

D33 Sybille / Germany / German Studies

Interaction partner(s): Spanish students
Moment of enquiry: SS 08
Experience of difference: Dialogue phases and turn-taking

Sybille is studying at a German university and has made friends with a group of Spanish exchange students. They have a lot of fun together, but Sybille often feels like the Spaniards never listen to what she has to say. When they are all talking about a topic, the Spaniards constantly interrupt each other and don't let the others finish their sentences. Sybille always tries to get in on the conversation, but there are hardly any breaks in the talk, and as soon as she manages to say a sentence, she gets interrupted again. After a while, she stops saying anything at all and only listens to her friends' loud discussions.

1. How does the German student think a conversation should proceed, and why does she have a hard time participating in a conversation with the Spanish students?
2. What conversational conventions characterise the Spanish students' behaviour?