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)



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?)

Adjacency pairs

Pause

A: Is there something bothering you or not?

(1.0)

A: Yes or no

(1.5)

A: Eh?

B: No.

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.*

| Adjacer | icy 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

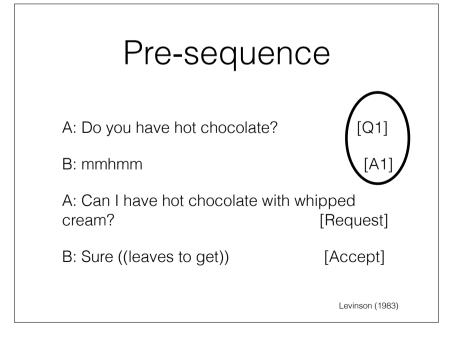


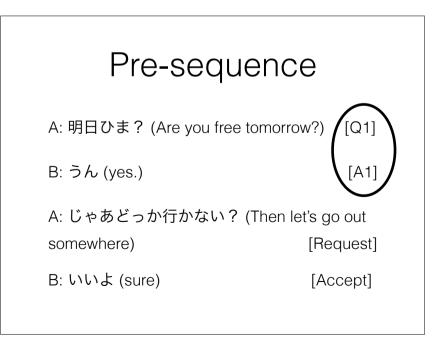
A: She says you might want that dress I bought, I don't know whether you do

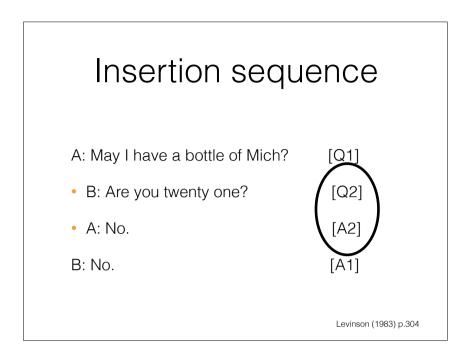
B: Oh thanks (well), let me see I really have lots of dresses

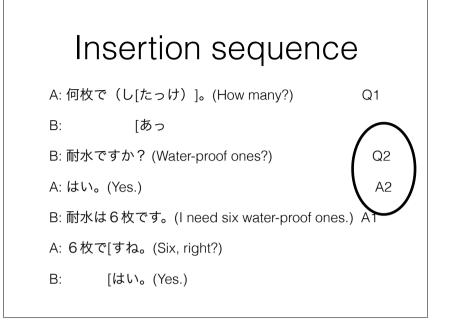
Levinson (1983) p.335

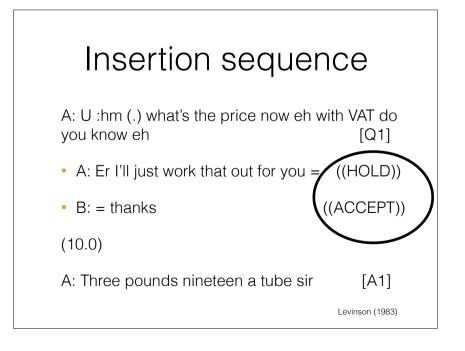
Pre-sequence and Insertion sequence











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

| A | Three pounds nineteen a tube sir. | ((A2)) |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| В | Three nineteen is it = | ((Q3)) |
| A | = Yeah | ((A3)) |
| В | 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)) |
| В | 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) | |

Give us feedback