

Conversation Analysis

Nick Llewellyn



The assignment

Sequence exercise

A: let's go this way

B: no, I'm taking the lift

A: you are so out of shape

B: how many times **do** you exercise each week

A: 10 times

B: get real

Sequence exercise

A: okay, thanks (.) bye bye

A: love tom

B: oh, I love tom

C: he's great

Meaning and interpretation

For the analysis of virtually all empirical materials, the analyst has to draw on resources beyond the materials...

- (1) Some sense of the 'authors' intentions, motivations, plans, beliefs or perceptions, etc.
- (2) Some broader sense of the reflexive interplay between the account or image and broader social meanings (narratives/discourses)

For example...

An interview transcript

...[0.47.35] ...'by the end of Price Waterhouse, by the time I had finished there I had a baby by then and a partner. What was a fantastic firm to work in as a single person was almost an impossible firm to work for as a working mother. I only took two months off work to have my son and I had been home for a day from the hospital when I got a telephone call saying would I go to Mauritius for six months and I said 'sure'. Because that was always the reply you gave, you never hesitated, just 'of course, I'm perfectly happy to. There is only one problem though, there's the baby' ...

Another example...

Visual images



LOW TAR As defined by H.M. Customs. DANGER: Government Health WARNING:

CIGARETTES CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

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Go on, surprise yourself.

*connectedthinking

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS 



Interactional materials however...

Offer a third possibility...our materials have already been analysed.

MB: hello

CT: will you leave me alone

MB: tsk .hh (.6) hello=hu:[h

CT: [WILL YOU

LEAVE ME ALONE!

See Jefferson, G. (1984) Transcript Notation. In J.M. Atkinson and J. Heritage (eds.) *Structures of Social Action: Studies in Conversation Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. ix-xvi.

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Already interpreted materials

A: **'do you know who is going to the meeting'**

B1: 'Yes/No' (interprets the question to be about B's knowledge)

B2: 'Dave, Paul and Sue' (interprets... a request for information)

B3: 'No who' (interprets...a pre-announcement, A has news)

Unfolding interpretations

So, you could get a sequence like this.

A: Do you know who is going to the meeting?

B: No, who?

A: I don't know!

B: oh, dave, paul and sue.

Bodies, objects and materiality

Not only spoken words,
also bodies, gaze, material
artefacts, etc.

CA deals with **multiple
sign systems**, not just
words.



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Why study interaction

Interaction can be thought of as an independent institution, in the same way as we think about 'class', 'the family', 'grammar', etc.

Perhaps 'interaction order' is especially important, because so many other institutions work through interaction.

Interactional considerations often shape what people do.

Making studies: corpus based

Questions and the Bottom Line

Nick Llewellyn, University of Warwick, UK



Money Talks

Nick Llewellyn, University of Warwick



Making studies: case based

Find a phenomenon

A:	I'm buying	[declares/offers gift]
B:	no!	[resists]
A:	yes I am	[re-asserts/offers]
B:	no!	[resists]
A:	yes I am + reason	[re-asserts]
B:	okay	[accepts]







Contributions

1. Common sequential features
2. Common social problems
3. Common interactional problems

Contributions

Contributing to CA and to applied disciplines.

Novelty...

(a) critique and the question of 'context'

(b) agency and knowledge

(c) reflexivity and

(d) the imposition of concepts and categories.

There are lots of questions CA cannot answer.

Summary and questions

Analysis exercise





S= seller, D = donor

S: Hello the big issue mam?

(1.1)



S: arh bless you, thank you very much.

(1.1)

S: havin a good day?

(.7)

D: not to ba[d

S: [arh that's good.

(3.4)



D: I don't want the magazine, I hope you don't mind

(.)

S: no::[I don't mind ()

D: [it's just that

()I'm a catholic and

([)=

S: [okay alright (.) whoa]

D: =I () lot of catholic s[tuff and (.) huh (.) I

S: [alright whatever]

D: get loads of stuff hehe to read



Theoretical relevancies

This one clip speaks to a range of theoretical problems and concerns

- 1. Identity and self-categorisation**
- 2. Context and contextualisation**
- 3. Gift/commodity exchange**
- 4. Social organisation of simple transactions**