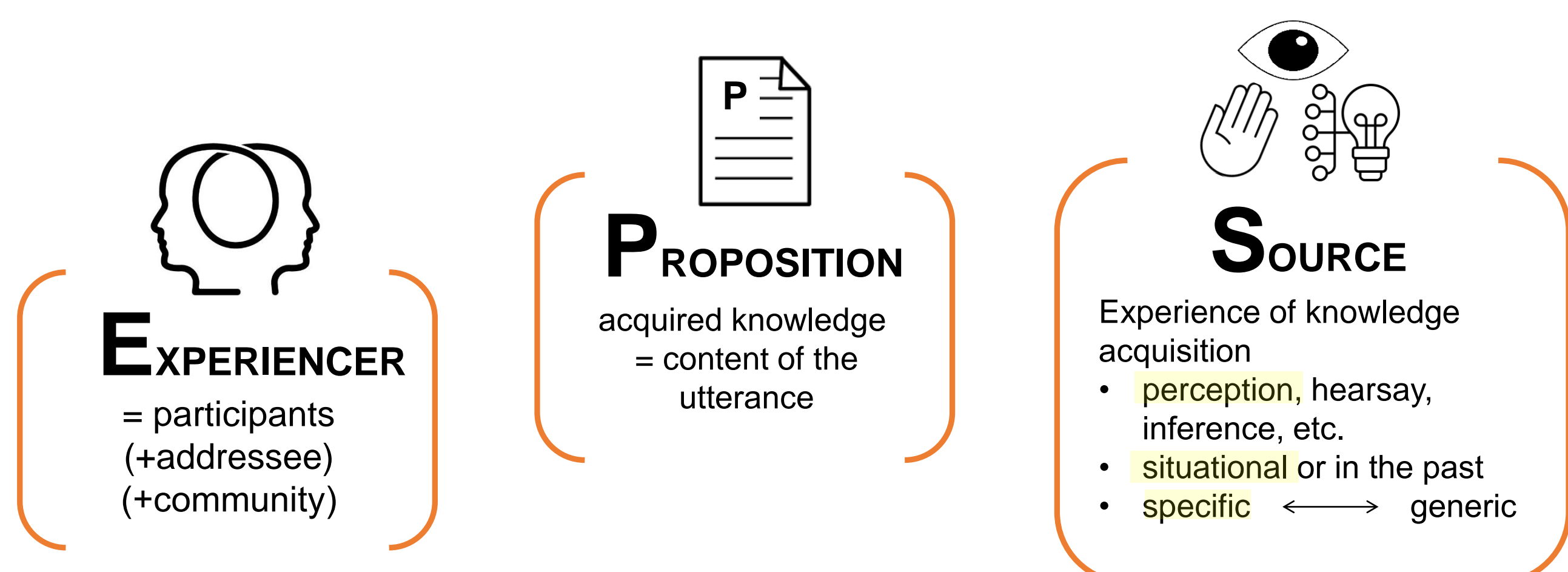
The notion of evidentiality has been defined by Typological Linguistics as the grammatical/lexical expression of information sources of an asserted proposition (cf. Aikhenvald 2004, Squartini 2007). Conversation Analysis (CA) and Interactional Linguistics (IL) have also studied the evidential dimension in relation to the "epistemic engine" that influences the organization of interaction (cf. Heritage 2012) and operates at three levels (access, primacy, responsibility, cf. Stivers et al. 2011). However, both of those approaches have predominantly examined evidentiality from a logocentric perspective, even if CA/IL have abundantly studied the participants' embodied conduct and its temporal organization (e.g., cf. e.g., Goodwin 2000, Kendon 2005, Poggi 2007, Streeck 2005, 2009, Kidwell 2011, Mondada 2013, Oloff 2019, Deppermann 2013, Jacquin 2015a, 2015b).

