

## 1 Conversational Interaction

- The structure of conversation
- Conversational participants
- Conversational settings

## 2 The structure of conversation

- Comparison of four forms of discourse (Table 9-1, p218)
- Opening conversations—address another person, request information, offer information, or use fixed expressions or topic.
- Closing conversation—summary, justifying ending contact at this time, expressing pleasure about each other, making reference to the ongoing relationship and planning for future contact (p. 220)

## 3 Taking turns

- Current speaker is allowed to select the next speaker
- Self-selection
- Turn-yielding signal—(1) drop in pitch, (2) a drawl on the final syllable, (3) termination of hand gestures, (4) the used of stereotyped expressions such as *you know*, (5) a drop in loudness (6) completion of a grammatical clause
- Attempt-suppressing signal—continue hand gestures along with one or more of the turn-yielding cues.

## 4 Negotiating topics of conversation

- Response to “John bought a red car in Baltimore yesterday.” (p. 222)
- Faithful to the topic identified by the speaker
- Topics in conversation can be defined in terms of intersection of propositions across sentences
- Story telling
- Layer 1: primary layer of conversational activity—actual people saying actual things
- Layer 2: a different domain or world

## 5 Identifying participants and nonparticipants

- Participants
- Side participant
- Overhearers--Bystanders, Eavesdroppers
- Strategies for dealing with overhears
- disclosure
- concealment: referring to personal events, using to private codes
- indifference

## 6 Conversational participants

- Friends and acquaintances
- Common ground
- Friends are more likely to used profanity, laugh more often, express negative judgments, argue with one another, and make joint reference
- In phone conversation, friends used more implicit openings (e.g., It's me.)

## 7 Gender differences in conversation

- Early work (1970's)
- 96% of the interruptions were by male speakers.
- Many responses by males to female topics were delayed minimal responses
- Women's speech contains more linguistic expressions of uncertainty—e.g., tag questions, hedges.
- Women used more questions, attention-getting devices, minimal responses.
- Reflect power difference between men and women. (also found in parent-children interaction)

## 8 Gender differences in conversation

- Recent work
- Found no difference in the use of questions and minimal responses between men and women in intimate couples.
- Couples differ in the ways that they share power.
- When women discuss a problem, men tend to interpret it as an invitation to help solve the problem, whereas women might respond instead by relating a problem of their own.
- Women's language is not inferior to, but simply different than, men's language.

## 9

- Tags—1. request for reassurance, 2. concern for the addressee or an attempt to facilitate conversation
- Interruptions—dominance related, supportive cooperative
- Speech context
  - Males tend to interrupt more in formal tasks.

## 10 Conversational settings

- Personal settings—free exchange
- institutional settings—one participant is considered the authority figure
- Therapeutic discourse (p.233-236)
  - --data, interpretation, suggestion
- Judges
- Physicians