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Jasionytė-Mikučionienė, Erika
"Imperatives as discourse markers in Lithuanian"

In the last few decades, there has been a great interest in the usage and development of discourse markers (Brinton, 1996; Aijmer, 2002; Traugott & Dasher 2002; Fischer 2006; Degand & Simon-Vandenbergen, 2006, among others). However, the discourse markers of imperative origin have received relatively less attention, for they have been investigated mainly in Romance and Germanic languages (Waltereit 2002; Fagard 2010; Van Olmen 2011; Aijmer, Elgemark 2013). The present paper examines such Lithuanian imperatives as *klausyk(ite)* 'listen', *žiūrėk(ite)* 'look', *žinok(ite)* 'you know', *sakyk(ite)* 'say' and *atleisk(ite)* 'excuse me' by focusing on their use as discourse markers. Except for a few studies (Liauksminienė 2015; Jasionytė-Mikučionienė 2016; Usonienė 2016), the pragmatic functions of the Lithuanian imperative forms have not been studied in depth. Thus, the aim of the present paper is to contribute to research on imperatives as discourse markers in languages other than English by investigating their usage patterns in written and spoken Lithuanian. The markers *klausyk(ite)* 'listen', *žiūrėk(ite)* 'look', *žinok(ite)* 'you know', *sakyk(ite)* 'say' and *atleisk(ite)* 'excuse me' are compared in terms of their frequency, distribution and usage.

The data have been collected from the Corpus of the Contemporary Lithuanian Language, namely from its subcorpora of fiction and spoken discourse. The study shows that the Lithuanian imperatives *atleisk(ite)* 'excuse me' and *sakyk(ite)* 'say' are used as typical imperatives to excuse and say or as attention-getting devices, while the imperatives of visual, auditory perception and cognition *klausyk(ite)* 'listen', *žiūrėk(ite)* 'look' and *žinok(ite)* 'you know' are multifunctional and exhibit a variety of functions: directives to listen, to look or to know, attention-getting devices, argumentation markers, directives to consider or interrupt and other functions. The imperative of intentional visual perception *žiūrėk(ite)* 'look' is quite often used to express the speaker's contradiction to what is said. *Klausyk(ite)* 'listen', by contrast, cannot fulfil this function. As discourse markers, the imperatives under analysis are more likely to occur in interactive contexts: the singular forms *klausyk* 'listen', *žiūrėk* 'look' and *žinok* 'you know' prevail in private dialogues.

Jodłowiec, Maria
"Poetic effects, culture and jokes: How relevance theory can explain humour in verbal jokes"

The main thesis of this paper is that the affective response generated by the punch-line in verbal jokes has a cognitive basis and can be elucidated in terms of weak communication, as conceived of in the relevance-theoretic framework. It is argued that when the punch-line is processed and interpreted, the joke recipient is left with a whole range of weakly communicated implicatures manifest to him or her (Piskorska and Jodłowiec forthcoming). Sperber and Wilson (1986/95, 2008) refer to this kind of outcome as a poetic effect, and it is typically associated with the comprehension of figurative language, mainly metaphor. For humour to be generated, as it will be shown, apart from the peculiar *cognitive overload effect*, the punch-line will also result in the reorganisation of assumptions manifest in the recipient's mind. Those compatible with the joke set up will appear void and will be replaced with a vast array of weakly communicated assumptions. For this effect to take place in the audience, they must be able to generate a rich weakly communicated import, which in practical terms means that they must be familiar with the key concepts that the mini-narrative and the punch-line are based on: only then will a relatively large number of weakly communicated assumptions be within their capacity. It is emphasized that this kind of analysis elucidates why certain themes or characters are better candidates for raising a laugh with a specific audience than others, with cultural scripts in general and ethnic stereotypes in particular being excellent candidates for joke-triggers: the point is that their weak-communication potential is especially robust.