

LEARNING LISTENING

the challenge of
unscripted language

Annie McDonald

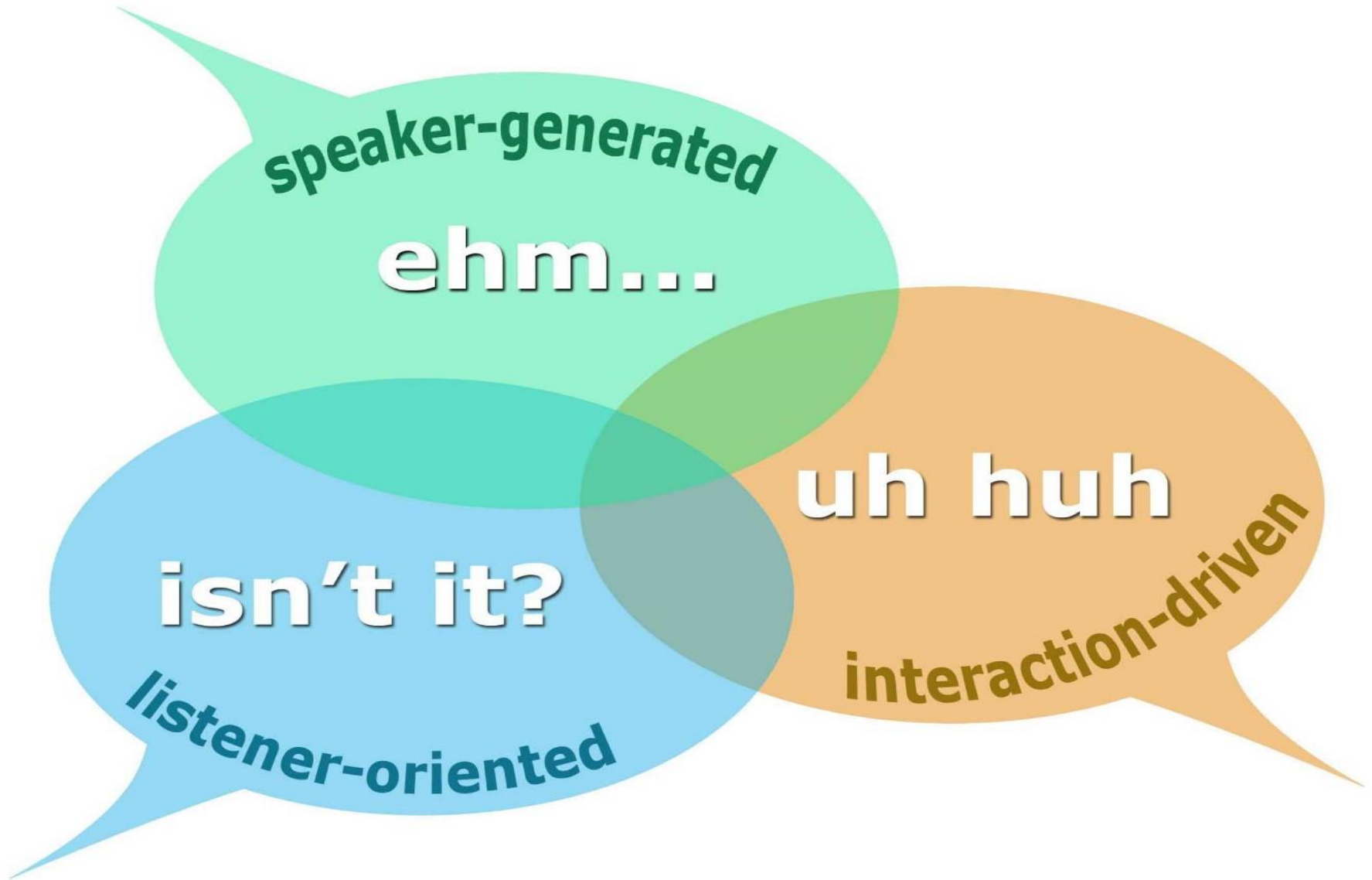
Scripted ...



Unscripted ...



Unscripted ...



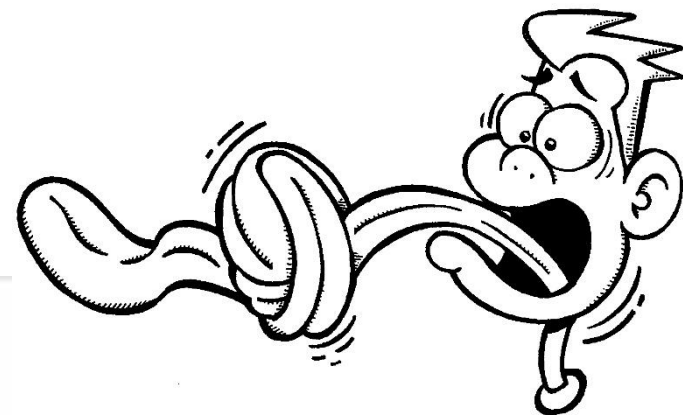


speaker-generated

ehm...

