'I flirt by insulting people': Exploring the creation and performance of intimacy in *First Dates* (Ireland)

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First dates Ireland

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00PRzwBfIO4

First Dates (Ireland)

- 2016-present;
- Filmed in Gibson Hotel in Dublin;
- Over 20 cameras;
- Couples filmed both front and backstage;
- At the end of the date, the couples are interviewed together and asked whether they would like to see each other again;
- Restaurant closed to the public but you can apply to be a 'background' dater;
- Each diner given £25 towards the cost of their meal*;
- UK, USA, Ireland, Australia, Italy, Canada, Spain, Sweden, Poland, Israel.
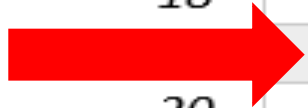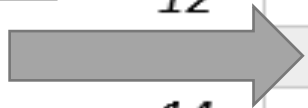
Dating research

- Experimental and reported data (Herz and Inzlicht, 2002; Fisman et al., 2006; Eastwick and Finkel, 2008; Sprecher et al., 2008)

- Conversation analysis (del-Teso-Craviotto, 2006; Stokoe, 2010; Korobov, 2011a and b; Korobov, 2017)

- Corpus (Korobov, 2011a and b; Korobov, 2017)

The dates

Name	S/U	Words	Introduction (narrator)
Amy (21) & James (25)	S	2242	Legal student Amy has tried a few partners to date none have been judged worthy.
Simon (36) & Tynan (39)	S	1276	-
Federica (25) & Lee (33)	U	1825	South African model Federica likes to take the lead her dance partner will need stamina.
Mark (39)& Gemma (39)	U	1496	Like any seasoned warrior Mark appreciates the value of a positive mental attitude. Mark's blind date is clued in single mum Gemma.
Dawn (24) & Alannah (21)	U	1429	Free spirited Dawn is a real girl's girl but she's not just any girl's girl. Rising to meet the Dawn is architecture student Alannah Rose. Alannah Rose is ready to build a relationship there's a first time for everything.

Successful and unsuccessful dates: Frequency counts

N	Successful	Freq.	Unsuccessful	Freq.
1	I	143	I	193
2	you	113	a	132
3	and	89	you	124
4	like	84	to	111
5	to	84	like	88
6	the	68	no	72
7	a	62	that	72
8	so	54	the	65
9	yeah	48	I'm	63
10	I'm	46	and	58
11	it	44	yeah	55
12	that	44	it	51
13	know	37	of	51
14	of	37	me	50
15	was	37	have	44
16	do	35	laughs	44
17	just	34	not	44
18	it's	33	do	42
19	what	33	is	39
20	in	28	what	39

Frequency counts (normalised per 1,000 words)

	Successful	Unsuccessful
no	12 (3)	72 (15)
not	8 (2)	44 (9)
don't	9 (3)	37 (8)
	29 (8)	**153 (32)**

	Successful	Unsuccessful
like	84 (24)	88 (19)
know	37 (11)	35 (7)
	121 (35)	**123 (26)**

no – Federica and Lee

<F> Eat that come on.

<L> No.

<F> It's sad look you need to bite it.

<L> I'm not bitin in through that.

<F> This is good for you.

<L> For fuck's sake you're not well you're mad.

<F> <LAUGHS> That's why you like me you do like me don't you?

<L> We'll see.

<F> We'll see?

<LO> I don't like too much confrontation in a relationship if there's confrontation it's not it's not good like.

<F> Can you taste this for me?

<L> No no no <O> no no no no no no no </O>.

<F> <O> Get your face in here come on </O> a drop darling come on come on do it please.

no – Simon and Tynan

<T> Would you like to try some of my sticky toffee pudding please say no.

<S> No.

<T> No seriously would you like to try some?

<S> Yeah.

<T> Oh you're getting my first spoon an all.

<S> Your first spoon <LAUGHS>.

