

Abstract

Research has shown that quoting people is an important tool for a number of language tasks, such as telling stories. In these tasks, quotatives allow the narrator to express what the individuals involved in a conversation were saying, doing, and even thinking. Among the several quotatives in the English language, *be like* has shown to be one of the dominant ones, but research has only focused on a comparison between *be like* and other quotatives, such as *go* and *be all*. This study in particular aims at exploring two of the uses for quotative *be like*, reporting: actual spoken dialogue or internal thought. In order to do this, a massive American English corpus with a wide coverage was used to collect the data.