

#05845

CMS 386P:

Conversation Analysis

Prof. Jürgen Streeck

Thursday 3:30 – 6:30

CMA 3.130

Office CMA 7.136

Office hours T 11 - 12:30, 2 - 3

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This class offers a research-focused, hands-on introduction to the theory and methodology of conversation analysis. At the center of the class is empirical work with conversational data: transcribing data, identifying and describing formats of talk and their emergence and "doings" in interactional contexts, and providing interactional "accounts" for linguistic and communicative phenomena. We pay close attention to linguistic acts, conversational sequences, and the construction of conversational turns. There are several analytic assignments, including one research paper.

We also look at the theories of human interaction and language that are embedded in conversation analysis, study how it has evolved since its inception in the 1960s, and explore its applicability to technologically mediated (on-line) interaction.

Program

Sacks' lectures should be read throughout the semester. Pointers to individual lectures will be given as we go along.

- **1 Introduction to the class**

1/16

- **2 What is c.a.?**

1/23

ten Have 1999, Ch. 1 - 6

Heritage 1984b

• **3 Actions and action-sequences**

1/30

ten Have 1999, Ch. 7 - 10

Heritage 1984a

Schegloff 1996a

• **4 Transcribing, digitizing**

2/6

Jefferson 1985

• **5 Action-design: preference organization**

2/13

Pomerantz, 1984

• **6 Turn-taking**

2/20

Sacks, Schegloff & Jefferson

Jefferson 1983

Lerner 1996

Schegloff 2000 (recommended)

• **7 Utterance design**

2/27

Schegloff 1996b

• **8 Repair I**

3/6

Schegloff, Jefferson & Sacks, 1977

Schegloff 1979

• **9 Repair II**

3/20

Schegloff 1992

• **10 Interaction and grammar**

3/27

Schegloff, Ochs, & Thompson, 1996
Streeck 1996

• **11 Embodied action and turn-design**

4/10

Goodwin 1986
Streeck & Hartge 1992

• **12 Institutional interaction**

4/17

Drew & Heritage 1992
Frankel 1990

• **13 Technologically mediated interaction**

4/24

Hutchby 2000, Ch.s 7, 8

• **14 The theory in conversation analysis**

5/1

Lee 1991

Assignments

Assignments are practical analytical exercises based upon a transcript plus tape and a separate tape of casual telephone conversations provided to you. The tapes are from Robert Hopper's **University of Texas Conversation Library (UTCL)**. In addition to the assignments below, you will also contribute to a class project: an ongoing investigation of a single conversational *object* or *format*, collectively identified at the beginning of the semester. These contributions include both brief ad hoc oral presentations and written analytic notes. Analytic notes are less polished than a paper; what matters is insight, not form. Analytic notes typically are between one and two pages plus transcript segment(s). Your final paper should be in polished form. All assignments must be in

comprehensible English, the paper must be fully edited. Details of the tasks will be explained in class.

1. Study a transcript; identify and *account for* two action sequences; 2 pp. of notes; 1/23
 2. identify and *account for* additional action sequences; 2 pp. of notes; 1/30
 3. transcribe 10 min. of telephone conversation from a UTCL tape; 2/13
 4. analytic notes about two action sequences in your transcript; 2/13
 5. revision of transcript; 2/27
 6. analytic notes about five turn-taking related phenomena; 2/27
 7. analytic notes about five phenomena of turn-construction; 3/6
 8. analytic notes about five repair-related phenomena; combined with further notes on turn-taking; 3/27
 - submit topic of final paper; 3/27
 9. analytic notes about one interactionally motivated grammatical phenomenon; 4/10
 10. proposal for a study and paper on one type of conversational *object, format, practice, or organization*, including a collection of at least five instances and references to five relevant publications; 5/8
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Literature

A nearly complete bibliography of work in c.a. can be found on the website *Ethno/CA News*, maintained by Paul ten Have, Amsterdam <http://www.pscw.uva.nl/emca/index.htm>

Books

ten Have, P. (1999). *Doing Conversation Analysis. A Practical Guide*. London: Sage.

