

INTERACTIONAL LINGUISTICS: STUDYING LANGUAGE IN SOCIAL INTERACTION

ELIZABETH COUPER-KUHLEN AND MARGRET SELTING



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Contents

Preface

page xiii

Introduction	1
Chapter 1. What is Interactional Linguistics?	3
1. Roots of Interactional Linguistics	4
1.1 Conversation Analysis	5
1.2 Contextualization Theory	8
1.3 Linguistic Anthropology	10
2. Development of Interactional Linguistics	12
3. Premises and Goals of Interactional Linguistic Research	14
4. Principles of Interactional Linguistic Work	18
4.1 Naturally Occurring Data	18
4.2 Context-sensitive Analysis	22
4.3 Online Perspective	22
4.4 Categories Empirically Grounded	23
4.5 Claims Warranted through Participant Orientation	25
Online-Chapter A. Motivating an Interactional Linguistic Perspective (Available at: www.cambridge.org/interactional)	
1. Implementing Social Action with Language	
2. Using Language to Implement Social Action	
3. Alternative Ways of Saying the Same Thing	
Part I. How is Interaction Conducted with Linguistic Resources?	27
Preface	27
Chapter 2. Turn Construction and Turn Taking	31
1. TCU Construction	34
1.1 Projection	39
1.2 The Roles of Syntax and Prosody	47
1.3 Pauses and Break-offs within TCUs	54
1.4 Inserts/Parentheticals	56
1.5 Compound TCUs	59

2. Multi-unit Turns	61
2.1 Lexico-semantic and Pragmatic Projection	61
2.2 Action/Activity Type-specific Projection	63
2.3 Prosodic Projection	65
3. The Organization of Turn Taking	69
3.1 Opening the Transition Relevance Space in English and German	70
3.2 Turn Yielding	72
3.3 Turn Holding	88
4. Turn Expansion	94
4.1 Conceptions of Incrementing	95
4.2 Cross-linguistic Turn Expansion	97
5. “Deviant” Turn Taking	103
5.1 Turn Overlap and Turn Competition	103
5.2 Stopping and Abandoning Turns	108
6. Conclusion	110
Chapter 3. Repair	112
1. Introduction	112
1.1 Basic Terminology	113
1.2 Repair as a Vehicle for Other Actions	115
1.3 Repair as a Universal Practice	116
2. Self-initiation of Repair	116
2.1 Pre-positioned Self-initiation	118
2.2 Post-positioned Self-initiation	123
2.3 Repair Operations	128
2.4 Conclusion for Self-initiation of Repair	138
3. Other-initiation of Repair	138
3.1 Conceptualizing Other-initiated Repair	140
3.2 Types of Other-initiated Repair	146
3.3 Conclusion for Other-initiation of Repair	196
4. Other-correction	201
4.1 Producing a Correct Version	204
4.2 Explicitly Correcting an Item	205
4.3 Explicitly Correcting an Entire Verbal Representation	206
4.4 Conclusion for Other-correction	207
5. Conclusion	208
Chapter 4. Action Formation and Ascription	210
1. Preliminaries	210
1.1 Action and Action Type	211
1.2 Social Actions and Speech Acts	213

1.3	Sequence Type and Project	215
1.4	Turn Design and Practices	216
1.5	“Top-down” versus “Bottom-up” Analysis	216
2.	Questions and their Responses	217
2.1	Recognizing Questions	219
2.2	Question-word Interrogatives	220
2.3	Polar Interrogatives	224
2.4	B-event Statements	227
2.5	Questioning and the Epistemic Gradient	230
2.6	Responding to Question-word Interrogatives	232
2.7	Responding to Polar Interrogatives and B-event Statements	238
3.	Offers, Requests, and their Responses	249
3.1	The Linguistic Design of Offers	249
3.2	The Linguistic Design of Requests	253
3.3	Requests Masquerading As Offers	257
3.4	Responding to Offers and Requests	259
4.	News Deliveries, Informings, and their Responses	266
4.1	News Deliveries Distinguished from Informings	268
4.2	The Linguistic Design of News Deliveries	270
4.3	The Linguistic Design of Informings	273
4.4	Responding to News and Informings	275
5.	Assessments, Compliments, Self-deprecations, and their Responses	283
5.1	Assessing Actions in First Position	287
5.2	The Linguistic Design of Assessments	288
5.3	Epistemic Primacy in First Assessments	289
5.4	The Linguistic Design of Compliments and Self-deprecations	292
5.5	Responding to Assessments	294
5.6	Responding to Compliments and Self-deprecations	307
6.	Conclusion	311
Online-Chapter B. Preference and Other Asymmetric Alternatives		
(Available at: www.cambridge.org/interactional)		
1.	Preference as a Property of Initiating Action Type	
1.1	Linguistic Resources for Projecting Response Preference	
1.2	Linguistic Resources for Reversing and Relaxing Projected Response Preference	
2.	Preference as a Property of Responsive Turn Design	
2.1	Linguistic Resources for Designing “Plus” Responses	
2.2	Linguistic Resources for Designing “Minus” Responses	

