# Norm and usage, the implementation of aeronautical phraseology by native and non-native English-speaking air traffic controllers

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The field of air traffic control offers a perfect example of the creation of a language standard: that of aeronautical phraseology (Lopez, 2011, my translation). Imposed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to ensure clear and effective communication between pilots and control towers, this standard phraseology is based on natural English. Its design consists of associating a term or expression with a unique and specific meaning, in order to reduce ambiguities linked to the polysemic nature of natural language. Phraseology reference manuals[1] call for the use of imperative predominantly in the controller's statements and declarative in the pilot's statements. This is consistent with their administrator/administered power relationship (Philps, 1992, my translation). The controller (administrator) is usually required to transmit instructions and the pilot (administrated) to repeat them.

Beyond the standard, variations are observed in the implementation of aviation phraseology in actual communications. In our study, two real-life corpora are compared with their respective references[2]: the first is based on recordings of international pilots and native (American) English-speaking controllers; the second on recordings of international pilots and non-native (Czech) English-speaking controllers. We observe that semantic interference with natural English is more significant among American controllers and that these interferences sometimes lead to misunderstandings by the pilots. Furthermore, this relationship of negotiation and cooperation goes beyond a simple administrator-administrated relationship.

The aim of this study is to make these real-life corpora available for use as a pedagogical support in the training of pilots in phraseology. They could thus be made aware of the regular usage that controllers make of standard phraseology.

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[1,2]The ICAO and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) phraseology manual.

# References

Lopez, S. (2011). Analyse comparative d'une norme langagière et de ses usages dans le domaine du contrôle aérien. Journées d'etudes Toulousaines (JéTou), Apr 2011, Toulouse, France.pp.168-178, 2011.

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