Variations in teacher classroom talk over three stages of teacher career development

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• (Brief) Overview of the study
• Use of Corpus Tools
• Findings
Research Questions

• How do teachers perceive their own teacher talk?
• Does the nature of teacher talk change depending on how experienced the teacher is?
• How does intervention impact on the nature of teacher talk used?
• How does the nature of teacher talk impact the learner?
The Corpora

• 55 hours of recorded classroom talk (180,888)
  • Sub corpus of teacher talk only (106,458)
  • Longitudinal study (35,000)

• 15 teacher interviews (38,919)
### Early Qualified

- **T1 (M, NS)**
- **T4 (M, NS)**
- **T7 (F, NNS)**
- **T10 (F, NNS)**
- **T13 (M, NS)**

### Developing

- **T2 (F, NS)**
- **T5 (M, NS)**
- **T8 (F, NS)**
- **T11 (M, NS)**
- **T14 (F, NS)**

### Proficient

- **T3 (M, NS)**
- **T6 (M, NNS)**
- **T9 (F, NS)**
- **T12 (F, NS)**
- **T15 (M, NS)**
Analysis

- Teacher Interviews
- Questioning
- Positive Feedback
- Corrective Feedback
- Longitudinal Study
Teachers’ Perceptions of Positive Feedback

“Oh I think I would be very positive.”

“Positive feedback is all about positive reinforcement.”

“I would try to give as much positive feedback as I can.”

“I think I’m too positive sometimes, I want to be really encouraging but I think I can go overboard – I’m always going fantastic, excellent, perfect”
Positive Feedback Markers

Frequency (Raw)

- Yeah: 899
- Very good: 172
- Perfect: 10
- Great: 36
- Excellent: 28
- Beautiful: 18
- Fantastic: 10
- Very nice: 10

Legend:
- Yeah
- Very good
- Perfect
- Great
- Excellent
- Beautiful
- Fantastic
- Very nice
. So if you work as a group of three. All together. Yeah, we will do this tomorrow as well. It's what? It

? Infomercial. What two words can you see there? Yeah, ok. What is an information commercial; an

...Fernando you weren't even in this class. Yeah. We don't either. Ok, so we are going to correct.

from... Wool, yeah. Wool like sheep's wool, yeah. It can make you very very itchy. Things like

. Ok, I don't want you to get your hopes up. Ah yeah, who are you telling? That's true. But we need to

da place? Ok. What place? Where do you shop? Yeah, so shopping in the... we would say to, not in.

I saw her now. I could tell her... Hadn't seen. Yeah. Ok. Now these are... I'm going to draw a lot of

? * * * Continue, yeah. Very good, that's it, yeah. So we have three or four, really or very. And

one that we were doing... the itchy one. Yeah, yeah. Absolutely, yeah. An illness, a virus. So

. So you can get an idea of how to write a review. * Yeah. And a little bit... I don't want to tell you a

exercises. Which one is stronger? Even though, yeah it's a bit stronger. Yeah, though is a bit less

... so we said the flu... Headache is a symptom, yeah. Pneumonia. Is that the one with the...? For

pronunciation for the singular child. Yeah. So we have got one child, two children, yeah. It

difficulty. Sometimes I have difficulty. Yeah. Difficulty would be your adverb, yes? Good. I

are stupid. But if something fools you it's... Yeah. It tricks you. Tricks you. The pickle? Well

are different. Green beans are like this... Yeah, so... and peas are... I don't think they come

. So many ads. What's ads? Lucas, what's ads? * * * Yeah, ok. But if you have it... I find it on channels on

ones that are in captivity but the rescue ones. Yeah. Fiji, yeah. Miquel you have lots of friends

use. When I say tricks, what do I mean? Yeah, something that kind of like illusions, like a

. That's it. One, two and three. Michael... yeah, it's this one number two... then I fell asleep

even though? It's like although or even though. Yeah, exactly. So in spite of being old she has lots of
Ok. Let's go. A class trip. Yeah, isn't that great. Yeah, two hundred and sixty sunny days. And
I meet you in the afternoon. Thank you, goodbye. Great, so this is for school. Good, can you close the
and one says "I have found that meditation is great for reducing stress". Who agrees? One person.
rid of that as well. S was for infinitives. Ok, great. Think we have this already, duplication, but
simple, we only have three sentences. That's great. Very good. And number two please. And you
, yeah. That's how we got onto this, ok, great. We have put off doing something. Delay, yeah.
of letter is F? It's a consonant, a consonant, great. Ok, so we say "a" flower and we keep this for the
... Ah later, good. Yeah. Later. Decide to do. Great. Good. Like we said like things like really
ok, great. Can you think of another one with "a"? Great, what we say... Some cats, ok, great. So what you
are the same thing, ok. They are the same thing. Great. And then kind of connected to that, tidy
, you see he has the book. Very good. Lucas is great. Ok, what we are going to do, we are going to take
could check on page... do you know? That would be great if you know. Let me find the page guys. 129 is the
ok. All of them essential. Untidy, messy, yeah. Great. They are not so difficult. I thought maybe the
public view. Great. A nice easy one... Angry, great, ok. I'm going to assume that you are ok with that
. Ok, good stuff. What about you Anna? That's great, like for an afternoon that's a good
your book. What do you see in such? * * * Very good, great. * * * An easy. What does it say? An easy and cheap
Perfect. But we say... Some flowers, ok, great. Can you think of another one with "a"? Great,
where they are tidy, away from public view. Great. A nice easy one... Angry, great, ok. I'm going
EXCELLENT

yeah

ok

so

good
four, five, and six... three and one. Yes, very good. Go together please. What is she doing? Are you

