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Managing informal interaction: stancetaking and alignment in Dutch and Indonesian

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Stellingen

Stellingen bij de dissertatie *Managing informal interaction. Stancetaking and alignment in Dutch and Indonesian* door Maaïke van Naerssen.

1. An interactional approach to phatic communicative behavior is a promising route to a deeper understanding of the interplay between language and culture (Chapter 1).
2. The bias in scholarly work towards people having an individualistic, idiocentric, independent sense of self (and agency) impedes our understanding of intercultural interaction (Chapter 2).
3. Insight in the management of interpersonal alignment in informal interaction provides a baseline of what is considered “normal” human behavior. This is an indispensable aspect of research concerned with interpersonal relationships (Chapter 3).
4. Reality TV shows, such as Big Brother, are a useful and valuable source of information for interactional research (Chapter 4).
5. While an essentialist approach to cultures is to be avoided in (inter)cultural academic work, the folk belief of what some culture entails should not be overlooked as a valuable starting point of scholarly research.
6. Language is not used (or studied) in a vacuum, it is therefore of great importance to pay attention to the societal and cultural significance of choices made by speakers (and researchers).
7. Focusing on interactional efforts of interpersonal alignment offers a promising route to reach conclusions about universal patterns of interaction independent of a specific linguistic system.
8. The inclusion of ambiguous or vague data should be encouraged, not discouraged. Conclusions may not seem as impressive if they are not all-encompassing, but being able to recognize their limit in fact yields more compelling insights. The exceptions prove the point.
9. Zonder context is er geen echt begrip. De hedendaagse “fysicanijd” binnen de geesteswetenschap dient te worden tegengegaan (geïnspireerd op Robbert Dijkgraaf, NRC Handelsblad, 23 februari 2018).
10. Wandelen is lopen zonder doel.