3. Type Conformity	
3.1 Linguistic Resources for Yes-no Interrogative-type Conformity in English	
3.2 Linguistic Resources for Yes-no Interrogative-type Conformity in Finnish	
4. Conclusion	
Chapter 5. Topic and Sequence	312
1. Distinguishing Topicality from Sequentiality	312
2. Topic Management	314
2.1 Topicality	314
2.2 Some Linguistic Resources for Managing Topic	316
3. Sequence Organization	328
3.1 Sequence and Sequential Structure	328
3.2 Some Linguistic Resources for Marking Sequence Beginnings	330
3.3 Some Linguistic Resources for Initiating Sequence Closings	335
3.4 Some Linguistic Resources for Marking Misplaced Sequences	342
3.5 Some Linguistic Resources for Returning to a Prior Non-adjacent Sequence	345
4. Conclusion	354
Online-Chapter C. Stance and Footing	
(Available at: www.cambridge.org/interactional)	
1. On the Notions of Stance and Footing	
2. Epistemic Stance	
2.1 Conveying Epistemic Stance in English	
2.2 Conveying Epistemic Stance in Other Languages	
3. Deontic Stance	
3.1 Conveying Deontic Stance in English	
3.2 Conveying Deontic Stance in Other Languages	
4. Affective Stance	
4.1 Affective Displays and their Situatedness	
4.2 Some Affective Displays and How they are Accomplished Linguistically	
5. Footing in Reported Speech and Thought	
5.1 Direct Reported Speech and Thought as a Shift in Footing	
5.2 Linguistic Devices for Reporting Speech and Thought	
6. Conclusion	
Online-Chapter D. A “Big Package”: Storytelling	
(Available at: www.cambridge.org/interactional)	

1. Story Prefacing
2. Telling the Story Itself
 - 2.1 Distinguishing Background from Foreground Information
 - 2.2 Dramatization through the Use of Narrative Present Tense
 - 2.3 The Combination of Syntax and Prosody for Dramatization
 - 2.4 The Construction of Reported Speech and Thought
 - 2.5 Contextualizing the Climax of the Story
 - 2.6 Story Completion
3. Responses to Storytelling
 - 3.1 Responses in Mid-telling
 - 3.2 Responses After the Climax and/or at the End of Telling
 - 3.3 Responses as Context-sensitive Objects
 - 3.4 Affiliative and Non-affiliative Responses to Complaint Stories
 - 3.5 Affect Display Sequences at Story Climaxes
4. Conclusion

Part II. How are Linguistic Resources Deployed in Interaction? 355

Preface 355

Chapter 6. Sentences, Clauses, and Phrases 359

1. Analyzing Sentences, Clauses, and Phrases in Talk-in-interaction 359
 - 1.1 An Eye-opener 361
 - 1.2 Conceptualizing Sentences, Clauses, and Phrases Interactionally 362
 - 1.3 Sentences, Clauses, and Phrases As Emergent Constructions 364
 - 1.4 Cross-linguistic Evidence for the Interactional Relevance of the Clause 365
 - 1.5 Packaging of Sentences, Clauses, and Phrases 371
2. Internal Organization of Clauses 374
 - 2.1 Word Order 375
 - 2.2 Pivots 381
 - 2.3 Finiteness versus Non-finiteness 389
3. Extensions of Clauses 393
 - 3.1 Initial Extensions: Left Dislocation and Other Pre-positionings 394
 - 3.2 Final Extensions: Right Dislocation and Other Post-positionings 402
4. Other Clausal Variants 410
 - 4.1 "Argument Omission" Constructions in English 411
 - 4.2 "Dense" Constructions in German 412

