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**Forms, functions and discourse intonation of questions across genre types in business/professional communications**

This paper discusses some of the findings of a larger study which examines the forms and functions of questions and responses and the pattern of intonation of these exchanges across genre types in business/professional communications. Data comes from the sub-corpus of business discourse of the Hong Kong Corpus of Spoken English (HKCSE) which is prosodically transcribed using Brazil's (1997) discourse intonation system. The corpus consists of naturally occurred discourses between Hong Kong Chinese and native speaker of English or speakers of language other than Cantonese. This corpus-driven study examines the types and functions of questions used by the two sets of speakers in different genre types in business/professional communications: namely service encounters and meetings. It also addresses the communicative role of intonation choices identified in the questions.

References

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