The use of quotation marks

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Call for papers

Speakers frequently use instances of metalanguage like quotation to talk about certain aspects of language. Compare sentence (1a) to the instance of pure quotation in (1b).

(1) a.   Kassel is a city in Hesse.

            "Kassel" has two syllables.
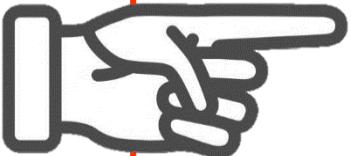
While the word Kassel in (1a) refers to the city itself, a linguistic property of the quoted word Kassel is denoted in (1b). In theories of quotation, at least four distinct categories of quotation are identified: pure quotation, direct and indirect quotation (i.e., speech reports), and mixed quotation (i.e., a blend of direct quotation and indirect report). In recent literature, unifying accounts for the different types of quotation have been proposed (cf. Härtl & Schlechtweg, 2023). We believe that free indirect discourse (FID), among other linguistic phenomena, provides an excellent testing ground for such accounts, as FID has been analyzed as a type of mixed quotation (Maier, 2015) involved in narrations alongside other quotation types. Our workshop is an opportunity to bring together different perspectives on quotation typology and promote the exchange between researchers in the field of

Quotation as an interface phenomenon

syllabic setup of the word *sofa* is described and the quotation marks (or quotes for short) around *sofa* indicate this use, which means reference is made to a linguistic dimension of the quoted expression (see, e.g., Quine 1981).

(1) a. *"Sofa" has two syllables.*

b. *A sofa is a piece of furniture.*

(1a) is an example of pure quotation. Besides pure quotation, quotes are used, among other things, in actual scare quotation, as in (2a), direct quotation as in (2b) as well as mixed quotation as in (2c) (see, e.g., Brendel et al. 2011; Saka and Johnson 2017).

(2) a. *The "beach" was in fact a thin strip of black volcanic grit.*

b. *"Something is wrong," Alan whispered softly to his dolls.*

c. *The coach declared that his team would "kick arse"*

What did we see?

- Quotations from Schlechtweg/Härtl (2023a) as well as those in the abstract for this workshop are marked with quotation marks

- sometimes they are the only sign "that indicates the presence of a quotational meaning" (Schlechtweg/Härtl 2023: 277)

- while we do **not** follow the idea that "there is no quotation without quotation marks" (*Necessity Claim*, De Brabanter 2023: 286), we want to propose a grapholinguistic approach to quotation (marks)

- Our question is: How often are quotation marks used for what function? (apart from direct quotation)

- "a close comparison of the usage [...] may help us to gain a better understanding of the workings of quotation marks at the use/mention boundary" (Finkbeiner 2023: 318)

Agenda

Quotation marks in newspapers

Typical use of quotation marks in newspapers

- **Pure quotation:** „Ich arbeite hart", erklärt sie, nachdem sie aufgelegt hat. (T20/MAR.00009 taz, 02.03.2020, S. 4)

  "I work hard," she explains after hanging up.

- **Modalising quotation marks:** Im Bundestag leistete sich die AfD Eskapaden wie kürzlich jene mit den pöbelnden „Gästen". (L20/NOV.02820 Berliner Morgenpost, 28.11.2020, S. 2)

  In the Bundestag, the AfD indulged in escapades such as the recent one with the rabble-rousing "guests".

- **Mixed quotation:** Seehofer sieht in dem Modell eine „grundlegende Abkehr" vom bestehenden personalisierten Verhältniswahlrecht. (SOL20/MAI.01637 SPON, 17.05.2020)

  Seehofer sees the model as a "fundamental departure" from the existing personalized proportional representation system.

Fuhrhop/Reinken/Romstadt (in press)

Finding mixed quotation

- DeReKo (IDS 2022)

- newspaper articles from 18 newspapers, published in 2020

- search for quotation marks (straight and double variant) with no more than three words between them (\"/w2:1,0s,Max \")

- 244.835 cases, 3.000 randomly chosen

- Including multiple quotation in a sentence, we analysed 5.172 quotations

1.251 cases of mixed quotation

- (337 cases of modalising use of quotation marks)

Which entities are marked with quotation marks?

noun phrases	2.003	38.7 %
adjective(s) + noun	1.205	
nouns	1.380	26,7 %
noun & noun sequence	487	9,4 %
adjective and adjective phrases	410	7,9 %
verbs and verbal phrases	302	5,8 %

- Er beklagt die „brutal**en** Ungleichheit**en**", die es in der französischen Klassengesellschaft immer noch gebe. (SOL20/OKT.01561 SPON, 17.10.2020)
  He laments the "brutal inequalities" that still exist in French class society.

