

“It’s necessary to X” in Italian and Polish: Managing reasons for action

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Enlisting others to action

Non-verbal ((point to the salt))

Imperative 'Get the salt'

Interrogative 'Will you get the salt?'

Declarative 'I need the salt'
'There isn't enough salt'

Enlisting others to action

Declarative ‘It is necessary to get the salt’

Impersonal modal constructions

<i>Bisogna prendere il sale</i> need-3s take-INF the salt	Italian	42 cases (10 hrs)
<i>Trzeba wziąć sól</i> need take-INF salt	Polish	51 cases (10 hrs)

‘It is necessary to get the salt’

- modal auxiliary with deontic semantics
- impersonal subject

Action affordances

‘It is necessary to X’

No participant is deictically encoded as agent

Recipient selection can be done in other ways

Action affordances

Interactional success hinges on:

- recipient's alignment to what is claimed
- recipient's engagement as agent

>> recipient's identification with the need

Example (1)

Polish – ‘Maybe it would be necessary to get him’



Example (2)

Italian – ‘It is also necessary to wipe away the dye’



Minimal sequence

A: It's necessary to X

B: ((complies))

Expanded sequence

A: It's necessary to X + account

B: ((disaligns))

A: account

...

B: ((complies))

Example (3)

Italian – ‘It’s necessary to choose an intense programme’



Example (4)

Polish – ‘It is necessary to sprinkle this grass’



Sequence types

Minimal sequence

Italian

15/42

Polish

16/51

A: It's necessary to X

B: ((complies))

Sequence types

Expanded sequence

Italian

19/42

Polish

20/51

A: It's necessary to X + account

B: ((disaligns))

A: account

...

B: ((complies))

Managing collective reasons for action

Speakers produce accounts that articulate or support the reasons for the necessity

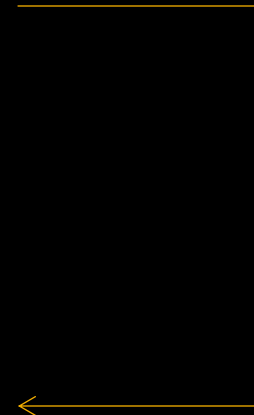
Recipients do not disalign in terms of willingness or ability to do what has been claimed necessary, but dispute the grounds upon which the claim is based

Managing collective reasons for action

- > necessity (why this?)
- > engagement (why me?)

Grounds for deontic claim

prior agreement
situational evidence
shared procedure
speaker expertise



Thank you

References

Zinken, J., & Ogiermann, E. (2011). How to Propose an Action as Objectively Necessary: The Case of Polish Trzeba x (“One Needs to x”). *Research on Language & Social Interaction*, 44, 263-287.