5. Phrases	416
5.1 The Flexibility and Projectability of Phrases	416
5.2 Building Actions with Phrases	419
6. Conclusion	423
Chapter 7. Clause Combinations	426
1. Introduction	426
2. Paratactic Clause Combinations	429
2.1 Agenda-invoking with “And”	435
2.2 Resuming a Topic with “But”	436
2.3 Building Subsequent Versions with “Or”	438
2.4 Accounting for “How I Know This” or “Why I Say This” with Reason Combinations	440
2.5 Taking Exception to Something Just Said with Adversative Combinations	443
2.6 Conceding and “Show Concessions” with Concessive Combinations	445
2.7 Projecting Failure with First Verb Combinations	447
3. Hypotactic Clause Combinations	449
3.1 Designing versus Adding on Accounts with “Because”	454
3.2 Verb-first Forms in Conditional Clauses	457
3.3 Freestanding “If” Clauses	458
3.4 “Although” as a Concessive Marker	460
4. Subordinate Clause Combinations	462
4.1 Complement Clauses	462
4.2 Relative Clauses	469
5. Other Clausal Combinations	475
5.1 Pseudoclefts	476
5.2 Extraposition	482
5.3 Other Projector Constructions	487
6. Practices of Clause Combining: Co-construction, Incrementation, Projector Frames	489
7. Conclusion	492
Chapter 8. One-word Constructions: Particles	493
1. Introduction	493
2. Particles	495
2.1 Freestanding Particles	497
2.2 Turn-initial Particles	514
2.3 Turn-final Particles	527

3. Conclusion

537

Online-Chapter E. Prosody and Phonetics

(Available at: www.cambridge.org/interactional)

1. On the Interactional Relevance of Prosodic and Phonetic Resources
2. Prosodic-phonological Units
3. Pitch and Loudness
 - 3.1 Pitch and Loudness in Turn Construction and Turn Taking
 - 3.2 Pitch and Loudness in the Other-initiation of Repair
 - 3.3 Pitch and Loudness in Action Construction and Sequence Organization
 - 3.4 Pitch and Loudness in Displaying Stance and Footing
4. Duration, Pause, and Syllable Timing
 - 4.1 Duration, Pause, and Syllable Timing in Multi-unit Turn Construction and Organization
 - 4.2 Duration, Pause, and Syllable Timing in Turn Projection
 - 4.3 Duration, Pause, and Syllable Timing in Turn Transition
 - 4.4 Duration, Pause, and Syllable Timing in Self-repair
5. Articulation
 - 5.1 Articulation in Turn Holding and Turn Yielding
 - 5.2 Articulation in Self-repair
 - 5.3 Articulation in Marking Stance
6. Phonation and Phonatory Settings
7. Airstream Mechanisms
8. Breathing
9. The Interplay of Prosodic and Phonetic Resources
10. Conclusion

Online-Chapter F. Further Practices with Language

(Available at: www.cambridge.org/interactional)

1. Referring to Person and Place
 - 1.1 Reference as an Interactional Achievement
 - 1.2 Person Reference
 - 1.3 Place Reference
2. Addressing an Interlocutor
 - 2.1 Ensuring Recipency in Multi-party Talk
 - 2.2 Prefacing a Turn with an Address Term in Two-party Talk
 - 2.3 Concluding a Turn with an Address Term in Two-party Talk
 - 2.4 Pivoting from One Unit to Another with an Address Term
3. Repeating and Repetitions
 - 3.1 Repetition for Registering Receipt of a Prior Turn

3.2	Repetition for Articulating the Target of a Next Action	
3.3	Repetition for Confirming an Allusion	
3.4	Repetition for Quoting as Opposed to Mimicking an Interlocutor	
4.	Listing and Lists	
4.1	The Three-partedness of Lists	
4.2	The Embedding of Lists in their Sequential Context	
4.3	Lexico-semantic and Syntactic Properties of Lists	
4.4	The Prosody of Lists	
4.5	The Multimodal Organization of Lists in Swedish	
4.6	Lists as an Interactional Resource	
5.	Preliminaries and Preliminaries to Preliminaries	
5.1	Type-specific Pre-expansions	
5.2	Pre-pre-expansions	
5.3	Generic Pre-expansion	
6.	“My Side” Tellings and Reportings	
6.1	“My Side” Tellings	
6.2	Reportings	
7.	Formulating and Formulations	
7.1	Formulations as an Explicating Practice	
7.2	Extreme Case Formulations as a Rhetorical Practice	
8.	Conclusion	
Conclusion		539
Chapter 9.	Implications for Language Theory	541
1.	Language in an Interactional Linguistic Perspective	541
2.	Design Features of Language	542
3.	Language Variation and Interaction	546
4.	Language Diversity and Interaction	548
5.	Language Universals and Interaction	551
<i>Bibliography</i>		556
<i>Appendix: Transcription Systems</i>		606
<i>Index</i>		611