I am investigating the most common responses and uses of the request "Do you mind?" in modern English dialects. "Do you mind" is an indirect speech act whose direct meaning is a question about the hearer's "minding" but whose indirect point is to request information, permission or favor. Similar in interpretation to familiar phrases like "I could care less" vs. "I couldn't care less", the response to "Do you mind" completely relies on the context of the request and whether or not the hearer chooses to accept it: both positive and negative responses can be used to grant or deny the request. There are 4 potential and unique responses, two of which sound identical but convey opposite meanings: (no= do it, no = don't do it, yes= do it, yes =don't do it). These various response interpretations are related to direct and indirect meanings of "Do you mind" where simple "yes" or "no" is a very indirect and impolite response form, while including factors of completeness and clarity aid in a direct response, minimizing misunderstanding. Methodology: I plan on analyzing the responses in COCA corpus selections for radio and T.V. interviews, talkshows and media programs to see how this utterance is most commonly used in a socio-culturally familiar register. I also intend to compare the literature and collaborations from various authors to understand analysis of indirect requests/speech acts, and the topic of relevance when answering questions. (Clark, H., Gibbs R. Bryant G.). I want to know the frequency that people generally give the response to the direct question of minding, and whether or not the responses are generally interpreted as the speaker intended. For example, the utterance by S1 (1) "Do
you mind if I borrow your car?” may or may not elicit the response from the hearer "Yes" or "No", and interpreted by S1 in diverse sorts. I am also curious about the use of the polite request in pop culture, in news and media, and the analysis of the relationship between (in)directness and (im)politeness. Furthermore, how often do the various responses lead to actual miscommunication about the request of minding, or misinterpreted permission/denial of favor?

Bibliography (As it stands currently):


