



# LEARNING LISTENING

uh huh

ehm...

isn't it?

Annie McDonald

THE CHALLENGE OF UNSCRIPTED LANGUAGE

**speaker-generated**

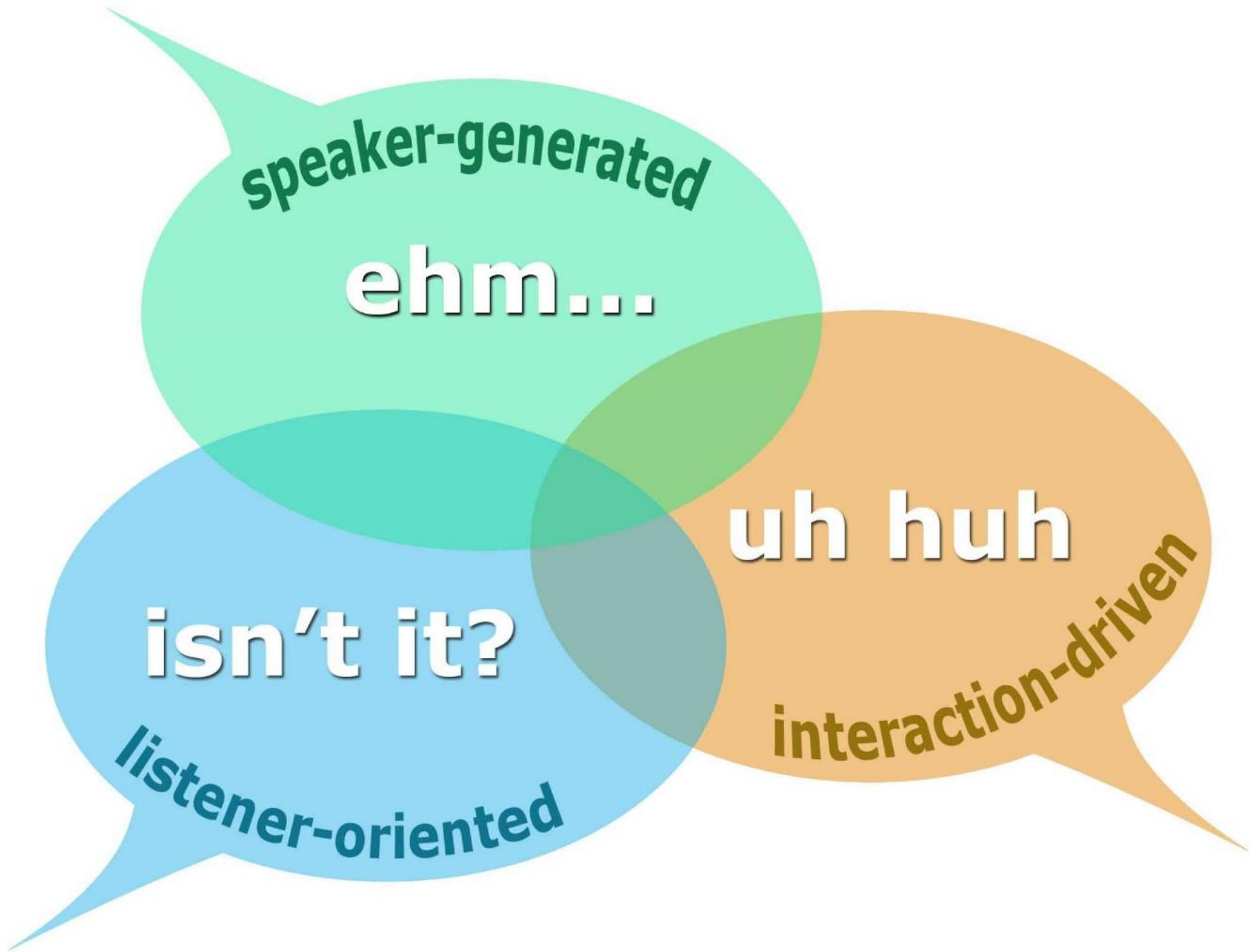
**ehm...**

**isn't it?**

**listener-oriented**

**uh huh**

**interaction-driven**



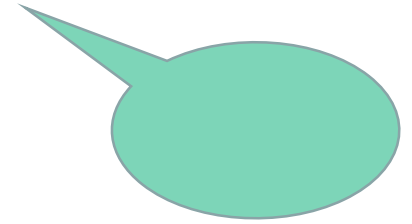


**speaker-generated**

**ehm...**

- 1 false starts; reformulations;  
repetitions; fillers**
- 2 changing sounds**
- 3 cutting sounds**

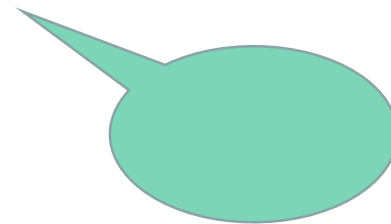
# False starts



What's Mike's message?



