Narrative in English Conversation

Storytelling is a fundamental mode of everyday interaction. This book is based upon the Narrative Corpus (NC), a specialized corpus of naturally occurring narratives, and provides new paths for its study. Christoph Rühlemann uses the NC's narrative-specific annotation and XPath and XQuery, query languages that allow the retrieval of complex data structures, to facilitate large-scale quantitative investigations into how narrators and recipients collaborate in storytelling. Empirical analyses are validated using R, a programming language and environment for statistical computing and graphics. Using this unique data and methodological base, Rühlemann reveals new insights, including the discovery of turntaking patterns specific to narrative; the first investigation of textual colligation in spoken data; the unearthing of how speech reports, as discourse units, form striking patterns at utterance level; and the identification of the story climax as the sequential context in which recipient dialogue is preferentially positioned.

CHRISTOPH RÜHLEMANN is a researcher at Philipps University Marburg, Germany. He is the author of *Conversation in Context* (2007) and co-editor, with Karin Aijmer, of *The Cambridge Handbook of Corpus Pragmatics* (forthcoming).

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Narrative in English Conversation

A Corpus Analysis of Storytelling

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