Strategy and Discourse of Questioning

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Phatic Interaction

- Communication which has the primary aim of forming and reinforcing social bonds.
Transactional vs. Interactional

• Transactional questions seek to gather specific information.

Examples: What time is it?
How much is this?
How do you open this file?

Answers tend to be concise.
Interactional Questions

• Suggest possible topics for discourse.
• Are often multi-faceted.
• Do not require concise answers.
• Answers may be only tangentially related to the question
Question Schema 1.

1. I don’t really play any sports,
2. I mean,
3. I like watching soccer and rugby on T.V. but I don’t actually do any sports myself.
4. How about you?
5. Do you do any sports?
Question Schema 2.

1. How do you mainly use your cell phone?
2. You know, like
3. Mailing, calling, internet,
4. Something like that.
Question Schema 3

1. What do you usually do after school?
2. (I mean,)
3. Do you have a part time job or anything, or do you just go straight home?
Answer Schema

- Answer the question
- Discourse marker
- Give further factual information
- Discourse marker
- Give subjective information
Answer

• Well, I go running and swimming, you know,
• I mean,
• I don’t do any team sport, like soccer or baseball, anything like that
• To tell the truth,
• I mostly like exercising on my own.