# False starts

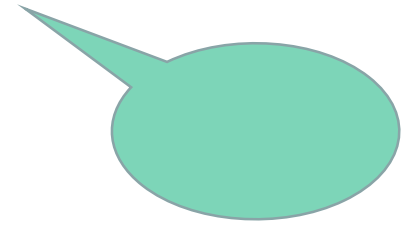


Mike:

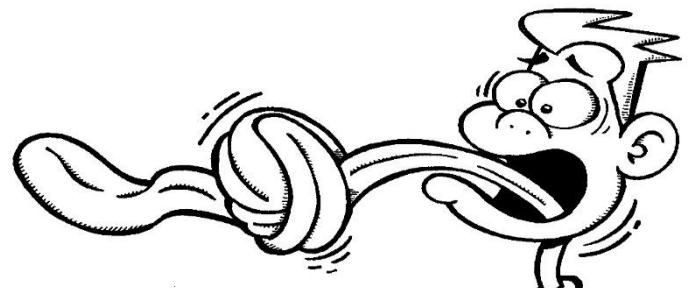
But, don't you think even ... I think even that  
... I think it was ninety or i-it could have been  
wrong, hundred and twenty, could be wrong,  
I think it was ninety, ehm, (laughter) don't  
quote me on that, I'll just ... I just ... I I I



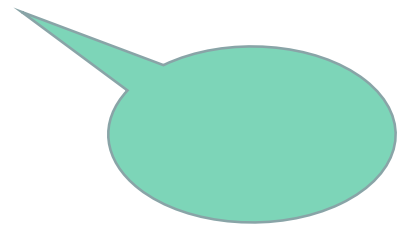
# More false starts



Erm, ants are incredibly intelligent creatures, aren't they? So, how do they ... te- tell us a little abou- about their intelligen- do ... Now, here's an important question, do ants have an individual intelligence or is it entirely a, a group thing?



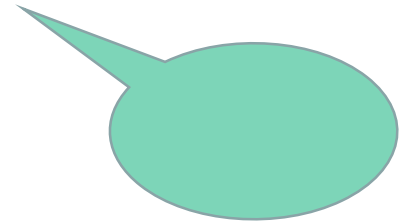
# Changing sounds



- 1 the **goog** guys
- 2 and it **coob** be like almost harassing you er
- 3 the virus **kung** carry in a protein
- 4 we **womp** more
- 5 you **shub** be polite
- 6 I **cump** bear to watch it



