

**Edda Weigand**  
**Scientific Report on the ESF/SCH Exploratory Workshop**  
**Emotion in Dialogic Interaction. Advances in the Complex**



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Convened by:

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## **1. Executive summary**

The ESF workshop on 'Emotion in Dialogic Interaction. Advances in the Complex' took place as scheduled in October, 15-18, 2002 at the University of Münster. Conference site was the 'Senatssitzungssaal' of the historic building of the 'Schloss' where the Rectorat of the University is located. The workshop was organized by Prof. Edda Weigand and the assistant coordinator Jörn Bollow who were supported by a group of graduate students who mainly looked after the participants during the four days of the workshop.

Additional financial support was generously provided by the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster and the 'Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Westfälischen Wilhelms-Universität zu Münster e.V.'.

19 speakers, mostly well-known experts in the field and a few younger scholars, and 3 discussants were invited from different European countries (Germany, France, Italy, Sweden, Great Britain, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Russia) and from abroad (Israel, Canada). An interdisciplinary approach which goes beyond academic boundaries was guaranteed by combining different linguistic disciplines such as Comparative Linguistics, General Linguistics, Linguistics of different languages and related disciplines such as psychology,

philosophy and psychotherapy. In addition, some colleagues from the University of Münster joined the participants.

A few changes in the programme became necessary a few weeks before the beginning of the workshop: Charles Li (Santa Barbara/California) had to cancel his participation because of an important budget meeting at his University. Joshua Katz (Princeton) was unable to come because of health reasons. These changes were compensated for by inviting Carla Bazzanella (University of Torino) and Sara Cigada (University of Milano). Instead of Marcelo Dascal (Tel Aviv) who as winner of the Leibniz award had to begin teaching at the University of Leipzig, his wife, Varda Dascal, a psychotherapist, attended the conference and gave a paper.

The four days of the workshop were structured as scheduled: At the beginning of the workshop the participants were welcomed by the delegate of the European Science Foundation, the prorector and the convenor. There were four thematic parts: Addressing the complex, Communicative means, Emotional principles in dialogue, Final round table discussion. Every speaker had one hour speaking and discussion time. In spite of the workshop taking place in a historic building all modern means of presentation were at the participants' disposal. The possibility of having time for discussions after the lectures and during the breaks was very much appreciated by the participants. The final round table discussion structured by guiding questions from the convenor was taken up with much interest and engagement and lasted more than two hours.

Not only the scientific but also the social framework was very much appreciated by the participants. They all were accommodated in the 'Hotel am Schlosspark', very near to the conference site. The transfer from the airport to the city was conveniently arranged by means of a special taxi service to reduced costs. The conference site of the 'Schloss' is very close to the restaurants in the city so that it was easy to go out for a walk of a few minutes and have lunch. Coffee was provided twice a day in the hall outside the conference room. Every evening there was a special social programme. A concert in the historic Town Hall performed by prize-winning scholars of the University demonstrated the relationship between music and emotion and was very much enjoyed by the participants. There was a reception by the Mayor of Münster in the famous 'Friedenssaal' of the Town Hall where the first European peace was negotiated and then participants had dinner in a typical Westphalian restaurant. Thus also the historic and cultural framework of the region was taken account of.

The whole workshop was characterized by a clear scientific orientation on the one hand and a pleasant atmosphere on the other and was thus evaluated as a great success by the

participants. At the end of the workshop the participants expressed their deep interest in continuing cooperative research around the guidelines of the workshop.

The Publishing House Benjamins (Amsterdam/Philadelphia) has agreed to publish a selection of the Proceedings in the series 'Current Issues in Linguistic Theory', edited by Edda Weigand. The papers by Charles Li and Joshua Katz will be included.

## 2. Scientific content of the event

The workshop started with the following scientific premises:

- Emotions were considered to be an *integrative* component of human behaviour in dialogic interaction as indicated by recent findings in neurology.
- Dealing with *complex natural phenomena* such as emotions should start from an understanding of the object and derive an adequate model of description from the object. Such a model must be capable of addressing the complex.

The speakers were invited on the basis of these two premises. Approaches which separate emotions or those which define emotions by means of simple artificial units were not taken into account.

The core issue therefore was, on the one hand, to demonstrate how human abilities, among them having emotions, are interrelated in dialogic interaction. On the other hand, it can be presupposed that human behaviour is in part culturally dependent. In this respect, the focus was on identifying a specifically European way of expressing emotions and dealing with them in dialogue. In order to achieve a deeper understanding of such a complex phenomenon as human interactive behaviour and European identity it was necessary to cross academic boundaries and to develop a theoretical foundation by means of which to address the complex. The issue of identifying Europeanness necessitates *comparing different languages and cultures* insofar as it is the diversity of cultures and languages which makes up the general concept of *western culture*.

