

BACK-CHANNEL BEHAVIOURS IN ENGLISH CONVERSATION

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education
In Partial Fulfilment for the Master of Education in English**

1216

**Submitted by
Mahender Raj Bhatta**

- Mahender Raj Bhatta, 2011

**Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu**

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RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that **Mr. Mahender Raj Bhatta** has prepared this thesis entitled **Back-channel Behaviours in English Conversation** under my guidance and supervision.

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare to the best of my knowledge that this thesis is original; no part of it was earlier submitted for the candidature of research degree to any university.

Date:2068/03/17

Mahender Raj Bhatta

DEDICATION

Dedicated
to my Parents

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ABSTRACT

The present research is entitled "Backchannel Behaviour in English Conversation". The main focus of this study was directed towards whether English speakers used backchannel responses or not. If yes, how? The study was carried out using both the primary and secondary sources of data. For primary data, twenty English conversations were video recorded as a sample by purposive non-random sampling procedure. The findings reveal that the English speakers used backchannel behaviour in their talks. In conclusion, the English, speakers use verbal, non-verbal and both the combination of verbal and non-verbal backchannel responses, which play very important role in communication.

This thesis consists of four chapters. The first chapter deals with the introduction of the study. It consists of some definitions of pragmatics, language and communication, communication process, conversation analysis, definitions of backchannel, backchannel communication, objectives of the study and significance of the study. The second chapter deals with the methodology that consists of sources of data, sample and sampling procedure, tools for data collection, process of data collection and limitations of the study. The third chapter is concerned with analysis, interpretation and presentation of collected data. The fourth chapter includes the findings and recommendations. This chapter is followed by the references and appendices.

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SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ARG	:	Agreement
BC	:	Backchannel
CON	:	Continuer
D1	:	Definition 1
D2	:	Definition 2
D3	:	Definition 3
EFL	:	English as a Foreign Language
EMR	:	Strong motional reaction
NUN	:	Non-understanding
SUP	:	Support/empathy
TRP	:	Transition relevance place
UND	:	Understanding
USA	:	United States of America
ESL	:	English as a Second Language
[]	:	Overlapping talk starts, and ends
> <	:	Increase in tempo
(0.0)	:	Length of silence in second
::	:	Lengthened syllable
?	:	Rising intonation
?,	:	Rising intonation but weaker than question
!	:	Animated tone
(.)	:	A micro pause, hearable but too short to measure.
↑	:	Vertical arrow marked pitch movement, over and above normal rhythms of speech
,	:	continuing intonation
Hehehe	:	Laughter that is separate from the speech.
.	:	falling intonation
Eng (h) /(h) ish:	:	Laughter within speech is signaled 'h' in round brackets.