# Cutting sounds



1 I must **h**ave about **t** ...



2... through **it** all the time and **d** think **k**

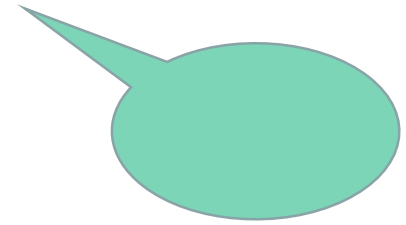
3 I don'**t** even speak **k** to you



4 They could **d** say anything **g**

5 If you don'**t** know **500** of them, you

# Cutting sounds



1 I must have about

2... **through** it **all** the **time** and think

- **100%**

- 66%

3 I don't even **speak to you**

- **33%**

4 They could say **anything**

- **0%**

5 If you don't know 500 of them, you

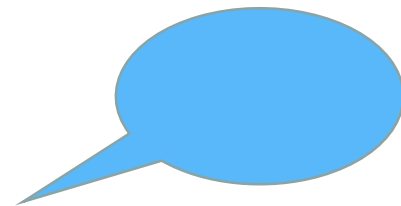


**listener-oriented**

**isn't it?**

- 1 you know etc**
- 2 sort of etc**
- 3 rhetorical questions**

# You know ...



Listen and show where the speaker inserts *you know* with **k**

1 yeah, well, no, it's one of those thing like  
anything else

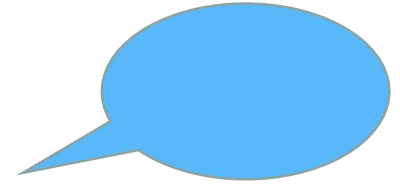
2 so that that was quite a while ago

3 and so you don't really stop

4 but it wasn't until like the Beatles

5 but, I, so, it, I just got involved in

# You know ...



Listen and show where the speaker inserts *you know* with **k**

1 yeah, well, no, it's one of those thing like  
anything else **k**

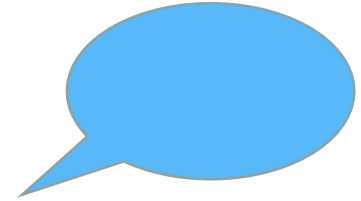
2 so that **k** that was quite a while ago

3 and so you don't really stop **k**

4 but it wasn't until like **k** the Beatles

5 but, I, **k** so, it, I just got involved in

# kind of..., sort of...



Listen and show where the speaker inserts ***kind of*** ***k*** or ***sort of*** ***s***

- 1 for ***s*** the presentation
- 2 lots of nice pockets of
- 3 there were 30 in my family
- 4 but I stumbled into a karaoke place
- 5 I mean, we went to several places

# kind of..., sort of...



Listen and show where the speaker inserts ***kind of*  $\wedge k$**  or ***sort of*  $\wedge s$**

- 1 for ***s*** the presentation
- 2 lots of nice ***s*** pockets of
- 3 there were ***s*** 30 in my family
- 4 but I ***k*** stumbled into a karaoke place
- 5 I mean, we went to several ***s*** places

# Rhetorical questions



- Is that your final answer?
- Really?
- Erm, ants are incredibly intelligent creatures, aren't they?