In the *first part of the workshop*: 'Addressing the complex' issues of theoretical foundation were dealt with. John E. JOSEPH in his opening paper on 'Body, passions and race in classical theories of language and emotion' outlined the classical background from a historical-comparative point of view and emphasized the interrelationship between language, body and culture. Edda WEIGAND in her paper on 'Emotions: the simple and the complex' then highlighted the modern view of addressing the complex object of dialogic interaction by

starting from the natural object-of-study and deriving an appropriate model from it. The model of the Dialogic Action Game follows the guideline of a new paradigm which is not restricted to rules but based on principles of probability. The focus is on human beings acting and reacting in complex ever-changing surroundings on the basis of their abilities. The minimal communicatively autonomous unit is considered to be the Dialogic Action Game which integratively comprehends the essential components of interaction such as language, perception, cognition, emotion, and includes variables of different kind which influence human behaviour. The key concept for opening up the complex of human behaviour is considered to be specific interests, in the end survival needs, and communicative, i.e. interactive or dialogic purposes. Communicative action can be described as the correlation of communicative purposes and communicative means. Communicative means are not only verbal means but cognitive and perceptual means as well which are used in an integrative manner. Human beings cannot separate their abilities such as speaking, thinking and perceiving and they are inevitably influenced by emotions. As purposeful beings they try to negotiate their positions in dialogic interaction. Weigand not only gave an outline of the theoretical framework but also demonstrated by means of authentic texts how emotions are verbally expressed in the utterance and how cognitive emotional principles influence the dialogic sequence by emphasizing specifically European features.

The papers by František DANEŠ on ‘Universality versus culture specificity of emotions’ and Svetla CMEJKOVÁ on ‘Are there emotionless dialogues? Emotions and involvement’ shared this view of emotions as complex integrated phenomena and focused on specific cultural dependencies. Karin AIJMER in her paper on ‘Interjections in a contrastive perspective’ analysed minimal verbal units such as interjections as expressions for complex functions in different languages. Carla BAZZANELLA in her paper on ‘The context of emotions’ addressed the complex dependency of emotions on contextual, especially cultural variables.

The *second part of the workshop on ‘Communicative means: grammatical categories, lexical means and utterances’* focused on the verbal means of dialogic interaction with which emotions can be expressed in the utterance. True to the integrating point of view the verbal means were not isolated, for instance, as single words but analysed as means-in-use, words or grammatical categories within the utterance, or the whole utterance as means for a speech act.

The paper given by Michael JANDA on ‘Emotions as magic bonding in Indo-European languages’ referred to the origin of European languages and demonstrated how emotions were

considered as a bonding force in various Indo-European languages. Wolfgang TEUBERT dealt with the specific emotion of 'guilt' from a corpus-linguistic and discourse-analytic point of view. A corpus-based comparative analysis of the vocabulary of 'Joy, astonishment and fear' in English, German and Russian was given by Valerij DEM'JANKOV. Christian SCHMITT focused on dictionaries of Spanish, French and German. Maxim STAMENOV dealt with ambivalent emotions in intercultural communication with reference to Turkish loanwords in Bulgarian. Ronald GELUYKENS and Bettina KRAFT analysed utterances of complaint with respect to emotion and politeness.

*The third part of the workshop* was devoted to *emotional principles*, ie to cognitive means and to the issue of how emotions influence the sequence of dialogue without being explicitly expressed. Sara CIGADA dealt with the topic of emotional strategies in political discourse, Elda WEIZMAN and Tamara SOVRAN interpreted emotions in literary dialogue, and Christian PLANTIN addressed the 'Strategic use of emotion in argumentation'. Questions of the relationship between emotions, language and the body were the topic of Varda DASCAL's and Michael WALROD's presentations, Varda Dascal starting from a psychotherapeutic point of view and Michael Walrod highlighting the difference between European and non-European cultures. Finally, the papers by Jörn BOLLOW and Marina BONDI aimed at emotional strategies in media dialogues.

At the end of the workshop there was a final *Round Table Discussion* of more than two hours which clearly showed the engagement of the participants and also indicated the direction of progress made in the days of the workshop. The discussion was structured by key questions introduced by Edda Weigand which mainly aimed at elaborating what the participants had expected and what was achieved, on the one hand, and at pointing out future perspectives, on the other. In a vivid exchange of opinions, many proposals and evaluations were brought forward. In general, the position of addressing the complex and of describing it by means of an open model such as the model of the Dialogic Action Game was approved and accepted. Much interest was shown for continuing work on this integrative line as well as on the line of comparing different languages and cultures and thus of profiling European identity. Proposals were made to jointly use the model of the Dialogic Action Game and to apply it either to the same type of action game in different languages and cultures or to different complex action games such as business communication, legal argumentation and media dialogues and to elaborate the important role of emotions in these types of dialogic interaction. Other proposals were directed at lexical comparative research on words-in-use.

