

Assessing task difficulty: an empirical approach



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The talk will be a conceptual and methodological exploration of a new construct, task interactional difficulty, and of a possible approach to assessing task demands in general. The construct to be presented consists on three dimensions: number of exchanges, number of initiating moves, and visual access among participants. To demonstrate the feasibility of this approach, these measures are applied to a corpus of native speakers of Italian performing different oral tasks, which are then ranked according to their interactional difficulty. Implications for SLA research and task-based language teaching and assessment are discussed, as well as possible ways of extending this procedure to other types of tasks and other facets of difficulty.

Zeit: Mittwoch, 24. März 2021, 18:00, online

Link zum Online-Vortragsraum:

<https://webconference.uibk.ac.at/b/car-h4e-7w3-aqj>

Gabriele Pallotti is full professor of Modern Language Didactics at Department of Education and Human sciences of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. His research deals with language education, the acquisition of Italian as Second Language, interlanguage analysis, linguistic complexity, methodology and epistemology in applied linguistics. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the European Second Language Association (Eurosla) and the editor of the Eurosla Studies series.