Data categories for core communicative functions

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1 General-purpose functions

1.1 Information-seeking functions

	/propositionalQuestion/
Conceptual domain	/checkQuestion/
Definition - Source	Dialogue act where the speaker, S, wants to know whether a certain proposition is true or false. S assumes that the addressee, A, possesses that information, and puts pressure on A to inform S whether the proposition is true or false. Commonplace
– Note	Related terminology in other schemes: QUERY-YN (HCRC MapTask), Yes-No-Question (SWBD-DAMSL) and YNQ (TRAINS).
Explanation	A propositional question corresponds to what is commonly termed a YN-question or polarity question in the literature. The term 'propositional' is preferred because: (a) it clearly separates form from function by removing any oblique reference in the label to syntactic criteria for the identification of such acts; and (b) it is not a language specific term. SWBD-DAMSL for example conflates form and function by distinguishing between propositional questions that are marked explicitly by subject inversion (yes-no questions) and those that are marked by intonation alone (declarative questions). However, though they may have different realisations, these are in fact performing the same function.
Example	"Have you got a haystack on your map?"
-Source	HCRC MapTask

	/checkQuestion/
Broader concept	/propositionalQuestion/
Definition	Dialogue act where the speaker, S, wants to know whether a given proposition is true, about which S holds an uncertain belief that it is true S. S assumes that A knows whether the proposition is true or not, and puts pressure on A to provide this information
- Source	Commonplace
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Check (DIT, HCRC MapTask), Tag Question (SWBD-DAMSL), Tag (TRAINS) and Request_Comment (Verbmobil)
Example	"The meeting starts at ten, right?"

	/setQuestion/
Conceptual domain	/choiceQuestion/
Definition	Dialogue act where the speaker, S, wants to know which elements of a certain set have a named property. S puts pressure on the addressee, A, to provide S with this information. S believes that at least one element of the set has the named property, and S assumes that A knows which are the elements of the set that have the property.
- Source	Commonplace
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: QUERY-W (HCRC MapTask), WH-Question (SWBD-DAMSL) and WHQ (TRAINS).
Explanation	A set question corresponds to what is commonly termed a WH-question in the literature. The term set is preferred because: (a) it clearly separates form from function by removing any oblique reference in the label to syntactic criteria for the identification of such acts; and (b) it is not a language specific term (it may be further noted that even in English, not all questioning words begin with 'wh', e.g. "How?").
Example	"What time does the meeting start?"

	/choiceQuestion/
Broader concept	/setQuestion/
Definition - Source	Dialogue act where the speaker, S, wants to know which one from a given list of alternative propositions is true; S believes that exactly one element of that list is true; S assumes that the addressee, A, knows which of the alternative propositions is true, and S puts pressure on A to provide this information. DAMSL; DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Alternatives Question (DIT, LIRICS), QUERY-W (HCRC MapTask), Or-Question/Or-Clause (SWBD-DAMSL, MRDA).
Explanation	It is not very common in annotation schemes to specifically distinguish the concept of choice questions from that of set questions (although it is common in the literature on interrogatives, see for instance: Tsui 1994). However, whereas it is common for the concept set question to carry the expectation that all members of the set with a given property should be returned by the addressee, for a choice-question the expectation is that there will be exactly one. The different preconditions and effects indicate that these are semantically different concepts, and they have been treated here as such.
Example	"Does she live in Amsterdam or in Rotterdam?"

1.2 Information-providing functions

	/inform/
Conceptual domain	/agreement/ /disagreement/
Definition - Source	Dialogue act where the speaker, S, wants to make certain information known to the addressee, A; S believes that the information is correct.
	Commonplace
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Assert (DAMSL), Explain (HCRC MapTask), Update (LINLIN), Statement (SWBD-DAMSL) and Inform (DIT, TRAINS, Verbmobil).
Explanation	The inform function may also have more specific rhetorical functions such as: explain, elaborate, exemplify and justify, but these all fall under the more generic function here defined.
Example	"The 6.34 to Breda leaves from platform 2."