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


False starts




B Spoken English: false starts

So how do they ... te-, tell us a little bit 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?

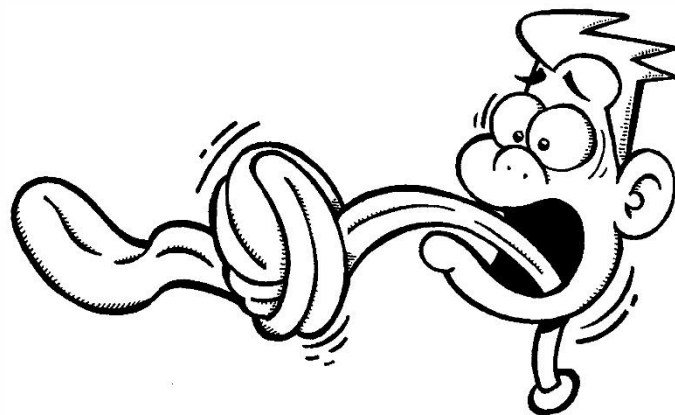
In a, in a wa-, I would argue that no, individually, they don't really have cognition, but as a colony, they do.

- 6  **2.56** Listen to and read the interviewer's question and Antonia's answer above. This is spoken English; how is it different from written English?

Changing sounds

5  **2.55** Listen to and read these fragments. The words in bold are written as they sound. Correct them.

- 1 the **goog** guys
- 2 and it **coob** be like almost harassing you or
- 3 the virus **kung** carry in a protein
- 4 **coob** be good at this
- 5 we **womp** more
- 6 you **shub** be polite
- 7 cruising **ing** company
- 8 I **cump** bear to watch it
- 9 **cum** be more than the sum of their parts



Cutting sounds

3 If a speaker doesn't pronounce a /t/ or /d/ at the end of the word, it sometimes sounds as if they're saying something else. What do you think these speakers were really saying?

- 1 Better luck necks time!
- 2 Would you like a coal drink?
- 3 Who bill the pyramids?
- 4 I fell very tired last night.
- 5 I one to hole your hand.
- 6 I when to the doctor's yesterday.

Better luck next time!



listener-oriented

isn't it?

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



You know ...



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

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 **yk**

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

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

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

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

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

kind of..., sort of...



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

- 1 for $\wedge S$ 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



Rhetorical questions


B Spoken English: tag questions

- 6 In conversational English, tag questions such as *isn't it?* are very common. Look at these different ways you may hear *isn't it?* pronounced.

intip? isni'? innit? iz'ntit? iznip?