Questions

Date	No. of questions	Total
Amy James	6 11	17
Simon Tynan	7 7	14
Federica Lee	18 19	37
Mark Gemma	13 11	24
Dawn Alannah	7 15	22

you – Amy and James

1	\<A\> \<O\> How're \<\O\> you? \<J\> Nice to meet you I'm James very nice to see you. \<A\> Hi I'm Amy nice to meet you. \<J\> Very nice to meet you how're you
2	gonna go with it I'm gonna say the date was interesting and I would like to see you again because I thought our personalities were similar we're into similar
3	cuddle. \<J\> You mentioned you were into Anime one show I watch I wonder if you can guess it cos it's like super popular it's just finished the first season and
4	was it like your childhood like what were you into \<A\> Am \<\A\> and what did you do? \<A\> Well I'm still really into like art and stuff so \<J\> Oh very \<O\> good
5	heaven because you're an angel and then I usually say something like oh did you fall from heaven cos you look like you've got face injuries I'm definitely just a
6	the lottery most of it's I'd love to go travelling and that just leads to where would you go to first Thailand and what's so cool about Thailand I heard the elephants
7	\<A\> Go on so \<\A\> about myself. \<A\> So tell me more about yourself so you grew up \<O\> obviously \<\O\> where you're from. \<J\> \<O\> Yeah \<\O\>. \<J\>
8	where you're from. \<J\> \<O\> Yeah \<\O\>. \<J\> Yeah am I have to be honest with you I am a bit of a serial dater when I first like broke up with my ex I was like ok
9	my god. \<J\> Wow this is incredible. \<A\> \<?\> Praise be me Jesus \<?\> thank you. \<J\> That's amazing. \<A\> This was a good choice. \<J\> Yeah this is a good
10	Usually the people who try and chat me up usually just want one thing and you know all I would really like right now is just someone to cuddle. \<J\> You
11	being like in the interest of like equality here like to you want to go first because you know it's an equal opportunity here so I feel like you know. \<J\> Ah but what
12	that you know shoots from the hip I love that. \<J\> Hi. \<A\> Hi. \<J\> How \<O\> are you \<\O\>? \<A\> \<O\> How're \<\O\> you? \<J\> Nice to meet you I'm James very
13	would you choose if you got a Game Boy right in your hand no who who did you pick when you were a kid. \<A\> Squirter. \<J\> I think I love you. \<JO\> Hi she's
14	know \<\OJ\>. \<J\> \<O\> Yeah \<\O\> like I heard law law was the first thing that you said to me and then I was like ok she I got to be super \<O\> serious \<\O\>.
15	Maybe you \<O\> should stop thinking about \<\O\> what other people want \<O\> you to think \<\O\> and then it should just come from your heart. \<J\> \<O\> Oh very

you – Dawn and Alannah

1	that for my main it's going to be the salmon definitely. <D> Ugh. <A> You don't like fish? <D> No <LAUGHS>. <A> <LAUGHS> ok. <D>
2	like that <LAUGHS>. <A> This is a bad time to say I have a kid. <D> You have a child? <A> No I don't. <D> Oh my god my heart oh my
3	for just the first part. <MOVE TO ANOTHER DATE> <A> Ok did you have to go to another county to get the bathroom? <D> No I just
4	I suppose a nice pick and mix I suppose. <D> What star sign are you? <A> <LAUGHS> <D> <LAUGHS> <A> I hate that question.
5	romantic? <A> I'm not a hope= oh yeah I suppose. <D> That's what you are yeah. <AO> There was no spark there was no romance there
6	<BOTH LAUGH> ah no no but like I'd be your friend I want to take you out and show you a <O> night out </O>. <A> <O> I don't want
7	with me like. <A> No I don't. <BOTH LAUGH> <D> I'm going to take you out let's go to the George. <A> Ok. t's
8	Yeah isn't that weird that what you that's a question these days. <A> You see my parents aren't <LAUGHS>. <D> Yeah but isn't it weird
9	or films? <D> <LAUGHS> no <LAUGHS>. <A> What's wrong with you you are only <H> out for </H> taking the piss. <D> I love Titanic.
10	<D> <LAUGHS> <A> I hate that question. <D> Why? <A> What do you think I am? <D> Pisces. <A> Pi= not I'm not Pisces no. <D> No?
11	Are your parents still together or? <D> Yeah isn't that weird that what you that's a question these days. <A> You see my parents aren't
12	<O> hold on </O>+ <D> <LAUGHS> <O> I love it </O>. <A> <H> You know her </H>. <D> Every lezzie has a story about the ex come
13	ex literally like swoops in like an eagle the arm like was like an eagle you know the wing like swoop and just kidnapped her. <D> We all
14	that was. <A> I work part time in a cinema as well back home do you like movies or films? <D> <LAUGHS> no <LAUGHS>. <A>
15	</O> both parenting and marriage. <A> Oh yeah yeah yeah would you like to have kids? <D> No never never. <A> Really? <D> No.

