
The role of conversational discourse units in backchanneling: A case study of OKAY based on task-oriented English dialogues

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Abstract

The study investigates the extent to which different types of conversational discourse units (CDUs) influence the timing of producing OKAY in task-oriented English dialogues. It was found that the type of CDU influenced the timing of producing OKAY. More specifically, it appears that the production of OKAY is related to the emergence of the gist of the CDU. The analysis showed that the earlier the gist of the CDU is available, the earlier the production of OKAY.

Keywords: backchannel, Okay, conversational discourse unit, prediction, task, oriented dialogue

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