MULTICULTURAL LONDON ENGLISH / MULTICULTURAL PARIS FRENCH

ACTIVITY FILE: QUOTATIVE EXPRESSIONS/ LES INTRODUCTEURS

London English	Paris French
Sound file	**Sound file**
Extract 1 SP1: alright right this is **this is me** knocking at the door yeah and I'm knocking at the door yeah and and **this is the dog** "<makes gesture?>" he went and **this is the dog** "woof woof woof" (Cheshire 2011) **Extract 2** I just said (.) they come up to me and they **said** "yeh where you from?" *SP2: different sections of areas . *SP1: **I said** "yeh east London" **this is them** "I don't like east London" (..) I was in south London one time that's why I was in d- another (.) I was in south London so and they don't (.) south London and north London don't really like east London (…) .	**Extract 3** SP1: dès qu'on détourne la tête de la feuille du cours je sais pas on regarde le x. SP2: ouais on regarde la fenêtre et tout il dit xx . SP3: il **crie** "ouah ouah ouah" [= imitation des cris] . SP1: ou sinon il **fait** "à ton tour de lire !" **t'es là** "ah euh euh" [=imitation]. SP3: et quand tu sais pas t'es stressé [= imitation] . SP2: après après **on est là** "xxx" [= gestes] (.) après il **fait** "bon ok [= nom] lis !" (..) euh euh (..) t'es (.) le temps de réaliser et tout . SP1: que quand il parle allemand **il est là** "ah ha ha oui oui oui" (..) c'est pour ça que toujours tu dois viser ta feuille même si tu penses à autre chose (il) faut regarder la feuille .

Quotative expressions (introducteurs) introduce quoted words, thoughts or gestures. They function like verbal quotation marks.

"People often report what they or other people said. Direct reported speech (the little bear said "someone's been sitting on my chair") is more lively and interesting than indirect reported speech (the little bear said that someone had been sitting on his chair) because by appearing to quote someone, the speaker almost acts out what they are reporting.
When they introduce direct reported speech older speakers of English mainly use SAY or GO to introduce the quote, or there may be no introduction at all (known as a **zero quotative**) if it is clear whose speech is being reported. Younger speakers have an additional quotative expression – also BE LIKE – and in London there is an even newer quotative expression, THIS IS +speaker. Other quotative expressions are also heard.

Examples:
Say they said *"move away"*
Go they went *"move away"*
Zero *"move away"*

Be like *they were like "move away"*
This is +speaker *this is them "move away"* (perhaps only in London)
(from Spoken English Features*)

Exemples:
Dire : *Il m'a dit « reste là, on va revenir ».*
Genre : *On dirait des gamins genre « non j'ai pas deux ans ! »*
Comme ça : *et puis il était comme ça « ah ah ah sors » !*
Etre là : *après les marseillais ils étaient là ils pleuraient « vas-y vas-y vous avez trop de la chance vous gagnez ».*
(Secova, 2013)

As well as introducing reported direct speech quotatives can also introduce a reported thought or internal dialogue, a sound or a gesture (*et on se tenait comme ça [imitation]*).

Cross-linguistic comparisons
The examples in the boxes above were recordings made with young people in London and Paris. What similarities and differences do you notice in the kind of quotatives used and how they are used? Quotatives, such as the ones in the examples above often do more than introduce speech. They can also introduce a dramatic performance, which includes oral and physical mimicry, sound effects and gestures.

Carrying out your own research:
Finding material to investigate:
1) Find a text in English that includes reported speech and note the different ways in which it is introduced. Find one in French and make similar notes.
2) Listen to people talking, or prompt them to talk, about a conversation they have overheard or been involved in and note how they introduce reported speech, thoughts or actions. Listen to a conversation recorded in Paris by the MLE/MPF team and make similar notes (**sound file here).**

Analysing your data
What quotatives are being used?
For each quotative consider who is talking, what they are talking about, what the context is (formal/informal). What non-verbal effects do you observe? What is their impact?
List the examples you have found and describe the context. What do you consider influences people's choice of quotatives?

Drama and writing
Bearing in mind the opportunities for dramatic performance offered by reported speech, in a small group:
1) devise and record a short drama/dialogue to exemplify the use of quotatives you have explored. What characters would use these expressions? In what circumstances? What opportunities are there to project a personal identity using mimicry, gestures and sound effects?

2) Write a short sketch as above.

Try these activities in both English and French or in a scenario that uses both languages.

*http://linguistics.sllf.qmul.ac.uk/english-language-teaching/spoken-english-features

RS – January 2014