Hypotheses under investigation

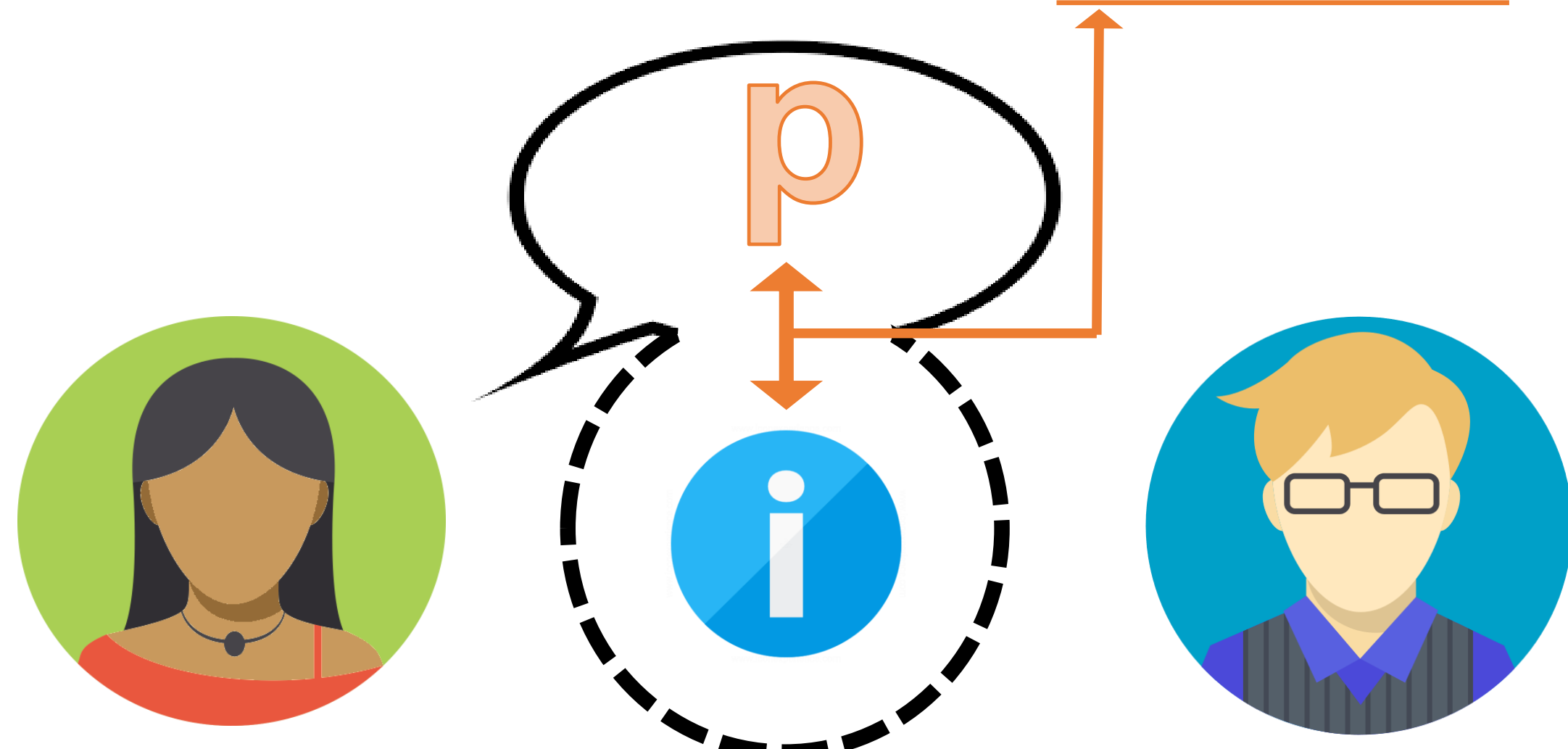
- Beyond a **logocentric vision** of evidentiality (*embodied turn*, cf. Mondada 2019).
- In face-to-face interactions, in order to manage *in situ* sources of knowledge, participants employ **embodied resources** more frequently than purely verbal strategies.
- When mobilizing *in situ* sources, participants adopt an **intersubjective orientation**.

