Conversation Analysis Data Sessions

Are you interested in talk-in-interaction? Fascinated by sequence and preference organization? Want to see some TRPs and and NTRIs in action, and get to know the other analysts in town this summer?

Join the University of Colorado's CA and Interactional Linguistics working group for a few data sessions to be held during the Institute. Our first session will be held:

Saturday, July 9, 11:00AM

in Hellems 285

and will be followed by a group lunch on the Hill. Future sessions will be scheduled then. If you're interested but can't make it, please email raclaw@colorado.edu

What are Data Sessions?

(We'll let Paul ten Have tell you)

The data session can be seen both as a kind of playground to mutually inspire one's understanding of the data, and as an environment that requires a rather specific 'discipline'.

A 'data session' is an informal get-together of researchers in order to discuss some 'data' - recordings and transcripts. The group may consist of a more or less permanent coalition of people working together on a project or in related projects, or an *ad hoc* meeting of independent researchers. The basic procedure is that one member brings in the data, for the session as a whole or for a substantial part of it. This often involves playing (a part of) a tape recording and distributing a transcript, or sometimes only giving a transcript. The session starts with a period of seeing/hearing and/or reading the data, sometimes preceded by the provision of some background information by the 'owner' of the data. Then the participants are invited to proffer some observations on the data, to select an episode which they find 'interesting' for whatever reason, and formulate their understanding, or puzzlement, regarding that episode. Then anyone can come in to react to these remarks, offering alternative, raising doubts, or whatever. What is most important in these discussions is that the participants are, on the one hand, *free* to bring in anything they like, but, on the other hand, *required* to ground their observations in the data at hand, although they may also support them with reference to their own data-based findings or those published in the literature. One often gets, then, a kind of mixture, or coming together, of substantial observations, methodological discussions, and also theoretical points.

Data sessions are an excellent setting for *learning* the craft of CA, as when novices, after having mastered some of the basic methodological and theoretical ideas, can participate in data sessions with more experienced CA researchers. I would probably never have become a CA practitioner if I had not had the opportunity to participate in data sessions. (ten Have 1999)

Students and faculty from **Intro to Conversation Analysis** and **Interaction & Grammar** are especially welcomed to attend!