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Socio-Pragmatic Aspects of Phatic Communion in Fictional Dialogues

Phatic communion is generally defined as speech behaviour which is used by the participants in communication to establish a social contact. It is usually presented as the type of communication which is considered to be of little or no importance as to the meaning of the message which is conveyed.

In my talk different standpoints with regard to the nature of phatic devices will be discussed and exemplified (Malinowski, Laver, Simpson, Bakhtin). The main aspects of phatic communion, namely the role of context and the scope of socio-pragmatic meanings which can be created in different literary contexts, will be presented on the data from fictional dialogues in J.M. Coetzee's novel: *Slow Man* (Vintage Books 2006).