BENE, VA BENE, BENISSIMO COME RISORSE DI PRE-CHIUSURA E DI TRANSIZIONE IN INTERAZIONI ISTITUZIONALI

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ABSTRACT

The paper explores some uses of the Italian expressions *bene*, *va bene* and *benissimo* in institutional talk. Drawing on audio- and videorecorded data from classroom interaction, radio interviews and research interviews, and with the meth-ods of interactional linguistics and conversation analysis, I examine how speakers use *bene*, *va bene* and *benissimo* as resources to organize and structure interaction. In particular, I show how they can be used by teachers and lecturers, radio hosts and researchers – i.e., by participants who take up the institutionally defined and interactionally ratified role of chairing and managing the encounter – 1) as ways of closing down question-answer sequences, and thereby as a pre-closing of the whole interaction; 2) at transitions between different kinds of activities involving changes in the participation framework; 3) or at transitions from one topic to the next. I then discuss how these resources, rather than initiating or achieving pre-closings and tran-sitions on their own, are mobilized together with further linguistic – as for instance *allora* – and/or embodied resources, thus highlighting the relevance of a multimodal perspective for the analysis of face-to-face encounters.