You are stupid, you are cupid': playful polyphony as a resource for affectionate expression in the talk of a young London couple
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Abstract or Description

Whereas language and gender studies’ explorations of couples’ talk have tended to focus on collaborative vs competitive conversational style, social psychological work on couples’ intimate relationships has long been driven by an interest in expressions of affection. This paper aims to show that linguistic discourse analysis can make a significant contribution to our understanding of how affection is expressed in intimate relationships. The paper focuses on the playful switching of frames, voices, codes and personas which emerges as central to the affectionate practice in the spontaneous talk of a young multi-cultural London couple. It argues that quantitative interview studies based on an a-priori understanding of affection are unable to capture many of the idiosyncratic and creative ways in which speakers express their affection for one another in their intimate talk.
You already know to say "Please", "Thank you," and "Excuse me" - but here are 15 more ways to make your English sound more polite! You can use the other phrase, "Sorry – I'm a bit busy right now" when you're in the middle of work that can't be interrupted. You can follow up with "Can we talk a little later?" and agree on a time when you're both available. Don't say: Tell me when you're available. Say: Let me know when you're available. "Let me know" is a nicer and more indirect way to say "tell me." It's a casual way to ask for some information. Alternatively, you could simply ask the question, "When are you available?" Don't say: You're wrong. Say: I think you might be mistaken. Or: Actually… (say the correct information) If you show other people that you are listening to them, and that you understand them, they will be more willing to listen to you and accept your opinion. Don't just say "I disagree", show them that you are listening and that you understand them before you explain your opinion. You can do this by using statements like: Yes, but… So, those are my 5 pieces of advice for being polite and diplomatic. Try to use them when you speaking and you will become a more effective communicator in English. Suggested courses: Business and Professional English 30+.