Compiling databases was considered as an essential prerequisite for future work. The various proposals can be summarized along two guidelines: the integrative line of the complex which goes beyond patterns and the comparative line which refers to different languages and cultures. Thus the general topic could be ‘Dialogic interaction: Patterns and beyond’ which could be subdivided into projects dealing with the theoretical foundation, with complex action games, with words-in-use, and with databases.

At this point, Prof. Gülgöz, the ESF delegate, informed the participants about possible follow-up activities offered by ESF and proposed to apply for a ‘Scientific Programme’. The general intention of the participants was to continue research within a Scientific Programme.

### 3. Final programme

<b>Tuesday</b>		
8.30-9.30	Registration	
9.30-10.00	Welcoming addresses	
	<b><u>Addressing the complex</u></b>	
10.00-11.00	Joseph, John E.	Body, Passions and Race in Classical Theories of Language and Emotion
11.00-11.30	Coffee Break	
11.30-12.30	Weigand, Edda	Emotions: the Simple and the Complex
12.30-14.30	Lunch	
14.30-15.30	Daneš, František	Universality vs Culture Specificity of Emotions
15.30-16.00	Coffee Break	
16.00-17.00	Svetla Cmejrková	Are there Emotionless Dialogues? Emotions and Involvement
17.00-18.00	Aijmer, Karin	Interjections in a Contrastive Perspective
18.30	Concert (town hall)	
<b>Wednesday</b>		
9.30-10.30	Bazzanella, Carla	The context of emotions
10.30.-11.00	Coffee Break	
	<b><u>Communicative Means: Grammatical Categories, Lexical Means and Utterances</u></b>	
11.00-12.00	Janda, Michael	Emotions as Magic Bonding in Indo-European Languages
12.00-13.00	Teubert, Wolfgang	Guilt: The Invention of a New Feeling in the Late 19th Century
13.00-15.00	Lunch	
15.00-16.00	Dem'jankov, Valerij	Joy, Astonishment and Fear in English, German and Russian : A Corpus-based Contrastive-Semantic Analysis
16.00-16.30	Coffee Break	
16.30-17.30	Geluykens, Ronald / Kraft, Bettina	Emotion and Politeness in Complaints
18.30	Reception by the mayor of Münster	

<b>Thursday</b>		
9.30-10.30	Schmitt, Christian	Contrastive Linguistics and Pragmatics. How to Establish Equivalences of Verbs and Functional Verb-noun-compounds (with special regard to Spanish, French and German)
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break	
11.00-12.00	Stamenov, Maxim	The Place and Functions of Ambivalent Emotions and Attitudes in Intercultural Communication
12.00-13.00	Cigada, Sara	Emotion Strategies in Pétain's Discourses (1940)
13.00-15.00	Lunch	
<b>Emotional Principles in Dialogue</b>		
15.00-16.00	Weizman, Elda	Interpreting Emotions in Literary Dialogue
	Tamar Sovran	The Author-Reader-Text Emotional Bond in the Literary Action Game
16.00-16.30	Coffee Break	
16.30-17.30	Plantin, Christian	Strategic Use of Emotion in Argumentation
17.30-18.30	Dascal, Varda	The Body-Emotion Dialogue
19.30	Dinner	
<b>Friday</b>		
9.30-10.30	Walrod, Michael	The Interplay of Emotions and Language in Normative Discourse
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break	
11.00-12.00	Bollow, Jörn	Anticipation of Public Emotions in TV Debates
12.00-13.00	Bondi, Marina	Displaying Emotions : A Case Study of Media Discourse
13.00-15.00	Lunch	
15.00-17.00	Round Table Discussion	
17.00-18.00	Farewell Cocktail	
<b>Saturday</b>		
9.00-11.00	Guided City Tour	

#### 4. Assessment of the results, contribution to the future direction of the field

The workshop had a clear theoretical conception which was considered to be a tentative basis for addressing the topic 'Emotions in dialogic interaction'. This tentative basis has become strongly confirmed and deepened in its fundamental assumptions. The results can be indicated as follows:

- To deal with complex phenomena of performance such as emotions or human behaviour in general it is necessary to start from an understanding of the *object* and to derive a *methodology* which is able to address the complex.
- The Model of the Dialogic Action Game has proved to be an appropriate model for such an advance in the complex (e.g. WEIGAND 2000, 2002). It is an *open model*, based on

principles of probability and thus conforms with the new paradigm of theorizing emerging in different disciplines, not only in the Humanities. It is a paradigm which has the capacity of mediation between order and disorder and of adaptation at ever-changing surroundings. Human beings in this sense are complex adaptative systems, to use an expression by GELL-MANN (1994).

