Psycholinguistics

- **Conversational Interaction**
  - The structure of conversation
  - Conversational participants
  - Conversational settings

- **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 conversations—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)

- **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 use 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.

- **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

- **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

- **Conversational participants**
  - Friends and acquaintances
  -- Common ground
  -- Friends are more likely to use 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.)
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)

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.

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.

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