Proceedings of the Doctoral Student Conference on Conversation Analysis

**Making practice visible: Applications of conversation analysis**

18 - 19 February 2016

Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

Sponsored and Supported by

MONASH University
Education

monash postgraduate association

Faculty of Education
The design format in the presentation of opinions of callers to a radio phone-in programme

Siti Nurbaya Mohd Nor
University of Malaya

This paper is part of on-going research on the sequential organization of the presentation of opinions in calls to a radio phone-in programme in Malaysia. Based on selected calls to an English radio phone-in programme, the paper looks at the features of spontaneous spoken interactions between the radio hosts and callers, who are non-native speakers of English. In this particular phone-in programme, callers are invited to call in to give opinions on pre-selected topics concerning current issues. Using Conversation Analysis (CA) as a methodology, the study looks at how participants orient themselves so as to be understood in their turn-by-turn sequences. This paper examines one aspect of the sequential organization of the presentation of opinions of radio callers with regard to agreement or disagreement with the topics discussed. There are two design formats observed in the initial opening part of the phone call which relates to the presentation of opinions, that is, the progressional format and the recursive format (Hutchby, 2006). In the progressional pattern, a presentation of opinion goes from a relatively neutral situating component, through an account designed to lead up to an evaluative conclusion, and to a final assertion of the evaluation. While in the recursive pattern, a position is stated at the beginning, followed by a justificatory or supporting account, then to a recapitulation of the initial position. It is observed that whichever design formats are adopted by the radio callers, the hosts play a very important interactional position in dealing with callers' presentation of opinions. Focussing on the central feature of CA, that is the turn by turn unfolding of talk-in-interaction, the paper places great emphasis on the immediate sequential context in which a turn is produced.