How's your doodle?

<F> You're soft how's your doodle?

<L> What the fuck is a doodle?

<F> <LAUGHS>

<FO> Oh and he must have a nice doodle <LAUGHS>.

<F> Yeah you don't know what a doodle is?

<L> No what is what's a doodle?

<F> A doodle is a doodle what do you think a doodle could be?

<L> I don't know I told you I don't know.

<FO> A doodle <LAUGHS> a thingy thingy <LAUGHS>.

<L> What are you talking about I actually am I'm lost.

<F> I'm talking about your thing a doodle is your thing.

<L> <LAUGHS>

<F> How's your doodle?

<L> Good it's working well.

<F> <LAUGHS>

The performance of intimacy – comparing *First Dates* data with family data

N	First Dates	Family
1	I	the
2	you	I
3	to	you
4	a	and
5	like	it
6	and	to
7	the	a
8	that	yeah
9	I'm	that
10	yeah	in
11	it	was
12	of	he
13	no	is
14	do	of
15	know	she
16	what	no
17	just	oh
18	me	know
19	so	like
20	was	have

Using a corpus to examine performance

Frequency counts (normalised per 1,000 words)

	First Dates	Family
no	84 (10)	1603 (9)
know	72 (9)	1398 (7)
like	172 (21)	1377 (7)

like – family data

1	of the car hopefully. <$2> And you need a full licence or something like. <$1> Am well you need kind of you know a knowledge of a
2	who'd see them. The security cameras are never above on the roof like. <$1> Well how did they get in past the cameras? <$6> Well
3	the guards. <$3> am+ <$1> Christmas. <$3> +is he qualified now like? <$1> yeah. <$3> He's garda. <$1> That's right he's ah <$G?>
4	You know one of the lads+ <$2>The two with you were they teachers like? <$1> Yeah they're always with me sure+ <$2> Were they old
5	<\$E>. <$1> <$G2> The seventy minutes weren't up when he blew it like. <$2> They were they were up by about two two <$O2> or three
6	. <$1> That's what it is that's what you have to spend end of story like. <$2> Yeah. <$1> There's no point looking it shure like that or
7	potty training her soon. <$2> Yeah she'll have to do it some time like. <$3> She'll have to keep the nappies off her. <$2> For her own
8	<$O8> now <\$O8>. <$3> <$O8> Flippin <\$O8> the burgers over like. <$4> On his feet all day. <$1> Shur there's no way he'll be able
9	well you're an awful <$G?> <\$O3>. <$2> <$O3> Daddy is that like a grand how much money would that be <\$O3>? <$1> <$O3>
10	yeah <\$O1> she bought it anyway they both were happy with it it's like a little straps and <$O3> nice and high <\$O3>+ <$2> <$O3>
11	least you could forget about whats under the floor. Cut them off to hell like and go along by the wall like. <$2> Yea. I know what you mean.
12	and <$X> everythin \| everything <\$X> on it just to make it go quicker like <$E> $1 laughs <\$E> then this big Volksvagen sticker across
13	down cause Mick wants me to go back to England for a few days but like I can't cause I need to start <$X> workin | working <\$X> as soon
14	don't want ice-cream. <$3> You don't want no ice-cream. Do you not like ice-cream? <$2> No. <$1> Is there wafers? Is that plain
15	<\$O4> there now? <$3> About three months he's getting on grand like it's not so much the job it was more he's very quiet <$O3> <$X>
16	would be nice. <$7> What did Trisha say to you? <$1> Something like that yeah. <$7> Up her with Barbara. <$E> television </$E>
17	say that to you too. <$4cf> But I dunno you can throw a rug on a floor like this and it can look very rich. <$1bf> Oh you can but I had a nice
18	now. <$3> Do you <$E> laughing <\$E>? <$2> I just look like I I look like those young girls now <$E> laughter <\$E> the image of a of a
19	the back of his house and he's digging up things and it's taking him like three minutes to get around to the front of the house and he loves
20	there had to turn to ah who which teacher he'd like to turn to like or like to shag like and they <$G?> names of all the teachers and the

