

## Analyzing discourse

## Schedule

7-6 Guest talk #2:

Grammar in Daily Conversation (Tomoko Endo)

7-13: Last class

Quiz 3 & Language and Culture

Quiz 3 covers pragmatics, speech accommodation, politeness and conversation analysis.

8-3 Final project due

## Natural conversation

No clear rule about who says what

However, we have expectations about what happens next. e.g. a question is followed by an answer; an assessment is followed by an agreement or disagreement

Occasional overlap and silence are normal

Even fillers (such as *uh*, *um*, えーと, あのー) may play important roles in interaction

## Listen to natural conversations

## Key concepts of Conversation Analysis

## Key concepts

Turn taking

Adjacency pair

Preferred and dispreferred response

Pre-sequence and Insertion sequence

## When does a turn end?

In natural conversation, there is no strict rule about who speaks next.

People monitor what others say and calculate when they can (or should) take a turn.

## Transition Relevance Place (TRP)

Signs for TRPs, where others can take a turn

Syntactic

Semantic

Prosodic: Intonation, decreasing volume, etc.

Non-linguistic: Gesture, gazing etc.

These signs aren't perfect; also, the speaker can keep going on even when a TRP is there. This creates occasional silence or overlap in conversation.

## Turn taking

H: あの、酒あるんですか？ (Do you have alcohol?)

S: 酒ない (No)

H: ないんですか？ (You don't?)

S: うーん (Uh..)

(ザトラウスキー 1993)

## Turn taking

S: 元気かい？ (Are you fine?)

H: はい (Yes)

H: 今どこですか？ (Where are you?)

S: うん、あの、おうちから、うん、あの、アパートからかけてんだけど (I'm calling you from home, from my apartment)

(ザトラウスキー 1993)

## Overlap

Because the rules of turn taking are not strict, sometimes people fail to expect that the speaker goes on

A: え捕まったんですか？ (So did you caught by police?)

B: うん (Yes)

A: [バイクで？ (Motorbike?)

B: [ねず、ねずみ、朝7時半、8時ぐらいや (Speed-speeding, it was around seven thirty, eight in morning)

(串田 1997)

## Overlap

Overlap caused by expected TRPs

A: お疲れさま // です。 //

B: // お疲れ // さまです。

A: この前はどうもお世話になりま // した。 //

B: // いえいえ //

(林 2013 p.105)

## Pause

Sometimes pause doesn't belong to anyone; they have just run out of topics.

Sometimes pause belongs to someone, and it is meaningful.

A: これでいいよね? (We are just fine with this, right?)

(2 sec.)

A: 他のにする? (You try something else?)

## Pause

A: Is there something bothering you or not?

(1.0)

A: Yes or no

(1.5)

A: Eh?

B: No.

## Adjacency pairs

## Adjacency pairs

We expect that each type of utterance is followed by a certain type of utterance. e.g. a question is followed by an answer.

A minimal unit of such a sequence, which consists of just two turns, is called *adjacency pair*.

## Adjacency pairs

First part	Second part
Question	Answer
Request	Accept/Refuse
Offer	Accept/Refuse
Invitation	Accept/Refuse
Gratitude	Accept/Refuse
Assessment	Agree/Disagree
Accusation	Accept/Refuse
Greeting	Greeting

## Request → Accept

A: 醤油取って (pass me soy sauce.)

B: うん

## Assessment → Agree

A: 楽しかったよね、[あれ (That was fun)

B: [ねー。

## Preferred and dispreferred responses

Often there are two types of the second part for an adjacency pair: *preferred response* and *dispreferred response*.

## Preferred and dispreferred responses

First part	Preferred	Dispreferred
Question	Expected Answer	No or unexpected answer
Request	Accept	Refuse
Offer	Accept	Refuse
Invitation	Accept	Refuse
Gratitude	Accept	Refuse
Assessment	Agree	Disagree
Accusation	Refuse	Accept
Greeting	Greeting	No greeting?

## Preferred and dispreferred responses

Preferred response can be quick.

A: Why don't you come up and see me  
some // time

B: // I would like to

## Preferred and dispreferred responses

A dispreferred response is typically marked by:

Delays: (1) pause (2) preface (3) displacement

Prefaces: (1) Markers such as *uh* and *well* (2) agreement before disagreement (3) the use of apology/appreciation etc.

Accounts: explanations for why the dispreferred act is done

etc.

Levinson (1983: 334)

## Dispreferred responses

A: Uh if you'd care to come and visit a little while  
this morning I'll give you a cup of coffee

B: Hehh well that's awfully sweet of you, I don't  
think I can make it this morning. .hh uhm I'm  
running an ad in the paper and-and uh I have to  
stay near the phone.

What kind of strategies did B use? Atkinson and Drew (1979) cited in  
Levinson (1983) p.333

# Dispreferred responses

A: She says you might want that dress I bought, I don't know whether you do

B: Oh thanks (well), let me see I really have lots of dresses

Levinson (1983) p.335

# Pre-sequence and Insertion sequence

## Pre-sequence

A: Do you have hot chocolate?

[Q1]

B: mmhmm

[A1]

A: Can I have hot chocolate with whipped cream? [Request]

B: Sure ((leaves to get)) [Accept]

Levinson (1983)

## Pre-sequence

A: 明日ひま? (Are you free tomorrow?) [Q1]

B: うん (yes.)

[A1]

A: じゃあどこか行かない? (Then let's go out somewhere) [Request]

B: いいよ (sure)

[Accept]

# Insertion sequence

A: May I have a bottle of Mich? [Q1]

- B: Are you twenty one? [Q2]

- A: No. [A2]

B: No. [A1]

Levinson (1983) p.304

# Insertion sequence

A: 何枚で (し[たっけ] )。 (How many?) Q1

B: [あっ

B: 耐水ですか? (Water-proof ones?) Q2

A: はい。 (Yes.) A2

B: 耐水は6枚です。 (I need six water-proof ones.) A1

A: 6枚で[すね。 (Six, right?)

B: [はい。 (Yes.)

# Insertion sequence

A: U :hm (.) what's the price now eh with VAT do you know eh [Q1]

- A: Er I'll just work that out for you = ((HOLD))

- B: = thanks ((ACCEPT))

(10.0)

A: Three pounds nineteen a tube sir [A1]

Levinson (1983)

B	... I ordered some paint from you uh a couple of weeks ago some vermilion	
A	Yuh	
B	And I wanted to order some more the name's Boyd	((R1))
A	Yes // how many tubes would you like sir	((Q1))
B	An-	
B	U :hm (.) what's the price now eh with VAT do you know eh	((Q2))
A	Er I'll just work that out for you =	((HOLD))
B	= Thanks	((ACCEPT))



A	Three pounds nineteen a tube sir.	((A2))
B	Three nineteen is it =	((Q3))
A	= Yeah	((A3))
B	E::h (1.0) yes u :hm ((dental click)) ((in parenthetical tone)) e :h jus-justa think, that's what three nineteen. That's for the large tube isn't it	((Q4))
A	Well yeah it's the thirty seven c.c.s	((A4))
B	Er, hh I'll tell you what I'll just eh eh ring you back I have to work out how many I'll need. Sorry I did- wasn't sure of the price you see	((account for no A1))
A	Okay	

Levinson (1983)

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