Communicative accommodation in multimodal dialogues

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Conversational parties mutually adapt their communicative behaviour in a number of dimensions, from the physical properties of speech signal and gesticulation up to the level of mental representations. This dynamic process is bound to the fluency, efficiency and quality of interaction as well as the success of communication. It is also believed to have a diagnostic and predictive value. Although the importance of accommodation has been widely acknowledged, its substrates and theoretical background are still disputed while empirical studies face serious methodological problems. In the present talk, some approaches to the multimodal analysis of communicative annotation will be discussed, with the focus on the domain of paralinguistic features of speech and gestural behaviour. Some aspects of dialogue scenario design, data collection procedures, multimodal recordings annotation and analysis will be shown using examples from the projects carried out by DiaGest research group.