	/agreement/
Definition	Dialogue act where the speaker, S, wants to inform the addressee, A, that the information which S has reason to believe that A believes is correct, is in fact correct.
- Source	DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Accept (DAMSL, SWBD-DAMSL, TRAINS, Verbmobil).
Explanation	DAMSL and SWBD-DAMSL use "Agreement" to refer to various degrees in which a speaker accepts some previous proposal, plan, opinion or statement; "accept" is one of these degrees; "reject" is another. Note: in this definition /agreement/ inherits the elements in the definition of /inform/.
Example	"Exactly"; Dutch" "Precies!"; Danish: "Netop!"
-Source	DIT

	/disagreement/
Conceptual domain	/correction/
Definition	Dialogue act where the speaker, S, wants to inform the addressee, A, that the information which S has reason to believe that A believes is correct, is in fact incorrect.
- Source	DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Reject (DAMSL, SWBD-DAMSL, Verbmobil) and Denial (TRAINS).
Explanation	DAMSL and SWBD-DAMSL use "Agreement" to refer to various degrees in which a speaker accepts some previous proposal, plan, opinion or statement; "accept" is one of these degrees; "reject" is another.Note: in this definition /disagreement/ inherits the elements in the definition of /inform/.
Example	"I'm afraid you're wrong."

	/correction/
Definition	Dialogue act where the speaker, S, wants to inform the addressee, A, that the information which S has reason to believe that A believes is correct, is in fact incorrect and should be replaced by the information that S offers.
- Source	Commonplace
- Note	In this definition /correction/ inherits the elements in the definition of /disagreement/.
Example	"To Montreal, not to Ottawa."

	/answer /
Broader concept	/inform/
Conceptual domain	/confirm/ /disconfirm/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to make certain information available to the addressee, A, which S believes A wants to know.
- Source	Commonplace

	/confirm/
Broader concept	/answer/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, believes that the addressee, A, wants to know whether his (A's) uncertain belief that the information queried by a check is correct.
- Source	DIT; Verbmobil
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Reply-Y (HCRC MapTask), Yes-Answer (SWBD-DAMSL).
Example	"Indeed"

	/disconfirm/
Broader concept	/answer/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, believes that the addressee, A, wants to know whether his (A's) uncertain belief that the information queried by a check is incorrect.
-Source	DIT
-Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Reply-N (HCRC MapTask) and No-Answer (SWBD-DAMSL).
Example	French "Si"; Danish "Jo"; Dutch: "Toch niet" and "Toch wel"

1.3 Commissives

	/promise/
Conceptual domain	/acceptRequest/ /declineRequest/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, commits himself unconditionally to perform a certain action in the manner or with the frequency described. S believes that the addressee, A, prefers that the action be performed (rather than not be performed).
- Source	DIT, Searle (1969)
– Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Promise (TRAINS)
Example	"I will send you an email"

	/offer/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, commits himself to perform a certain action, conditional on A's consent that S do so.
- Source	DAMSL; DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Offer (TRAINS).
Example	"Shall I start?"; "Would you like to have some coffee?"

	/acceptRequest/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, commits himself to perform an action that was requested.
- Source	DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Accept (DAMSL, SWBD-DAMSL, TRAINS, Verbmobil).
Example	"Sure"

	/declineRequest/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, indicates unwillingness to perform an action that was requested.
- Source	DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Reject (DAMSL, SWBD-DAMSL, TRAINS, Verbmobil).
Example	"Not now"

	/acceptSuggest/
Definition	Dialogue act where t.
- Source	DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Accept (DAMSL, SWBD-DAMSL, TRAINS, Verbmobil).
Example	"Let's do that"

	/declineSuggest/
Definition	Dialogue act where t.
- Source	DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Reject (DAMSL, SWBD-DAMSL, TRAINS, Verbmobil).
Example	"I don't think so"

1.4 Directives

	/instruct/
Broader concept	/request/
Conceptual domain	/acceptOffer/ /declineOffer/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants the addressee, A, to carry out a named action in the manner or with the frequency described; S assumes that A is able and willing to carry out the action.
- Source	DIT; HCRC Map Task
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Action-directive (DAMSL).
Example	"Go right round until you get to just above that."
-Source	HCRC MapTask

	/suggest/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants the addressee, A, to be aware that a named action is potentially promising for achieving a certain goal, which is either named explicitly or contextually salient.
- Source	DIT; TRAINS; Verbmobil
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Open-option (DAMSL).
Example	"Let's wait for the meeting to finish."

