

ANALYSIS OF LAUGHTER IN TASK BASED INTERACTIONS

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The purpose of the dissertation is divided into two parts of study. The first part of the study presents a detailed analysis of the role of conversational dominance in laughter in task based interactions. The second part of the study focuses on analyzing the distribution of different types of laughter in laughter segments. Multisimo corpus is utilized for conducting the analysis on both parts of the study. The corpus consists of 18 video sessions consisting of two participants tasked with answering quiz questions and a facilitator tasked with supervising the discussions of the participants. Laughter is categorized into mirthful and discourse laughter based on laughter annotations provided in the video. Each video session is divided into three sections based on the topic and each section is further sub-divided into four section quarters of equal intervals. Analysis of laughter is conducted on each of these section quarters. A significant number of interesting conclusions are drawn from the analysis and some of the them supported by data and statistical significance are as follows:

- 1) Highly dominant participants frequently engage in mirthful laughter than low dominant participants.
- 2) Less dominant participants frequently engage in discourse laughter than mirthful laughter compared to highly dominant participants.
- 3) Discourse laughter is frequently observed compared to mirthful laughter before topic termination.