Correlating directives and laughter: what personal conversations in SPICE Ireland can tell us about politeness
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The proposed study intends to investigate whether there is a systematic correlation between the use of directive speech acts in face-to-face and telephone conversations in the data available in the SPICE Ireland Corpus (Kallen and Kirk 2012).

Speakers of Irish English are considered to be particularly careful not to threaten their interlocutors’ face (e.g. Kallen 2005). However, previous, not yet published work by the current author shows that while indeed few impositive strategies (cf. Blum-Kulka et al. 1989) are attested in public speech, particularly in the genre of face-to-face conversations in SPICE Ireland a number of strongly impositive directive strategies can be found.

This study will extend the investigation of directive speech acts in SPICE Ireland to all attestations of directive speech acts in the genres of face-to-face and in telephone conversations and classify the types of strategies that are used. These findings will then be correlated to the meta-annotation in the SPICE Ireland corpus. In order to measure informality, the annotation of laughter will be focused on. It will be shown that in the data represented in SPICE Ireland, the less formal the situation is, the more impositive strategies are used in the corpus material.

Thus, methodologically the use of multi-modality in corpus annotation provides us 1. with a tool to determine the formality of a given text more securely and 2. with more detailed information on the uses of linguistic features, such as imposition in directive speech acts.