	/request/
Conceptual domain	/instruct/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants the addressee, A, to perform a named action in the manner or with the frequency described, conditional on A's consent.
- Source	DIT; TRAINS; Verbmobil
Example	"Please turn to page five"

	/acceptOffer/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, informs the addressee, A, that S agrees to A performing the action that A has offered to perform.
- Source	DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Accept (DAMSL, SWBD-DAMSL, TRAINS, Verbmobil).
Example	"Yes please"; French: "Je vous en prie"

	/declineOffer/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, informs the addressee, A, that S does not agree to A performing the action that A has offered to perform.
- Source	DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Reject (DAMSL, SWBD-DAMSL, TRAINS, Verbmobil).
Example	"No thanks"

2 Dimension-specific functions2.1 Feedback functions

	/positiveAutoFeedback/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants the addressee A to know that S believes that S's attention to, perception, interpretation, evaluation or execution of the previous utterance was successful.
- Source	DIT
– Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Signal-Understanding (DAMSL), Acknowledge (HCRC MapTask, SWBD-DAMSL) Ack (TRAINS) and Feedback_Positive (Verbmobil). This type of feedback could be further broken down into more specific areas (dealing with the sender's attention, perception, interpretation, evaluation and execution), as exemplified in the DIT schema. Such fine distinctions have hitherto not been made in other annotation schemes however, so a simplified top level data category is defined here.
Example	"Uh-huh"; Nonverbally: nodding; "Yes"

	/positiveAlloFeedback/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants the addressee, A, to know that S believes that A's attention to, perception, interpretation, evaluation or execution of the previous utterance was successful.
- Source	DIT
- Note	The distinction between whether feedback is about S's (auto) understanding or A's (allo) is only made within the DIT scheme. This type of feedback could be further broken down into more specific areas (dealing with the addressee's attention, perception, interpretation, evaluation and execution).
Example	"You got that right"

	/negativeAutoFeedback/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants the addressee, A, to know that S believes that S's attention to, perception, interpretation, evaluation or execution of the previous utterance encountered a problem.
- Source	DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Signal-Non-Understanding (DAMSL) and Feedback _Negative (Verb-mobil). This type of feedback could be further broken down into more specific areas (dealing with the sender's attention, perception, interpretation, evaluation and execution), as is exemplified in the DIT schema. Such fine distinctions have hitherto not been made in other annotation schemes however, so a simplified top level data category is defined here.
Example	"Sorry?"; "What?"; Spanish: "Que?"; Italian: "Como?"

	/negativeAlloFeedback/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants the addressee, A, to know that S believes that A's attention to, perception, interpretation, evaluation or execution of the previous utterance encountered a problem.
- Source	DIT
- Note	The distinction between whether feedback is about S's (auto) understanding or A's (allo) is only made within the DIT scheme. This type of feedback could be further broken down into more specific areas (dealing with the addressee's attention, perception, interpretation, evaluation and execution).
Example	"No no no no"

	/feedbackElicitation/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to know whether A's attention to, perception, interpretation, evaluation or execution of the previous utterance was successful.
- Source	DIT
- Note	Feedback elicitation could be further broken down into more specific areas dealing with the addressee's attention, perception, interpretation, evaluation and execution.
Example	"Okay?"; Italian: "Capisce?"

2.2 Turn management functions

	/turnAccept/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, agrees to take the turn when he is requested to do so.
- Source	DIT
– Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Take-Turn (TRAINS).
Example	A: "Would you like to say something at this point?" B: "Certainly."; Nonverbally: nodding

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	/turnAssign/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants the addressee, A, to take the turn.
- Source	Common in literature on turn taking in conversation
– Note	Occurs especially in multiparty dialogue. Related terminology in other schemes: Assign-Turn (TRAINS).
Example	"Adam?", characteristically accompanied by the speaker directing his gaze to Adam, possibly also nodding or pointing in his direction and raising the eyebrows.

	/turnGrab/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to take the turn from another participant.
- Source	DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Take-Turn (TRAINS).
Example	"Hold on"

	/turnKeep/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to keep the turn.
- Source	DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Keep-Turn (TRAINS).
Explanation	Utterances used for turn keeping often also have a stalling function.
Example	"Erm"

	/turnRelease/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to give other dialogue participants the opportunity to take the turn
- Source	Common in literature on turn taking in conversation
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Release-Turn (TRAINS).
Example	Sender uses declining intonation towards the end of a contribution and subsequently pauses.

	/turnTake/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to take the turn when it is available.
- Source	DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Take-Turn (TRAINS)
Example	"Ehm" as a turn-initial segment

2.3 Time management functions

	/stalling/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to have a little more time to construct his contribution.
- Source	DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Hold (DAMSL).
Example	"Let me see", "Erm"; Nonverbally: slowing down
-Note	Utterances used for stalling often also have a turn keeping function.