- Die meisten Menschen sähen die „neue deutsche Vielfalt" als Bereicherung. (SOL20/SEP.02231 SPON, 23.09.2020)
  Most people see the "new german diversity" as an enrichment.

Mixed quotations in newspaper articles

- Mit ihrer Hilfe könne die „Wahrheit" über das Zustandekommen des Gesprächs […] ans Licht kommen. (L20/NOV.02002 Berliner Morgenpost, 20.11.2020: 8)

  With their help, the "truth" about how the conversation came about […] could come to light.

	with subjunctive	without clear subjunctive form
total	544	671
adjectives & adjective phrases	109	102
adjective(s)+ noun	157	265
noun & noun sequence	55	164

- Many mixed quotations are marked twice: by quotations marks and by subjunctive

Fuhrhop/Reinken/Romstadt (in press)

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Various means of quotation marking

In vier von sechs Fällen wurden die Horstbäume der Greifvögel zur Brutzeit gefällt. In einem Fall ist der Baum eines Horstes „verschwunden", in einem weiteren Fall seien sämtliche Nester in einem Waldgebiet restlos beseitigt worden. (NKU20/JUL.02172 Nordkurier, 14.07.2020: 18)

In four out of six cases, the nest trees of the birds of prey were felled during the breeding season. In one case, the tree of a nest has "disappeared", in another case all nests in a wooded area have been completely removed.

- In einem Fall ist der Baum eines Horstes verschwunden.
  In one case, the tree of a nest has disappeared.

- In einem Fall ist der Baum eines Horstes „verschwunden".
  In one case, the tree of a nest has "disappeared".

- In einem Fall sei der Baum eines Horstes „verschwunden".
  In one case, the tree of a nest had disappeared.

- ?In einem Fall sei der Baum eines Horstes sozusagen „verschwunden".
  In one case, the tree of a nest had "disappeared", so to speak.

distance

Fuhrhop/Reinken/Romstadt (in press)

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Form and functions of mixed quotation

- Two formal markings
    - quotation marks
    - subjunctive

- Two functions
    - Indirect speech is already marked with the subjunctive
    - Expressing distance while also embedding the quoted entity grammatically
        - scare quotation?

Quotation marks as distance marks

Quotation marks in school exams

The GraphVar-corpus

- the GraphVar corpus contains over 1,500 school leaving exams ("Abiturklausuren") written between 1917 and 2018

- we describe an excerpt of the entire corpus: 137 exams from the class of 2023 (subjects: German, biology, history)

- they contain an average of 34.6 quotation marks per exam

- excluded are all instances that can be described as a direct reproduction

- in total, 994 pairs of quotation marks are analyzed

Romstadt/Strombach/Berg (2024)

What is quoted?

nominal group	423	42.6 %
noun	374	37.6 %
adjective	70	7.0 %
verb	52	5.2 %
conversion	35	3.5 %
pronoun	26	2.6 %
sentence	6	0.6 %
adverb	16	1.6 %
conjunction	7	0.7 %
punctuation unit	2	0.2 %

Fuhrhop/Reinken/Romstadt (2023)

Why are these units quoted?

	biology	German	history
pure quotation	13 (8.6 %)	39 (29.5 %)	11 (8.1 %)
reservation of style	58 (38.6 %)	9 (6.8 %)	11 (8.1 %)
reservation of content	71 (47.3 %)	59 (44.7 %)	88 (64.1 %)
unclear	8 (5.3 %)	25 (18.9 %)	26 (19.1 %)
total	150 (100.0 %)	132 (100.0 %)	136 (100.0 %)

Die Wirtschaft und die Industrie „boomten".
The economy and the industry were "booming".

Die Elektronen „wandern"
The electrons "wander".

Der Adel wird stets privilegiert und als etwas „Höheres" angesehen.
The nobility is always privileged and seen as something "higher".

Fuhrhop/Reinken/Romstadt (2023)

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"Struggle for educational language"

- "educational language" can be defined as a specific register that is expected of high school graduates

- characteristic: "The linguistic means must be chosen precisely in order to construct common, universal meanings. This happens, for example, through the explicit formulation of contexts" (Gogolin/Lange 2011: 112)

- against this background, one might expect that no quotation marks would actually be used

- but, when they are used in school leaving exams, they indicate precisely that the writers know that they are deviating from what is actually expected

- in this respect, they show a "struggle for educational language" (or a "struggle for the specific language of the subject")

Fuhrhop/Reinken/Romstadt (2023)

