

Lab Report: Conversational Analysis

Team Members:

Name _____ PID _____

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A) Select an excerpt (at least 15 seconds long) from your recording in which the interlocutors engage in the transformation of laminar semiotics. That is, in conversation, interlocutors use a shared set of semiotic resources (e.g. morphemes, prosody, gestures, facial expressions etc. etc.) which they layer together in complex displays, creating public structures that they generally take turns transforming as the conversation proceeds. To document this configural change, you will create a chronological transcription of the interlocutors' speech and determine ways to represent their use of other semiotic resources, such as by creating illustrations or other codes for prosody contours, relative body positioning & orientation, line of sight, gestural trajectories, etc. (See Goodwin 2000, 2013 on class website for examples.) This should be a fairly micro-level description in that you will record all changes in the resources that you chart, but not quite at the level that you did in the TWILIGHT Lab. Your goal here is to record enough of what each interlocutor does, to be able show how each transforms the set of resources used by the other as the conversation proceeds

B) Contrast two different gestures used by your interlocutors anywhere in your video, and answer the following questions about them. Is each indexical, emphatic, iconic, metaphoric or emblematic? Explain why you think this category is appropriate; if you feel that more than one category may apply, discuss why. Are the gestures environmentally-coupled, and if so, how? Do they augment (convey same information), complement (convey different but supportive information) or contradict the speech they accompany? What affect does this juxtaposition have on the conversation?

C) Find a segment from your recording in which one of your interlocutors takes an “evaluative stance” to something said or done by the other. Describe how this is accomplished in terms of the transformations of laminated semiotic resources involved. You do NOT have to provide a moment-to-moment description, as you did in the micro-level inscription, above. Instead, explain, in sentences, why the particular transformation you have selected should stand as evidence that an “evaluative stance” has been taken.

D) List as many semiotic resources as you can, that are made use of by your interlocutors. Note that these will include not only actions by the participants, but spatial relationships, material aspects of the environment, and relations within and between all such parameters.