	/pausing/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to suspend the dialogue for a while because he needs some time to do something.
- Source	DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Hold (DAMSL).
Explanation	Pausing occurs either in preparation of continuing the dialogue, or because something else came up which is more urgent for the sender to attend to.
Example	"Just a moment"; Dutch: "een ogenblikje"

2.4 Own and partner communication management functions

	/completion/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to assist the addressee, A, by finishing or adding to the clause that A is in the middle of constructing.
- Source	DAMSL; DIT; TRAINS
Example	S: "which should leave us plenty of time to uhhh", A: "get to city H"
- Source	TRAINS

	/correctMisspeaking /
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to correct (part of) an utterance by the addressee, A, assuming that A made a speaking error.
- Source	DAMSL; DIT
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes: Correction suggestion (TRAINS).
Example	S: "second engine E3 is going to uhh city H to pick up the bananas, back to A, drop", A: "to pick up the oranges", S: "sorry, pick up the oranges"
-Source	TRAINS

	/signalSpeakingError/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants the addressee, A, to know that S has made a mistake in speaking.
- Source	DIT
Example	"We're going out on Tues- no, er, not on Tuesday"

	/selfCorrection/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to correct an error that he made, or to improve on an infelicitous formulation that he used, within the same turn.
- Source	Common in literature on conversation studies
- Note	Related terminology in other schemes:
Example	"We're going out on Tues- no, er, Thursday"

2.5 Discourse structuring functions

	/interactionStructuring/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to explicitly indicate to the addressee, A, the function or topic of his next contribution(s).
- Source	DIT
– Note	Interaction structuring covers such phenomena as topic introduction, dialogue act announcement and topic closing.
Examples	"A question"; Dutch: "vraagje"

	/opening/
Definition	Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants the addressee, A, to know that S is ready and willing to engage in a dialogue with A.
- Source	DIT
Example	III

2.6 Social obligations management functions

/initialGreeting/ Definition Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants the addressee, A to know that S is present and aware of A's presence; S puts pressure on A to acknowledge this. - Source Note Related terminology in other schemes: Greet (Verbmobil). Explanation Greetings usually come in initiative-response pairs within a dialogue; this data category corresponds to the first element of such a pair. Example "Hello!"; "Good morning"

/returnGreeting/ Definition Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to acknowledge that S is aware of the presence of the addressee, A, and of A having signalled his presence to S; S has been pressured to respond to an initialGreeting by A. - Source Related terminology in other schemes: Greet (Verbmobil). - Note Greetings usually come in initiative-response pairs within a dialogue; this data category corresponds to the Explanation second element of such a pair. Example "Hello!"; "Good morning"

/initialSelfIntroduction/ Definition Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to make himself known to the addressee, A; S puts pressure on A to acknowledge this. - Source Explanation Introductions usually come in initiative-response pairs within a dialogue; this data category corresponds to the first element of such a pair. Example "I'm Jack"

/returnSelfIntroduction/ Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to make himself known to the addressee, A; S has been pressured to Definition respond to an initialSelfIntroduction by A. - Source Explanation Introductions usually come in initiative-response pairs within a dialogue; this data category corresponds to the second element of such a pair. "And I'm Jill" Example

/apology/ Definition Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants the addressee, A, to know that S regrets something; S puts pressure on A to acknowledge this. - Source DIT; SWBD-DAMSL "Sorry about that." Example

/acceptApology/ Definition Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to mitigate the addressee, A's feelings of regret; S has been pressured to respond to an apology by A. Source Example "No problem."

/thanking/ Definition Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants the addressee, A, to know that S is grateful for some action performed by A; S puts pressure on A to acknowledge this. - Source Note Related terminology in other schemes: Thank (Verbmobil). Explanation Utterances used for thanking often also indicate that the sender wants to end the dialogue. "Thanks a lot." Example

/returnGoodbye/
Definition Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to acknowledge his awareness that the addressee, A, has signalled his final contribution to the dialogue and S signals in return his agreement to end the dialogue; S has been pressured to respond to an initialGoodbye by A.

- Source DIT

- Note Related terminology in other schemes: Bye (Verbmobil).

Explanation Goodbyes usually come in initiative-response pairs within a dialogue; this data category corresponds to the second element of such a pair.

Example "Bye, see you later"

Data categories for non-core communicative functions

Contact management functions

/contactIndication/
Definition Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to make it known to the addressee, A, that S is ready to send messages to, and receive messages from, A.

- Source DIT

Example "Yes?"

/contactCheck/
Definition Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to establish whether the addressee, A, is ready to receive messages from, and send messages to, S.

- Source DIT
Example "Hello?!"

Other functions

/directQuestion/
Conceptual Domain /set Question/ /propositional Question/ /alternative Question/ /check Question/
Definition Dialogue act where the sender, S, wants to know something which S assumes the addressee, A, to know. S puts pressure on A to provide this information
- Source Commonly used as contrasting with /indirectQuestion/