

Conversation in Everyday Life (V14.0032) SPR 2009
T/Th 9:30-10:45 194 Mercer Street Room 202

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510 Rufus Smith

Course materials are on Blackboard

Requirements:

collect and transcribe two 10-15 min. conversations: 1 face to face; 1 telephone.
These transcripts/data sets will be posted on Blackboard and used throughout the semester for:

Analyses of conversation

Response papers 3-4 pages double spaced.

IM project

1/20 Introduction

1/22 The order of interaction

Goffman, E. 1983. The interaction order. *American Sociological Review* 48: 1-17.

prep for taping face to face conversation [3 speakers max]

1/27 Why study conversation?

Sacks, H. 1970 On doing being ordinary

Jakobson, R. 1960. from "Closing statement: Linguistics and Poetics."

response paper 1: Goffman and Sacks have a particular take on talk, social life and social interaction. Discuss how they propose one studies these phenomena and why we should want to.

1/29 Data collection & Transcription

Atkinson, J. & J. Heritage 1984. Transcript notations. (Jefferson)

Ochs 1979 Transcription as theory. (repr. *Discourse Reader*, A. Jaworski & N. Coupland eds. Routledge, 1999)

FYI: issues re writing down talk and creating an object of study,

2/3 – 2/5 Ethnography of speaking

Bauman, R. 1984. "Any man who keeps more'n one hound'll lie to you." In *Language in use*.

Gumperz, J. 1979/1984. The retrieval of sociocultural knowledge in conversation. In *Language in Use*.

Kulick, D. 1993. Speaking as a woman: structure and gender in domestic arguments in a New Guinea village. *Cultural Anthropology* 8:510-541.

complete 1st draft of transcription of face to face conversation

response paper 2: How do Kulick and Bauman draw on principles of E of S in making their arguments about talk in social life?

2/10 – 2/12 Socializing persons through talk

Ochs and Schieffelin 1986 Language acquisition and socialization: Three developmental stories... In Culture theory. R. Shweder & R. Levine (eds). CUP.

Clancy, P. 1986 Acquisition of communicative style in Japanese. In Language socialization across cultures. BB Schieffelin & E Ochs (eds).

Kulick, D. and Schieffelin, B.B. 2004 Language socialization. In A companion to linguistic anthropology.

Ochs, E., C. Pontecorvo, A. Fasulo 1996 Socializing taste. Ethnos 61:7-46

prep - tape phone conversation

response paper 3: Learning about affect and how to express it appropriately are critical components of communicative competence. What are some of the critical dimensions of affect and language?

2/17- 2/19 Pragmatics

Speech acts: Austin

analysis of conversation 1: identify speech acts in your transcripts. What problems do you find in classifying speech acts?

2/24 "Politeness"

Goffman, E. 1955 On face-work.

Brown/Levinson 1987 Politeness.

Duranti, A. 1992. Language in context and language as context: The Samoan respect vocabulary. In Rethinking Context. A. Duranti and C. Goodwin (eds). Cambridge: CUP.

complete 1st draft of transcription of telephone conversation

response paper 4: Discuss politeness.

2/26 Gender and Discourse

West, C, Lazar, M. & Kramerae 1997 Gender in Discourse. In Discourse as Social Interaction. T. van Dijk (ed) Sage. 119-143

Ochs, E. & Taylor, C 1995 The "Father knows best" dynamic in dinnertime narratives. In Gender articulated, K. Hall & M. Bucholtz (eds). R&KP

Cameron, D. 1992 'Not gender difference but the difference gender makes. International J Sociology of Language 94:13-26.

3/3 Hedging – what is it and who does it?

Holmes, J. 1990 Hedges and Boosters in Women's and Men's Speech. Language and Communication 10, 3:185-205.

Meyerhoff, M. 1992 'A sort of something' – Working Papers on

analysis of conversation 2: What examples of the different types of hedges to you find in your own and one other data set?

