

Phonology in English formulaic language

Hypotheses

1. Each formulaic sequence would have their own regular phonological form
2. That phonological form would display the typical features of colloquial phrase phonology: assimilation, elision, epenthesis, liaison
3. That phonological form would display a regular rhythmic form
4. A formulaic sequence used as an utterance as such would display a regular intonational form
5. A formulaic sequence would typically display an increase in articulatory speed.

Other observations from initial analysis of audio-recorded transcripts

1. Formulaic sequences have different intonational forms for different communicative effects: *thank you* is quite variable depending on discourse context – type of social interaction, degree of emotional involvement
2. Formulaic sequences are subject to paralinguistic variation: *you're joking* with a variety of falls.
3. Formulaic sequences in prepared messages are articulated more quickly than formulaic sequences in unprepared messages: client at a hairdresser's has already prepared their message and so their formulaic sequences are articulated with speed, whereas the hairdresser has to seek information and does so with formulaic sequences articulated more slowly. The hairdresser used formulaic sequences in routine welcomes with speed.