like – First Dates

1	see yeah we'll see. <F> <LAUGHS> I like you you're cute <LAUGHS>. <LO> I like a girl that can get back to me I like a girl who's not afraid to give me a dig or
2	just not my sort of type or whatever and then also met some proper wobblers like <A> Oh go on <A> mentally strange people <?>. <A> Go on. <AO> I just
3	has a story about the ex come on. <A> And then the ex literally like swoops in like an eagle the arm like was like an eagle you know the wing like swoop and
4	on. <A> And then the ex literally like swoops in like an eagle the arm like was like an eagle you know the wing like swoop and just kidnapped her. <D> We all
5	<O> good yeah <\O> <\J> <O> I do draw <\O> constantly like I still kinda do like do comedy doodles and stuff like that. <J> Of course yeah that's cool. <A>
6	that I miss you know. <M> but with the karate and the yoga <G> Yeah </G> it's like go go go. <G> the best yoga ever was pregnancy yoga. <M> Really? <G>
7	stuff so <J> Oh very <O> good yeah <\O> <\J> <O> I do draw <\O> constantly like I still kinda do like do comedy doodles and stuff like that. <J> Of course
8	so this is a whole nother part of you that I'm starting to see now. <A> Yeah well like I was into games growing up and <J> Yeah <\J> all the rest of it. <J> What
9	I was like the only reason I ended up doing law like strangely enough was I was like looking for Japanese courses and I could either do Japanese and business
10	sake you're not well you're mad. <F> <LAUGHS> That's why you like me you do like me don't you? <L> we'll see. <F> We'll see? <LO> I don't like too much
11	I'm a little narcissistic because I often am attracted to people who look quite like me <LAUGHS>. I'm single because I haven't met anyone that has made me
12	you of your mother. <D> No definitely not no no my mother is like she's beautiful like not that you're not but. <DO> I do not make a first good impression ever so
13	I <\O> must be serious <O> yeah <\O>. <J> <O> Yeah <\O> and then it was like oh she'd into art oh she's into Anime oh oh wait hold on she's also a stand
14	look if if I see a crowd of people she has to be the one person that stands out like she needs to be unique like that's me won over yeah <LAUGHS>. <LEAD
15	there cos I'm just so interested in the other <O> person and you're <\O> like super interesting. <A> <O> In the actual talking yeah <\O>. <A> I know so
16	she has to be the one person that stands out like she needs to be unique like that's me won over yeah <LAUGHS>. <LEAD IN> Rising to meet the Dawn
17	you like I find that she's a bit too young like she's just doin like I'm workin I feel like there's that kind of gap there you know it's just completely the opposite of
18	this date so chill. <BOTH LAUGH> <PRODUCER> So what would you like to do for your next date then? <J> Oh. <A> Go on pick James. <J> Oh
19	things </O> both parenting and marriage. <A> Oh yeah yeah yeah would you like to have kids? <D> No never never. <A> Really? <D> No. <A> <O> Oh </O>
20	<A> <O> Well <\O> are we being like in the interest of like equality here like to you want to go first because you know it's an equal opportunity here so I

What does this all mean?

- (One) window on the world of intimate discourse

- How can we use nascent intimacy to inform established intimacy, and vice versa?

Keywords

N	First Dates	Family
1	I'm	he
2	like	she
3	love	they
4	ok	shur
5	laughs	her
6	super	ya
7	my	him
8	doodle	he's
9	relationship	them
10	really	his

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