Perspective: Overall Frequency
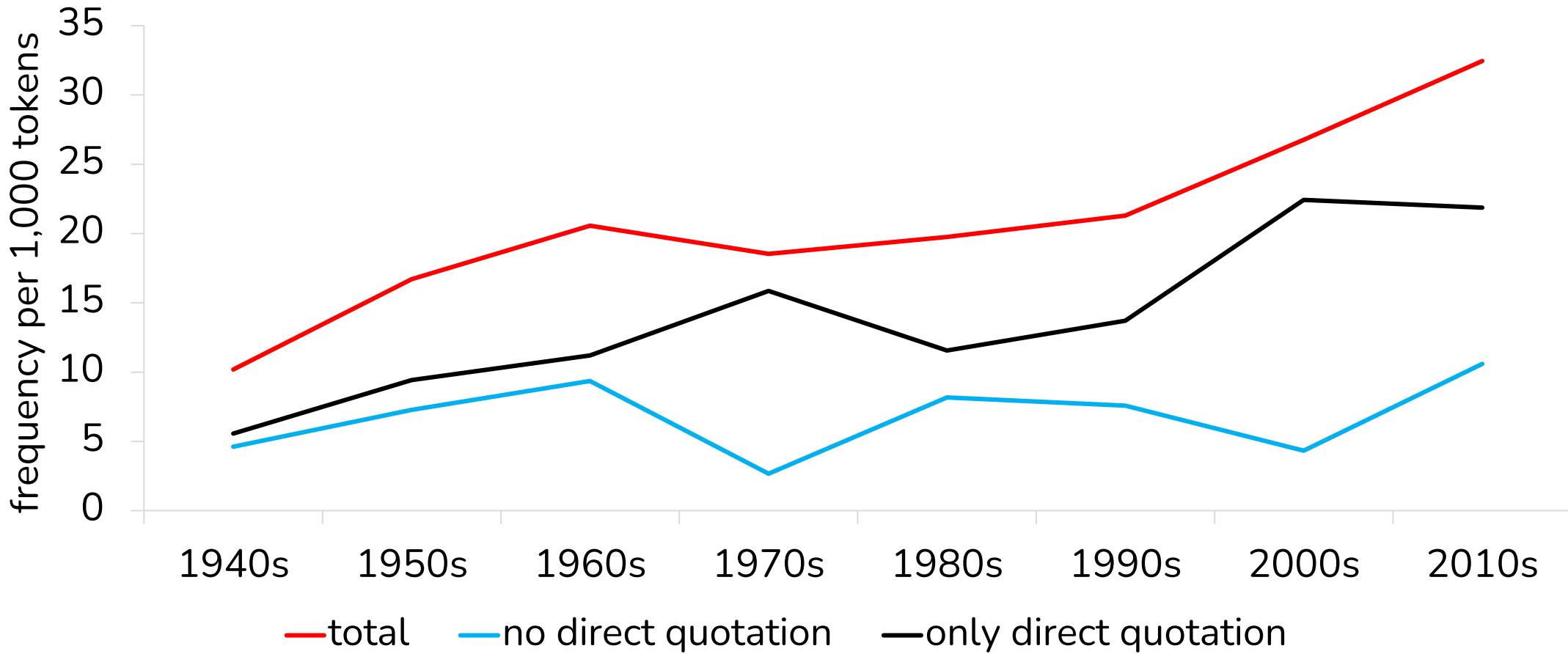
Summary & Outlook

Quotation marks and text type

newspaper articles

school exams
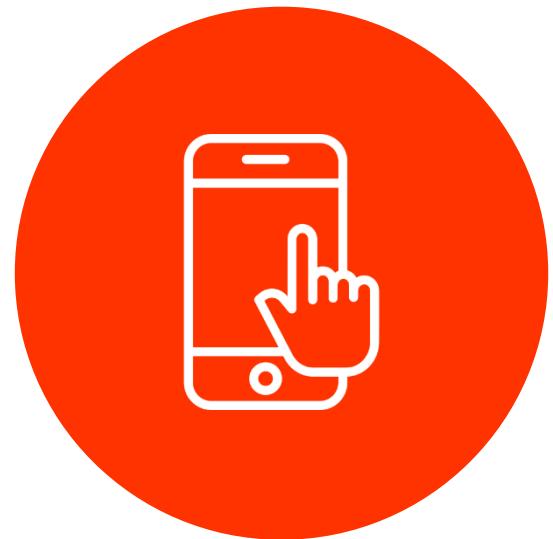
digitally mediated communication

Fuhrhop/Reinken/Romstadt (2023), Fuhrhop/Reinken/Romstadt (i.P.), Busch (2021), Finkbeiner (2023)

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Corpus-driven graphematic approach

- **Finding** quotations by their marks

- **Acquiring** lots of data on the usage of quotation marks

- **Describing** text type dependencies

- **Systematizing** graphematic, grammatic and semantic ways of marking quotation

What is quoted and why?

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