

**Learning from assessment:
corpus insights into strategic and pragmatic
competences**

Dr Elaine Boyd

<http://www.trinitycollege.com/site/?id=3328>

<http://cass.lancs.ac.uk>



Trinity Lancaster Corpus¹

¹Large, balanced and representative collection of language data in computer-readable format. TLC is based on the Graded Exam in Spoken English.

Trinity Lancaster Spoken Learner Corpus

Currently: 3.5 mil. words



- ✓ **1,700+ L2 users**
- ✓ **Age range: 9 to 72**
- ✓ **Three main proficiency levels**
- ✓ **Four different speaking tasks**
- ✓ **Ten different L1 and cultural backgrounds**

Graded Exam in Spoken English

TASK	TOPIC FAMILIARITY	INTERLOCUTOR ROLES	INTERACTIVENESS
PRESENTATION	Candidate choice; pre-selected	Candidate -led	monologic
DISCUSSION	of Topic	Jointly led	dialogic
INTERACTIVE	Examiner selected	Candidate-led	dialogic
CONVERSATION	Examiner selected	Jointly led	dialogic

What's going on?

Simple query:

[Query types](#) [Context](#) [Text types](#) [?](#)

Context

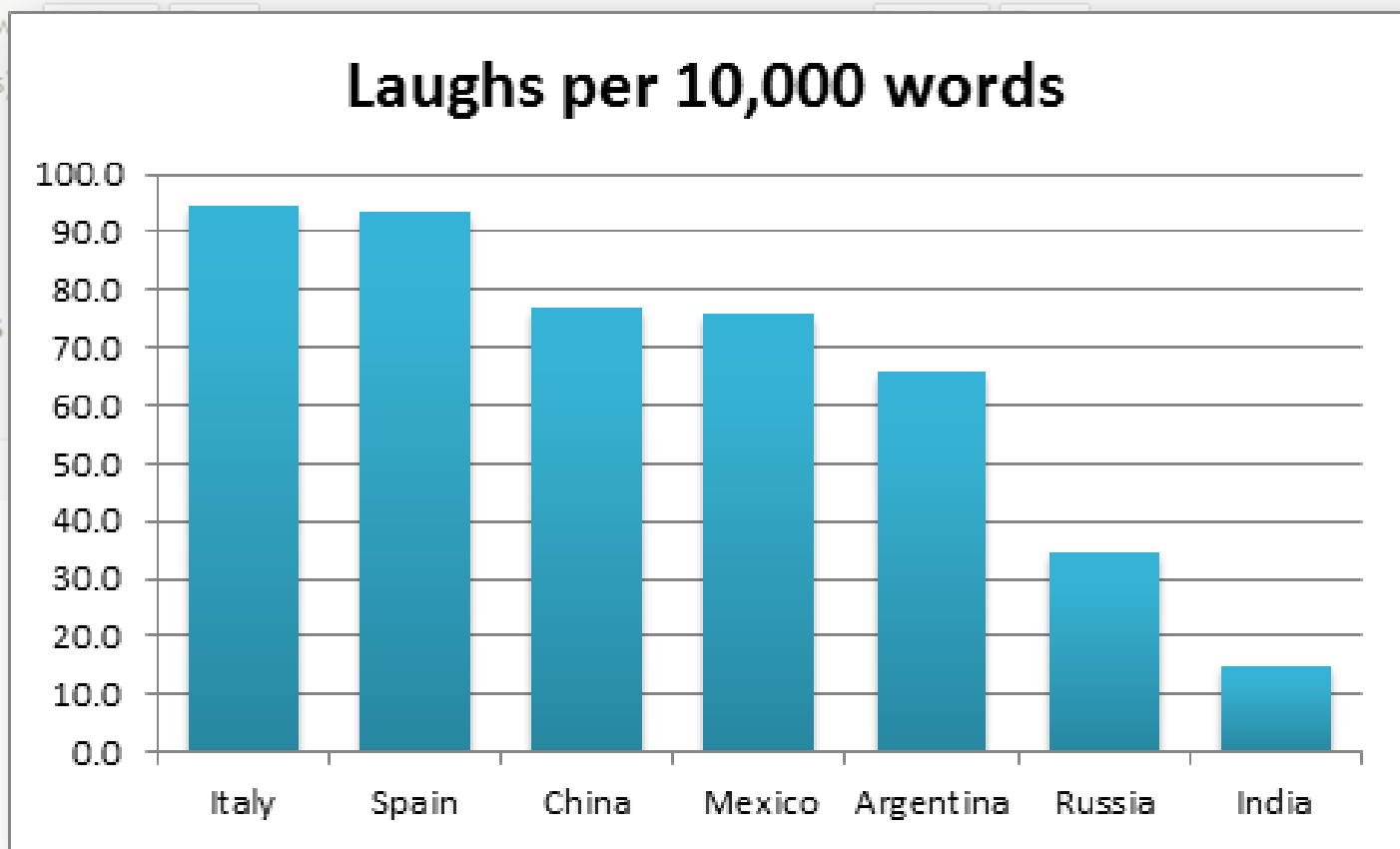
Lemma filter

PoS filter

Window

Lemma(s)

Text Types

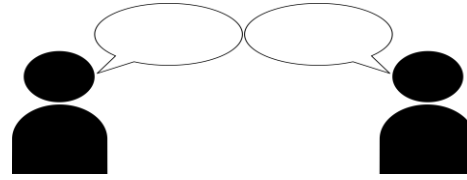


Based on GESE Grade 6

What they talk about when they talk about topics



- City/Village
- Education
- Technology
- Games
- Festivals
- Fashion/Clothes
- Culture
- History
- Films
- Sport
- Work/Job
- Food
- Government
- Money



mental attitude, online shopping, CALL, food safety, managing modern life, studying abroad, role of media in our life, the pursuit of happiness, company development strategies, insomnia, social conditioning, marriage of same sex couples, wildlife conservation, internet marketing, women in film, Italian judges & the mafia, social networking, dreams, immigration, working in a library, mediation, the death penalty, ancient medicine, Daniel Defoe, geniuses, human slumber, DNA, struggles with learning English, history of fashion, waste disposal, fitness, living in the countryside, slavery, child trafficking, abortion, childhood gymnastics, integrated education, psychology, obesity, sexism, the UN, government, technology & creativity, the USA & immigration, preparing for this test, the self-access language learner, historical sites, how to be a good leader, emotional design, gender equality, security & criminality, video games, problems caused by the tea plantations, the human-elephant conflict, favourite brands, depression, social networking, Mother Teresa, child abuse, tourism, running, genetically modified food, nuclear power, ETA (Basque), organ transplants, ancient languages, the financial crisis, the environment, religious customs, the Titanic, online privacy, advances in technology, overpopulation, home schooling, industrial robots, cannabis, AIDS, alcoholism, arranged marriage, laser welding

Successful speakers at B2 (Italy & Spain)

I don't know whether to

Ok well more and more people
these days are doing

You should <erm> ask her ...

Mm..... uhu

Do you like hot or cold?

.. Sorry, do you mean your daughter?



For a report on this data see Cass Briefings at

<http://cass.lancs.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/08-CASS-Trinity.pdf>

Epistemic adverbials



Gablasova, D., Brezina, V., McEnery, T. & Boyd, E. (2015) Epistemic stance in spoken L2 English: The effect of task type and speaker style. *Applied Linguistics*. Open Access at <http://applij.oxfordjournals.org>