3/5 Gossip

Coates, J. 1989 Gossip revisited: language in all-female groups. (repr. 1998 The Sociolinguistics Reader, vol 2. J. Cheshire & P. Trudgill eds). pp 127-152.

Cameron, D. 1998 Performing gender identity: young men's talk and the construction of heterosexual masculinity. In *Language and gender: A Reader*. ed. J. Coates pp 270-284

3/10, 3/12 Complaining and Bitching

Guendouzi, J. 2001 "You'll think we're always bitching." *Discourse studies* 3,1:29-51.

Edwards, D. 2005 Moaning, Whining and Laughing: The subjective side of Complaints. *Discourse Studies* 7,1:5-29.

Drew, Paul 1998 Complaints about transgressions and misconduct. *Rsch on language and social interaction* 31:3-4:295-325.

Mitchell-Kernan, C. 1972 Signifying and marking: Two Afro-American speech acts.

response paper 5: Discuss the social and linguistic parameters of gossip. What is the difference between complaining and gossiping?

analysis of conversation 3: Identify Complaints in your transcripts. Discuss cases that do and do not fit according to arguments made in the readings.

SPRING BREAK

3/24 - 3/26 Conversation Analysis

Gumperz, J. 1977 Sociocultural knowledge in conversational inference.

Merritt, M. 1980 On the use of "OK" in service encounters.

analysis of conversation 4: Use of "ok"

analysis of conversation 5: Adjacency pairs; repairs

3/31 Talking on the telephone

Schegloff, E. & H. Sacks 1973 Opening up closings (repr. *Discourse Reader*, A. Jaworski & N. Coupland eds. Routledge, 1999)

analysis of conversation 6: telephone openings/closings

4/2 - 4/7 Interactional Sociolinguistics

Drew, P. and Sorjonen, M-L. 1997. Institutional dialogue. In *Discourse as social interaction*, v 2, Gumperz, J. Interethnic communication In *Discourse Strategies*

Firth, A. 1996 The discursive accomplishment of normality. *J. Pragmatics* 26:237-259.

Meeuwis, M. 1994 Leniency and testiness in intercultural communication. *Pragmatics* 4,3.

West, C. 1990 Not just doctors' orders

response paper 6: Comment on two of the articles.

4/9 Meta-Talk

Shiffrin, D. 1980 Meta-Talk. *Sociological Inquiry* 50:3-4.

analysis of conversation 7: meta-talk

4/14 Pragmatic/discourse markers

Fraser, B. 1996 Pragmatic markers. *Pragmatics* 6,2:167-190

Shiffrin, D. "oh" as a marker of information management. (repr. *Discourse Reader*, A. Jaworski & N. Coupland eds. Routledge, 1999)

analysis of conversation 8: Pragmatic markers, face to face and on the phone

4/16, 4/21 Reported speech/thought and "like..."

"Using 'like'" Geoff Nunberg on NPR Fresh Air 3/14/01

Romaine, S. & Lange, D. 1991 The use of 'like' as a marker of reported speech and thought.

Levey, S. 2003 He's like, 'do it now!' and I'm like 'no!'. English today 19:24-32.

Levey, S. 2003 Reported dialogue and pragmatic particles. World Englishes 22,3:305-321.

Tagliamonte, S. and R. Hudson 1999 Be like et al. beyond America, 3, 2:147-172.

Buchstaller, I "He goes" and "I'm like" The new quotatives..

Waksler, R. 2001 A new "all" in conversation. American Speech 76,2:128-138.

analysis of conversation 9: analysis of "like" etc./face to face and on the phone.

4/23, 4/28 Instant Messaging - is it talk?

4/30 (last class) presentations on IM

ETC:

Please:

Arrive on time.

No absences from class without a legitimate excuse.

No late work accepted.

If you have a problem with the reading (technical or otherwise) let me know ASAP.

Assignments:

Analyses of Conversations (9) based on data collected

Responses Papers (6) (3-4 pages)

Assignments are equally weighted and turned in at the end of class.