Sacks, H. (1992). *Lectures on Conversation*. Oxford: Blackwell

Reading packet

Drew, P. & J. Heritage (1992) 'Analyzing talk at work: an introduction'. In: Drew, P., J. Heritage, eds. *Talk at work: interaction in institutional settings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 3-65

Frankel, R. (1990) 'Talking in interviews: a dispreference for patient-initiated questions in physician-patient encounters'. In: George Psathas, ed. *Interactional Competence*. Washington: University Press of America: 231-62

Goodwin, Charles (1986) 'Gesture as a resource for the organization of mutual orientation', *Semiotica* 62: 29-49

Heritage, J. (1984a). A change-of-state token and aspects of its sequential placement. In J. M. Atkinson & J. Heritage (Eds.), *Structures of Social Action. Studies in Conversation Analysis* (pp. 299-345). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Heritage, J. (1984b). *Garfinkel and Ethnomethodology*. Cambridge: Polity Press. Ch.8

Jefferson, G. (1985). An exercise in the transcription and analysis of laughter. In T. van Dijk (Ed.), *Handbook of Discourse Analysis* (Vol. 3, pp. 25-34). London: Academic Press.

Hutchby, I. (2000) *Conversation and Technology: From the Telephone to the Internet*. Cambridge: Polity Press

Lee, J. (1991). Language and culture: the linguistic analysis of culture. In G. Button (Ed.), *Ethnomethodology and the Human Sciences* (pp. 196-226). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Lerner, G. (1996). On the 'semi-permeable' character of grammatical units in conversation: Conditional entry into the turn space of another participant. In E. Ochs & E. A. Schegloff & S. A. Thompson (Eds.), *Interaction and Grammar* (pp. 238-276). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Pomerantz, A. (1984) 'Agreeing and disagreeing with assessments: some features of preferred/dispreferred turn shapes'. In: Atkinson, J. Maxwell, J. Heritage, eds. *Structures of Social*

- Action: Studies in Conversation Analysis. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 57-101
- Sacks, H., Schegloff, Emanuel A., & Jefferson, G. (1974). A simplest systematics for the organization of turn-taking for conversation. *Language*, 50, 696-735.
- Schegloff, E.A., G. Jefferson, H. Sacks (1977) 'The preference for self-correction in the organization of repair in conversation', *Language* 53: 361-82
- Schegloff, E.A. (1979 b) 'The relevance of repair to syntax-for-conversation'. In: T. Givon, ed. *Syntax and semantics 12: Discourse and syntax*. New York: Academic Press: 261-88
- Schegloff, E.A. (1992a) 'Repair after next turn: The last structurally provided defense of intersubjectivity in conversation', *American Journal of Sociology*, 98:1295-1345
- Schegloff, E.A. (1996a) 'Confirming allusions: toward an empirical account of action', *American Journal of Sociology* 104: 161-216
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-9602%28199607%29102%3A1%3C161%3ACATAEA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Y>
- Schegloff, E. A. (1996b). Turn organization: One intersection of grammar and interaction. In E. Ochs & E. A. Schegloff & S. Thompson (Eds.), *Grammar and Interaction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Schegloff, Emanuel A. (2000) 'Overlapping talk and the organization of turn-taking for conversation', *Language in Society*, 29:1-63 (recommended)
- Schegloff, E. A., Ochs, E., & Thompson, S. A. (1996). Introduction. In E. Ochs & E. A. Schegloff & S. A. Thompson (Eds.), *Interaction and Grammar* (pp. 1-51). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Streeck, J. (1996). A little Ilokano grammar as it appears in interaction. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 26, 189-213.
- Streeck, J., & Hartge, U. (1992). Previews: Gestures at the transition place. In P. Auer & A. diLuzio (Eds.), *The Contextualization of Language*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.