? * A good what? * Charity, yeah? * Very good, very good. Ok, very good. Julianita? * * As you wish,

be able to mean? * What does be able to mean? * Can, very good. It's the same as can. * * I know but you

tell me, number one. Where do you have the so? * * * Very good. * * * Ok. Number two, we have Marco? * * Very good.

is good to stay slim. It's good for my health. Very good. That's fantastic. Do you have an app on your

then? A time. Ok, and then a... A question mark. Very good, and what is arranging? Arranging a time and

didn't have time... * * * Ok, it's connecting, very good, and what else is it doing? Simone... * * * That's

what, expert, experted, networking, network; very good. The lets, sad, said, would, world, often,

done. Splitting headache? A severe headache. Very good. So as you can imagine if it's a splitting

over the world McDonald's is a household name. Very good. Now number six is not on the board. Did anyone

Anna, what is that doing? * * * Continue, yeah. Very good, that's it, yeah. So we have three or four,

four, five, six, seven, eight. Well done. Very good, listen do you know what I'm thinking?

yesterday done. Number 81.2 and 81.3. Yes? Ok, very good. English! How are you? How are you? Not yet. Ok.

to use before because it indicates it already. Very good. The future... there is two of these. Will be

So it says here a dog has eaten my sandwich. So... Very good, my sandwich has been eaten by a dog. If you don't

Ok, very good. Michelle? Quickly. Ok. Very good. What about David then? Sorry tell me again I did

or just three notes. I can drink. I can drink, very good. Yeah, you can go drinking with friends yes. But

* Ok, it could be. Lucas, what else do you have? * * Very good. So... what does this mean? So quickly, Anne,

* Ok, very well. Let's have a look at 30.3 please. Very good. * * He might not heard the doorbell because he is

. So make sure you have arranged a meeting. Very good, so you have them, the six...? You here six, six

are enjoyed by millions of people. Excellent, very good. Alan, what about the last one? Is caused.
realising. And then the last thing there is past **perfect** continuous. Alex, can you read the example

perfect. So for example... exactly. No past **perfect**. Sorry guys, let me explain again. So for

that happened before, we are going to go for past **perfect**, and we have a few examples of past continuous. I

Could I change class to a different time please? **Perfect**. Perfect. That is just an example. I thought she

simple, the present continuous, the present **perfect**. Did we do that? Yeah, we did that, very well. We

you this. Ok. So now we know our form for the past **perfect** what I want to do on this page is review the three

c's easier. Ok. So this is perfect man and this is **perfect** woman. Well that's what we are going to find out!

; what's a habit? Yeah, things you do every day, **perfect**. Things you do every day. We have this... Show

friends? Where can you drink with friends? Oh **perfect**. Ok. So you do not have to write full sentences.

It's not perfect. I'm very diplomatic. It's not **perfect**. Look at this here. What about this part... so

Alright, Daniel do you want to try number five? **Perfect**. So the match will be played tomorrow. Will be

I don't lie because it's easier. Ok. So this is **perfect** man and this is **perfect** woman. Well that's what

here. Ok. Do you want to give us number eight? **Perfect**. So again either way. After Sandra had phoned

had such a lovely definition. Oh please? Yeah, **perfect**. Very very good. She was just "No, I don't want to

before that you can use past perfect and past **perfect** continuous interchangeably; both of them. But

one you have she had been reading. You have past **perfect** continuous and in the second one you have she had

and still it's confusing. In museums, yeah, **perfect**. yeah in museums. Or me in my current condition I

phones, ok. You've got some phones. A house, **perfect**. So the first part of this is super easy because

part... so its bump bump bump a thousand? Yes. **Perfect**, great. Now can you say it fast? How many people

present simple, present progressive, present **perfect**. And then...Yes you can go over and see what we
Positive Feedback

• Corrective feedback
• Form focused feedback
• Discourse markers
• Teacher echo (positive/negative)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discourse Markers</th>
<th>OK</th>
<th>SO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GREAT</td>
<td>GREAT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXCELLENT</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VERY GOOD</td>
<td>GOOD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALRIGHT</td>
<td>FANTASTIC</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Positive/Corrective Feedback

A: Do I use positive feedback? What is it?
Q: What is positive feedback?

A: “It’s a really good answer, thanks very much for that. I wouldn’t agree with it myself but hey go ahead”
T: (c)ould you read your favourite sentence please?

S: If I was a deer I would lovely.

T: Yeah, that’s very nice. If I were a deer I would be lovely. That’s nice. If I were a deer I would be lovely. Very nice.
T: If you were an animal what animal would you be?

S: Maybe I choose a deer.

T: A deer. Good choice. A beautiful deer. Deer are beautiful. A deer is beautiful. Deer are beautiful. One deer, two deer, three deer, four deer. You do not add S. like sheep. One sheep, two sheep, three sheep. The same with deer; one deer, two deer. It’s kind of an irregular. So you don’t add S.
Conclusion

Overuse of positive markers:

• Lack of clarity for learners on accuracy/achievement
• Blurs the line between correction and praise
• Highlights teacher discomfort with correction
Thank you!

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