Note

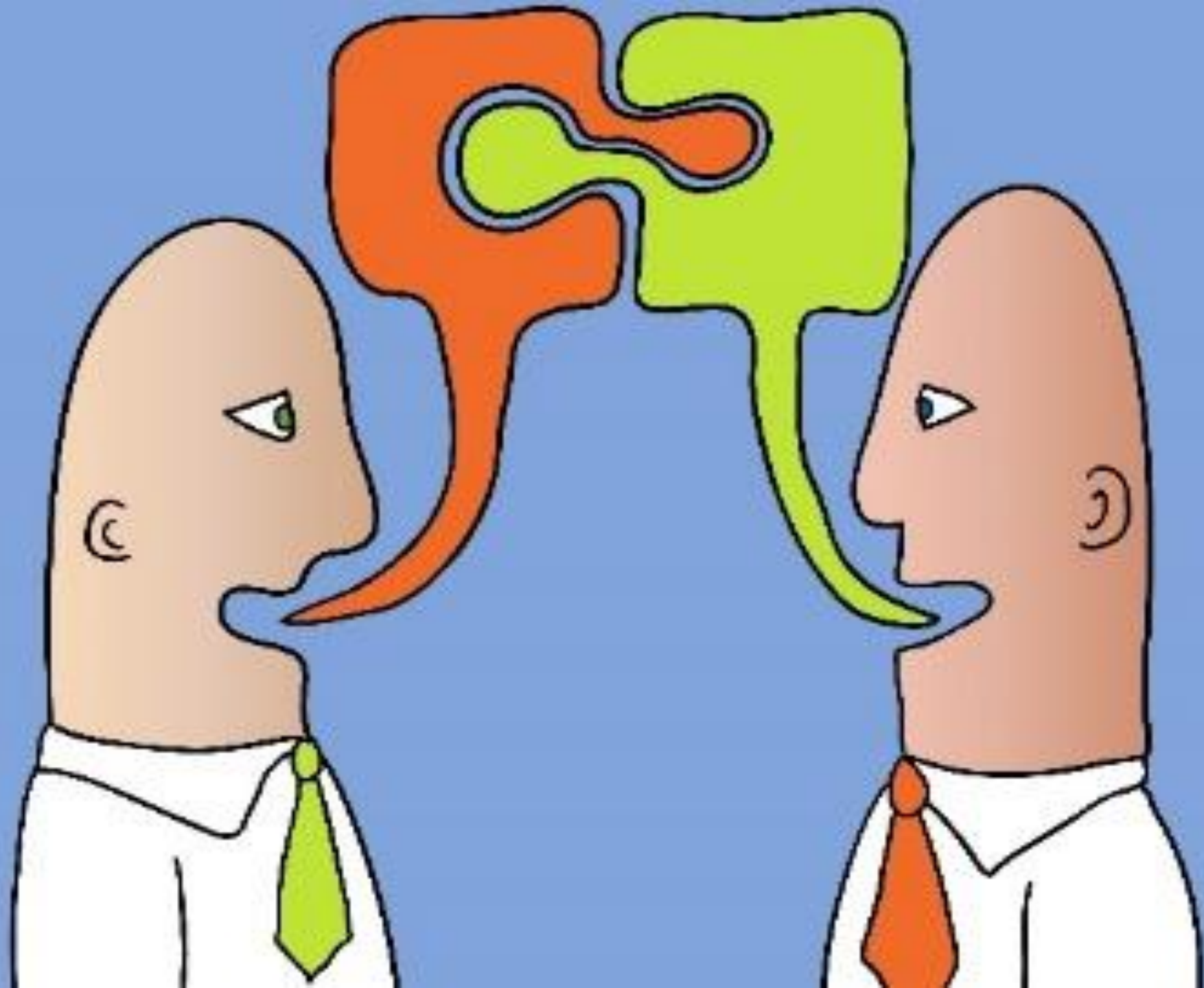
Conversational tag questions are usually not true questions, so the intonation goes down. They are really an invitation for the other person to agree with the speaker.

- 7  **2.73** Listen to six fragments of conversation. Notice the way that *isn't it?* is pronounced.

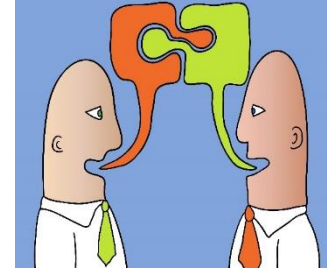
interaction-driven


uh huh

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



Questioning / turn-taking



8  **2.74** Complete these fragments with tag questions, then listen and check. You'll hear each fragment three times.

- 1 and you've got a specialism, ?
- 2 you've got some fairly extreme weather up there, ?
- 3 um, ants are incredibly intelligent creatures, ?
- 4 they're not questioned immediately, ?
- 5 it's not a highly populated area, ?
- 6 first, another bulge appeared, ?
- 7 ants have a very particular way, ?
- 8 it's an iconic symbol, , the deckchair?
- 9 'cause you've got a big job, , there really?

9 One of the tag questions is a real question, and the intonation goes up. Which one it is?



...ME ME ME ...ME ME ME
ME ME...ME ...ME
ME ME ME ME ME ME ME..
...ME ME...ME....
ME ME ME
ME ME

ME ME ME
ME ME
..ME ME ME..
ME ME ME...ME ME ME ME
ME ME ME..... ME
...ME ME ...ME ME ME ME..
ME ME ME... ME ME ME

Floor holding



Listen and underline the words which the speaker stretches.

- 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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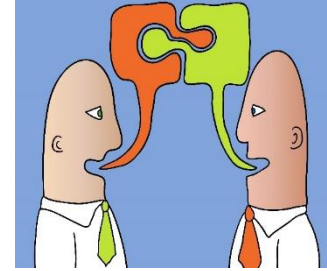
mmm...

I know

yes

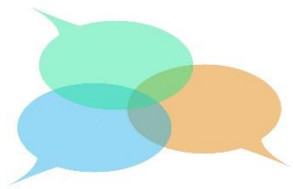
Blah

Back-channelling



Alan: How do you pay for it, in Russia, in China, do you have to pay yourself or does the government help?

Ning: Actually, if you are doing the Bachelor degree **[yeah]** you needed to pay for yourself ... but, er, if you, you can enter the postgraduate school to get it, a higher degree like a Master or PhD, **[um]** er, you don't needed to pay anything. **[Oh, that's]** you **[really?]** you can get a er, get a different amount of money **[yeah]** to support your living cost.



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