

# **Teaching Communicative Strategies to ESP Students**

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# MGIMO University

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- **Future diplomats**
- **Diplomatic staff**
- **Representatives to international organizations**
- **Government officials**
- **Businessmen (Gazprom, Rosneft')**

# **ESP classes**

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- **Undefined intentions and purposes**
- **Shortage of up to date learning material**
- **Language difficulties**
- **Underdeveloped strategic thinking**
- **Lack of argumentation skills**

## **Challenges of teaching a political dialogue**

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# **“Political Dialogue” project work**

- **Find samples for analysis**
  - **Analyse intentions of the speakers**
  - **Identify communicative strategies**
  - **Define the arsenal verbal/non-verbal means**
  - **Build your own dialogue**
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- **Parliamentary/presidential debate**
- **Public hearings/Question time**
- **Political interviews (BBC Hard Talk)**
- **Expert opinions (Foreign Affairs, WSJ)**
- **Semi-spontaneous dialogues (House of cards)**

# **Sample material**

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**Who won?**

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- **List of intentions** (to address, to respond, to ignore, to substantiate, to change the subject...)
- **Types of turn transitions** (smooth, non smooth, pause, overlap, simultaneous start, interruption)

# Stages

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# Interruption VS Overlap

## Example 1:

- *You are saying there is a lack of clarity in the American approach to this.*
- *What I'm saying is that I'm sure that the path of the European discussion with our American friend will be...*

## Example 2:

- *You are trying to represent some of the Britons.*
  - *Right, there've been, of course...*
  - *Are they in the hope of that?*
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### Example 3:

- *But there is a huge difference in countries that are governed by law where abuses may occur by mistake or elaboration.*
- *Aha.*
- *And there are other countries where they happen as a result of state-sponsored policy.*
- *Absolutely.*
- *And you don't know where to draw the distinction you'd learn to pull these countries into the same basket...*

# No turn-taking

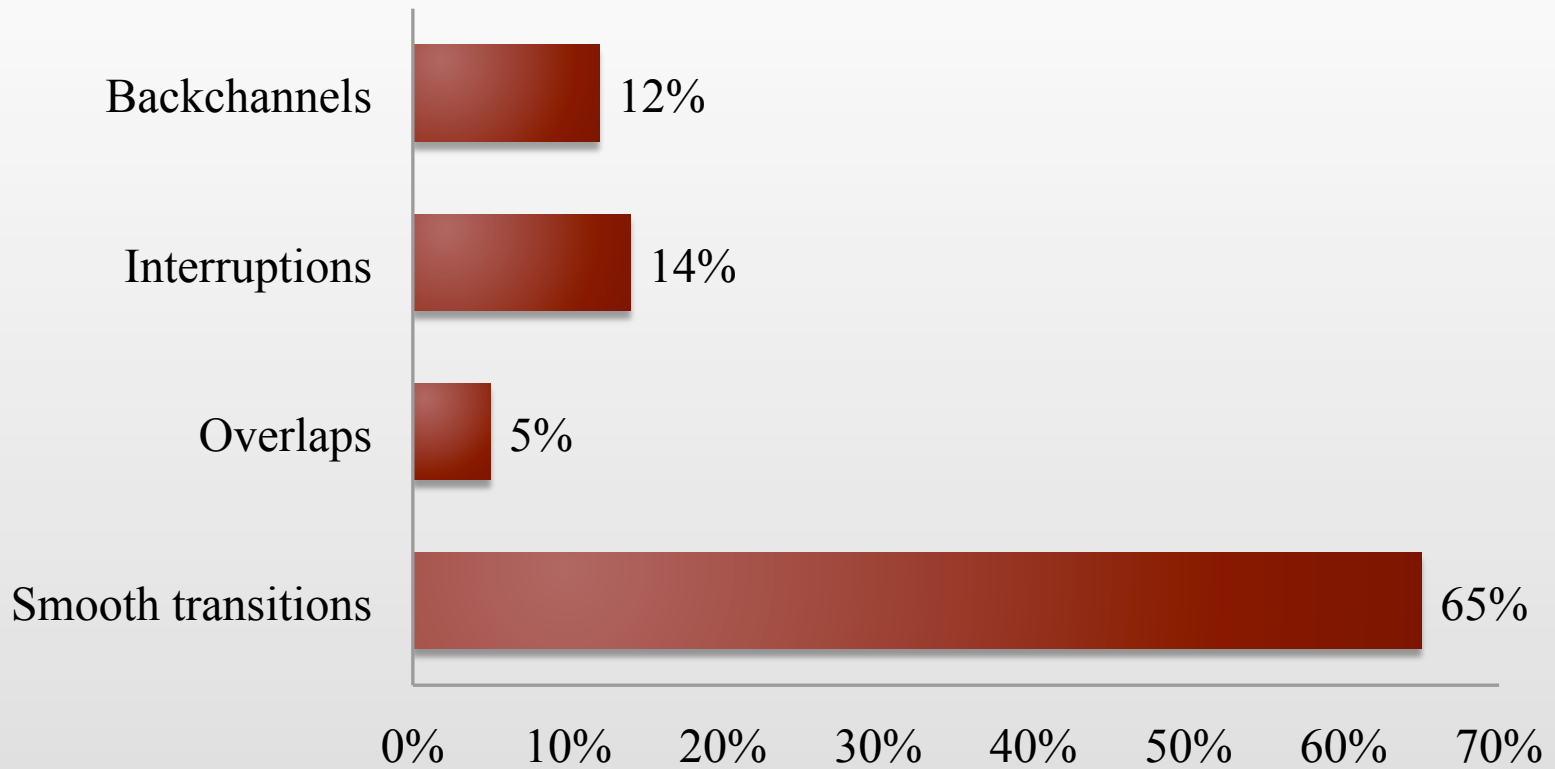
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## Example 4:

- *No, she is wrong about that. ... It's simply incorrect to say that free trade pushes prices up.*
- *I've given...*
- *Protectionism is what pushes prices up.*
- *I've given you a hard time on speaking. You are a woman who knows the stuff. Now I know the man who knows the stuff.*

# Grabbing the initiative

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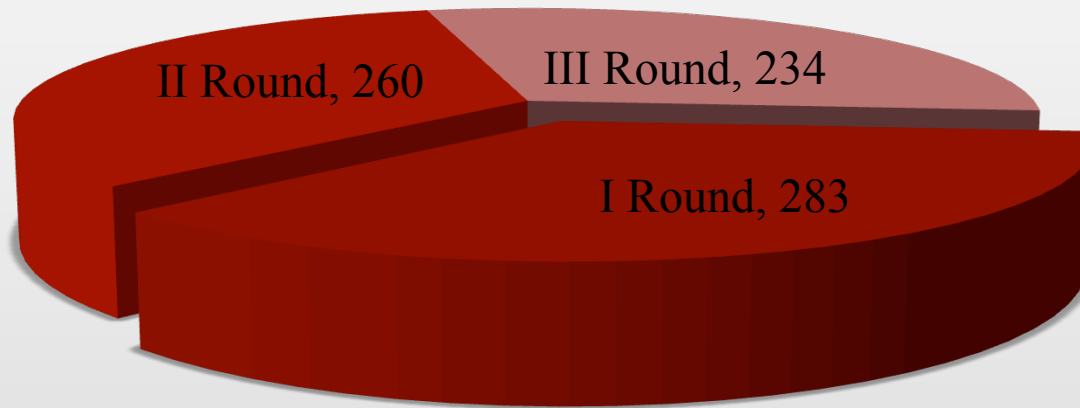
# Analysis

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- To grab/to keep the initiative/role
- Cooperative/conflict dialogues
- Smooth transition/interruption

# **Communicative strategies**

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# Interruptions

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**Clinton's strategy "to ignore the  
opponent"**

**VS**

**Trump's "assessment backchannel"**

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- Students are exposed to authentic political dialogues
- They learn to set and realize a communicative task
- Students master their basic language and argumentative skills

# **What do we get ?**

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**Thank you for attention!**

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