

## **Business English Textbooks vs. 'Real life' Business Discourse: How much do they have in common?**

18 March 2013

Time: 14:15-16:30

Location: 3 East 3.8 (lecture theatre), University of Bath

Speaker: Dr Jo Angouri (University of the West of England, Bristol)

### **Abstract**

Participating effectively in workplace talk is directly related to employees' development and career progression. Hence 'skills' and 'competences' in relation to managing the interactional floor are an integral part of work-related language training programmes and business textbooks. At the same time, however, research has highlighted the mismatch between what the students are taught and what people actually do in workplace settings. Further to this, workplace interactions are firmly embedded in the social and organisational context of a particular group as well as in the wider social or institutional order, and therefore cannot be generalised.

In this context, I will discuss examples of 'real life' data and compare these with representations of the same linguistic phenomena in Business English textbooks. The sample of workplace interactions is compared to transcripts and expressions featuring in some of the best-selling Business English textbooks in the UK. The analysis focuses on the similarities/differences between real-life/textbook interactions.

The presentation will conclude by discussing how real life data can be used in the language classroom to complement the Business English textbook, in order to develop the learners' observational and analytical skills.