Title: Interlanguage Pragmatics and Intercultural Communication

The primary focus of interlanguage pragmatics is on speech acts, politeness, conversational routines and intercultural communication. The overall aim of this research line is to provide insights into interlanguage variation by contrasting language learners’ linguistic proficiency and their productive pragmalinguistic competence. The purpose is to identify which linguistic aspects contribute to a successfully produced discourse achieving its communicative goals. Several aspects can be considered such as the role of specific linguistic devices (e.g. the use of discourse markers) as hedging devices to alter the impact of an utterance; the role of politeness orientation in speech act realizations and interactions between speakers with a different linguistic background; the characteristics of different types of turn-taking strategies in language learners’ discourse; the effect of instruction on L2 pragmatic competence, etc. An Vande Casteele belongs to the research group “Centre for Linguistics”, a leading centre for research on multilingualism and second language teaching. She is currently supervising research in L2 Spanish pragmatics and contrastive studies comparing different language learners populations (e.g. L2 English /vs/ L2 Spanish /vs/ control group of native speakers). Researchers interested in this field of interlanguage pragmatics and intercultural communication are welcome to discuss ideas for the submission of a research proposal.

Research group: Centre for Linguistics - CLIN https://clin.research.vub.be/

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