- It is an essential element in the new paradigm that human abilities such as emotion, cognition, language, perception, are *integrated abilities*. Integration of human abilities corresponds to recent neurological findings, for instance, by DAMASIO (2000).
- Emotions are *verbally expressed* in the utterance by words-in-use or phrases as well as by grammatical categories and the whole utterance. On the one hand, the papers confirmed that *corpus-linguistic techniques* are needed to verify assumed conventions. On the other hand, it is necessary to *compare different languages and cultures* insofar as the peculiarities of our mother language become evident only in comparison with other languages. The Model of the Dialogic Action Game was considered an adequate theoretical basis insofar as it offers a pragmatic, action-oriented approach and integratively comprehends all components, among them verbal means.
- Emotional principles, i.e. *cognitive means*, influence the dialogic sequence. As the papers demonstrated these principles are strongly culturally dependent. A European way of dealing with emotions emerges, for instance, following a principle of ‘Hide your emotions in public’ which to some extent is in contrast, for instance, to a presumed American attitude of displaying the private in the public. However, more detailed studies are needed to differentiate and to verify the results.
- The *issue of Europeanness* or of European identity was an always present issue. Again the starting assumption has been confirmed, namely that Europeanness is characterized by internal cultural diversity and that some sort of unity becomes evident only from outside, for instance, from the culture of the Ga’dang people as demonstrated in the paper by Walrod. The general view of European identity as emerging from diversity could gain more concrete profile. European identity however is only partly grasped by a view looking at existing attitudes and features. As a great step forward it was recognized that European identity still has to be created, not only politically but also by decisions in other areas, in the area of European law or European management. As a result of the discussions it was mostly considered necessary to create and develop a joint European interest. The importance of interests which underly all human behaviour is a crucial feature of the



Model of the Dialogic Action Game. They should be highlighted as point of orientation for future research on human behaviour.

## References

Damasio, A. (2000): *The Feeling of What Happens. Body, emotion and the making of consciousness.* London: Vintage.

Gell-Mann, M. (1994): *The Quark and the Jaguar. Adventures in the simple and the complex.* London: Abacus.

Weigand, E. (2000): *The Dialogic Action Game.* In: Coulthard, M./Cotterill, J./Rock, F. (eds.): *Dialogue Analysis VII. Working with Dialogue. Selected papers from the 7<sup>th</sup> IADA conference, Birmingham 1999, 1-18.* Tübingen: Niemeyer.

Weigand, E. (2002): *The Language Myth and Linguistics Humanised.* In: Harris, R. (ed.): *The Language Myth in Western Culture, 55-83.* Richmond, Surrey: Curzon.

## **5. Statistical information** (invited speakers and *invited discussants*)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Age Bracket</b>	<b>Country of Origin</b>
Karin Aijmer	Prof.Dr.	60+	Sweden
Carla Bazzanella	Prof.Dr.	50-60	Italy
Jörn Bollow	M.A.	20-30	Germany
Marina Bondi	Prof.Dr.	40-50	Italy
Sara Cigada	Dr.	30-40	Italy
Svetla Cmejrková	Prof.Dr.	50-60	Czech Republic
František Daneš	Prof.Dr.	60+	Czech Republic
Varda Dascal	Dr.	50-60	Israel
Valerij Dem'jankov	Prof.Dr.	50-60	Russia
Ronald Geluykens	Prof.Dr.	40-50	Germany
Michael Janda	Prof.Dr.	30-40	Germany
John E. Joseph	Prof.Dr.	40-50	Great Britain
Bettina Kraft	M.A.	20-30	Germany
Christian Plantin	Prof.Dr.	50-60	France
Christian Schmitt	Prof.Dr.	50-60	Germany
Maxim Stamenov	Prof.Dr.	50-60	Bulgaria
Wolfgang Teubert	Prof.Dr.	50-60	Great Britain
Michael Walrod	Prof.Dr.	50-60	Canada
Edda Weigand	Prof.Dr.	50-60	Germany
Elda Weizman	Prof.Dr.	50-60	Israel
<i>Jesper Hermann</i>	Dr.	50-60	Denmark
<i>Zohar Livnat</i>	Dr.	40-50	Israel
<i>Tamar Sovran</i>	Dr.	50-60	Israel

<b>Countries of origin</b>	
Bulgaria	(1)
Canada	(1)
Czech Republic	(2)
Denmark	(1)
France	(1)
Germany	(6)
Great Britain	(2)
Israel	(4)
Italy	(3)
Russia	(1)
Sweden	(1)

<b>Age bracket</b>					
Age	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60+
Participants	2	2	4	13	2

**Proportion female/male:** 11/12 (48% / 52%)

Number of academics: 20  
Number of young academics: 3

## 6. Final list of participants

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