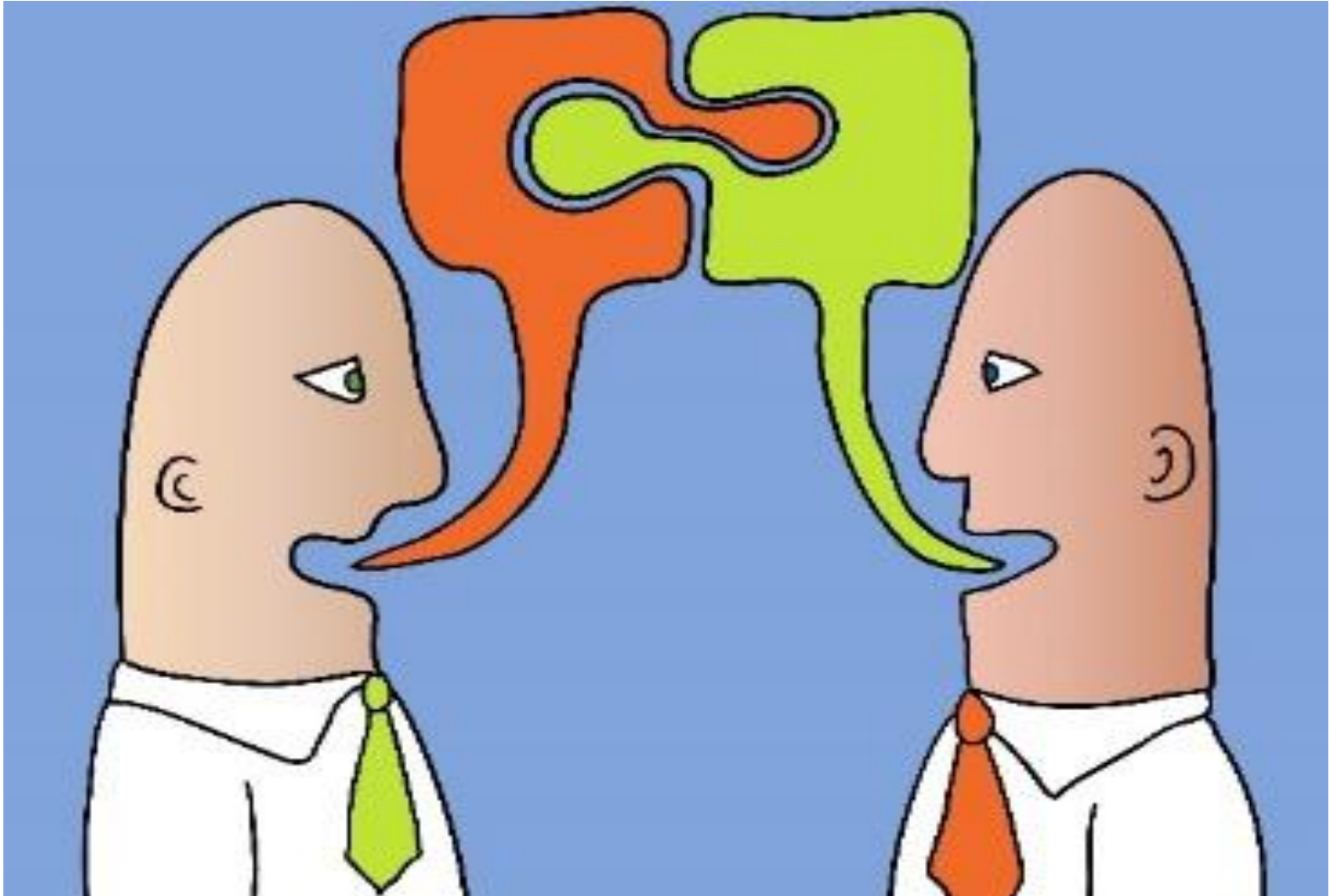


**interaction-driven**

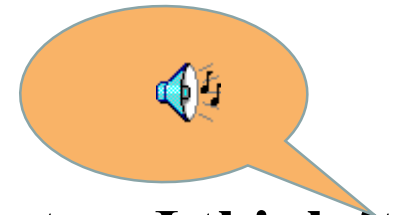
**uh huh**

**1 questioning, turn taking**  
**2 floor holding**  
**3 back-channelling**

# Turn-taking



# Continuing a turn



**Mike:** *Buuut*, don't you think even ... I think even that ... I think it was ninety or i-it could have been wrong hundred and twenty could be wrong I think it was ninety ehm (girls laugh) don't quote me on that I'll just ... I just ... I I I

**Nic:** You are full of

# Continuing a turn



**Mike:** *Buuut*, don't you think even ... I think even that ... I think it was ninety or i-it could have been wrong hundred and twenty could be wrong I think it was ninety ehm (girls laugh) don't quote me on that I'll just ... I just ... I I I

**Nic:** You are full of

**Mike:** I was adam

**Nic:** solid gold information (laughter)

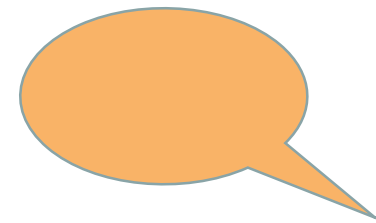
**Mike:** adam it ... adamant that it was ninety and now I'm thinking was it one twenty

**Mel:** Was it really?

**Mike:** But I ... but I remember this morning them saying ... I do remember them saying, you know, erm, even ninety, right, do you really know ninety people?



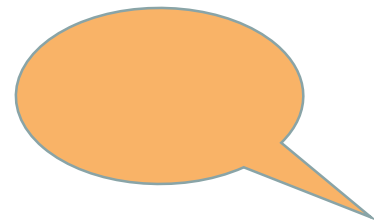
# Floor holding



Listen and underline the words in which the speaker stretches a sound.

- 1 ... and if you wanna go to an Italian deli, you'll find that ...
- 2 I guess, you see, you know, there's all these, sort of ...
- 3 Then put in the rice.
- 4 and I think it's er, it's good for me
- 5 I think, yeah, I, I would like to have the lifestyle

# Floor holding



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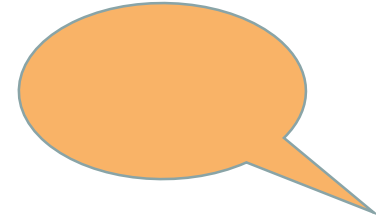
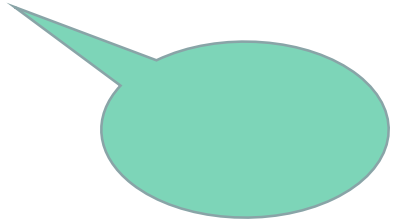


# Back-channelling





# Unscripted conversation



False starts

You know

Questioning

Reformulations

I mean

Turn taking

Repetitions

Sort of

Across turns

Fillers

Kind of

Floor holding

Changing sounds

Like

Back-channelling

Cutting sounds

Rhetorical Qs

Ellipsis

# A step towards rationalising the unruly ...



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