A model to analyze the expression of sources of information in interaction

I will define reference to information sources and the expression of knowledge acquisition process as an interactional task, negotiated by participants and emerging from local contextual needs. This interactional vision is central within the evidential frame model (cf. Miecznikowski 2020, Miecznikowski et al. 2021). The model is intended to describe what happens when a participant expresses a content and refers to an information source, by focusing on a **conceptual level** – which encompasses experiencer, content and sources – and a **communicative level** – investigating strategies to indicate sources of knowledge.



CONCEPTUAL LEVEL: ACTIVATION OF AN EVIDENTIAL FRAME



POSSIBLE EXPRESSION OF THE SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Resources from the interactional ecology:

- Multimodal strategies.
- Linguistic strategies:
 - Grammatical markers
 - Lexical constructions
 - Textual strategies (preceding/following utterances & argumentation).
- Implicit content based on the uttered p (entailments & implicatures).

Data

The analysis is based on the **TIGR** corpus, i.e. Ticino e Grigioni. It encompasses 5 different settings (interviews; table conversations; cooperative meal preparations; preparing presentations; lessons). Each situation has been recorded by 2 high-definition cameras with their microphones. Timecode generator devices have been employed to achieve a perfect synchronization of video and audio tracks. Moreover, participants were provided with a personal *lavallier* microphone. After video editing, the events have been transcribed in ELAN software (Sloetjes/Wittenburg 2008).

Methods

- Study of data collected *in vivo* → empirical and naturalistic observation (Sacks 1984: 27).
- Investigation of the sequential environment (cf. Schegloff 2007, Levinson 2013).
- Multimodal interactional analysis (cf. e.g., Streeck 1993; Goodwin 2003, Kendon 2005, Kidwell 2011, Mondada 2013, Oloff 2019, Deppermann 2013).
- Collection of recurrent practices (cf. Clift/Raymond 2018).

Example. When the questioner is engaged in a competing activity: a recipient actively establishes epistemic access to *in situ* sources.

MAR is focused on an object on the opposite kitchen counter.

ROB is stirring some leeks → confirmation request.

MAR self selects herself as the recipient of ROB's question. As soon as he starts his turn, she starts gazing at him → authority

1 ROB **ci metto un po' d'acqua per: should I put in some water**

2 **ammorbidirli?**

to soften them?

3 (0, 18)

4 MAR **<<p>si;>**

yes

5 (0, 98)

6 MAR **un gocciolino sì. a small drop yes**

7 TIN **calda o fredda?**

MAR gives a first confirmative answer to ROB's question → go-ahead signal.

However, MAR keeps re-orienting toward the *in situ* element and reflexively establishes a perceptual access.

At line 6, however, Marta has finally established an epistemic access to the pan. As soon as she perceptually acquires exact knowledge about the condition of the leeks in the pan:

- she expands the preceding turn with a **more specific formulation** (turn design).
- the local object works as an information source, specific and situational.

State of the research and future steps

- Selection of a part of the corpus for a microscopic analysis («perspicuous setting» Garfinkel/Wieder 1992); multimodal annotation and video editing (in process).
- **Preliminary results and current investigations:**
 - 2 functions of **perceptually accessible local objects** → i. referential; ii. information sources (cf. Geddo 2022):
 - The process of knowledge acquisition *in situ* emerges from both turn design and embodied conduct → **different phases toward a shared and mutually-manifest access point** (cf. Geddo *in preparation*):
 - In situ* sources as part of complex multimodal *Gestalts* (Mondada 2016) → **interactional management of multisensoriality** (cf. Mondada 2021, Cekaite/Mondada 2021).
 - Relations with perception verbs (cf. Viberg 1983)? → to be examined
- **Research stay** at the Pragmatics Department of the Leibniz-Institut für Deutsche Sprache – IDS, (6 months, FNS mobility grant).

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