

## **Presentation at BAAL 2000**

### **Short summary of paper held at the annual meeting of the British Association of Applied Linguistics, Cambridge, 7-10 Sept. 2000:**

Title: "Negotiating meaning in intercultural communication"

This presentation dealt with the question of how people from various linguistic and cultural backgrounds manage in the end to communicate successfully, despite instances of miscommunication during the interaction. The data were collected during workshops of the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) in Graz, Austria.

Many studies on intercultural communication deal with investigating cultural differences as a source of communication breakdown and stop with analyzing how miscommunication came about. However, very often people can resolve communication problems by applying various strategies of negotiating meaning. I argue that these strategies of negotiating meaning may be crucial to the success of intercultural communication. Communication breakdown is more likely to occur if there is no negotiation of this type. In my analysis two different instances of negotiation were analyzed: a) the clarification of lexical meaning, b) the clarification of pragmatic/discursive meaning.