Ikkå: A way of managing knowledge and turn-taking in everyday Danish interaction?

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For this seminar, I will present some preliminary findings on the use of the tag *ikkå* and variations of it (*ikke, ikke, ikkås, ing*) in Danish talk-in-interaction. In the dictionary (*Den Danske Ordbog*), *ikkå* is treated as two words – *ikke også* (English *not also*), but both *ikke* and *ikke også* following an utterance are described as requesting confirmation or acceptance of the utterance by the recipient. Arboe and Schoonderbeek Hansen (2009) describe *ikkå* (*ek å* in their spelling) as a special word in the dialect of Aarhus.

The most comprehensive investigation of *ikkå* has been carried out by Jensen et al. (2019). They focus on its use as a tag in post-possible completion (cf. Schegloff 1996) and argue that *ikkå* on a continuum can be more or less response mobilizing. In that sense, their findings are somewhat in line with the dictionary definitions of *ikke* and *ikke også*.

While there definitely is some merit to the dictionary definition and the findings of Jensen et al., it is worth investigating *ikkå* using a larger set of data and delving into different contexts of use. Based on almost 14 hours of mainly video recordings of Danish talk-in-interaction (and some phone conversations), I have built a collection of 273 instances of *ikkå* and variants thereof.

From the 273 instances, I have made several sub-collections which I will present during my seminar. One of these is a syntactic construction not covered by Jensen et al. whereby *ikkå* can be part of establishing a referent like a person: “mathias *ikkå*. Similarly, it can be used to establish time of a story: “i går *ikkå*” (Eng. *yesterday IKKÅ*). It can also be used at the end of when-clauses especially (i.e. not at post-possible completion) or marking an utterance as subordinate to a story being told.

Overall, I will argue that *ikkå* does work to negotiate what is shared knowledge, but also manages turn-taking in the sense that it is used to structure multi-unit turns and thereby helps the speaker establish themself as the speaker of a longer stretch of talk.
References


Den Danske Ordbog (n.d.) https://ordnet.dk/ddo/
