

D40 Ana Paula / Brazil / Literature Studies

Interaction partner(s): German student
Moment of enquiry: SS 08
Experience of difference: Misinterpretation and conjecture

Ana Paula, a Brazilian student, has become friends with a German student, Birgit. They talk for a while in the cafeteria, and when they part, Ana Paula says to Birgit “Passe lá em casa mais tarde!”, which means: “Why don’t you come by my house later?” Birgit is delighted about the invitation and that afternoon, she goes to visit her Brazilian fellow student. When she rings the doorbell, her Brazilian friend is in the middle of some important work and really doesn’t have time for her. Ana Paula does not show her astonishment about the visit and invites Birgit in. The Brazilian gives her full attention to her guest, even though she really needs to finish her work. Birgit notices that this is not a good time but doesn’t say anything; after all, Ana Paula would not have invited her otherwise or would surely tell her if she was busy at that moment.

1. How should Ana Paula’s invitation be understood? Why doesn’t the Brazilian admit that she is actually busy at the moment?
2. How does the German interpret Ana Paula’s invitation? What are the underlying dialogue conventions?