

**Discursive, pragmatic and interactional aspects of intercultural competence: contributions from the interactional linguistics for a significant learning**

**MARTA FERNÁNDEZ-VILLANUEVA**

**Universitat de Barcelona**

From the intercultural studies perspective, we assume that interacting successfully with people from different cultures involves specific knowledge, skills and attitudes. Nevertheless, most of them are merely related to a successful communicative usage, since communication does not just involve "transmission of information" but also involves "management of social relations". People's usage of language can clearly influence interpersonal reactions and relations, and different cultures may have different conventions as to what is appropriate behaviour in what contexts. But we cannot directly apply cultural "does and don'ts" in any interactional context, they need a fine tuning according to the specific communicative event and the expected social roles, topics and interactional intentions at play. The interactional sociolinguistic researches specifically that "play": how we dynamically adjust our behaviour in communication identifying and co-ordinating some multimodal hints. Merged with intercultural pragmatic approaches it offers a powerful theoretical and methodological research frame and improves our understanding of intercultural competence.

How can intertwined intercultural competences be meaningful researched in specific intercultural interactions in higher education? How can they improve intercultural experiences? To address this question I will present first four main areas of research: 1. cultural words and cultural scripts, 2. discourse organisation in terms of thematic-informational development or interaction, 3. sociopragmatic appropriateness and facework and, last but not least the use of metalinguistic, metadiscursive and metacommunicative strategies for different purposes. Then I will illustrate them on the basis of Critical Incidents from the InCriT-Research Project (Incidentes Críticos en la Comunicación Transcultural Alemán-Catalán-Español) and from Elena Martín's film "Julia ist..." (2017). And finally, we will debate relevant intercultural scenarios to research intercultural experiences and to improve intercultural competences in Higher Education.