Conversation and Gender

Conversation analysts have begun to challenge long-cherished assumptions about the relationship between gender and language, asking new questions about the interactional study of gender and providing fresh insights into the ways it may be studied empirically. Drawing on a lively set of audio- and video-recorded materials of real-life interactions, including domestic telephone calls, children’s play, mediation sessions, police-suspect interviews, psychiatric assessments and calls to telephone helplines, this volume is the first to showcase the latest thinking and cutting-edge research of an international group of scholars working on topics at the intersection of gender and conversation analysis. Theoretically, it pushes forward the boundaries of our understanding of the relationship between conversation and gender, charting new and exciting territory. Methodologically, it offers readers a clear, practical understanding of how to analyse gender using conversation analysis, by presenting detailed demonstrations of this method in use.

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Conversation and Gender

Edited by

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The system of transcription used throughout the book is that developed by Gail Jefferson (2004a) for conversation analysis (see also Schegloff, 2007a).

**Aspects of the relative placement/timing of utterances**

- \( = \) Equals sign
  - Immediate latching of successive talk
- \( (0.8) \) Time in parentheses
  - The length of a pause or gap, in tenths of a second
- \( (.) \) Period in parentheses
  - A pause or gap that is discernible but less than a tenth of a second
- \([\text{overlap}]\) Square brackets
  - Mark the onset and end of overlapping talk
- \( // \) Double obliques
  - In older transcripts mark the onset of overlapping talk

**Aspects of speech delivery**

- . Period
  - Closing, usually falling intonation
- , Comma
  - Continuing, slightly upward intonation
- ? Question mark
  - Rising intonation
- ¿ Inverted question mark
  - Rising intonation weaker than that indicated by a question mark

**Underline**
- Underlining
  - Talk that is emphasized by the speaker

**Rea::lly Colon(s)**
- Colon(s)
  - Elongation or stretch of the prior sound – the more colons, the longer the stretch
When letters preceding colons are underlined, the pitch rises on the letter and the overall contour is ‘up-to-down’

Rising pitch on the colon in an overall ‘down-to-up’ contour

Animated tone

A sharp cut-off of the just-prior word or sound

Precedes a marked rise in pitch

Precedes a marked fall in pitch

Indicates a long vowel pronunciation (e.g. ‘thee’)

Talk that is ‘jump-started’

Enclose speeded up or compressed talk

Enclose slower or elongated talk

Talk that is noticeably louder than that surrounding it

Enclose talk that is noticeably quieter than that surrounding it

Various types of laughter token

Audible aspirations within speech (e.g., laughter particles)

An in-breath (number of h’s indicates length)

An out-breath / breathiness (number of h’s indicates length)

Creaky voice

Smile voice

Squeaky vocal delivery
Data and transcription

( ) Empty single parentheses
(talk) Word(s) in single parentheses
(it)/(at) A slash separating word(s) in single parentheses
((laughs)) Word(s) in double parentheses

Non-transcribable segment of talk
Transcriber’s possible hearing
Two alternative transcriber hearings
Transcriber comments or description of a sound

Other symbols

→ Arrow

Placed in the margin of a transcript to point to parts of data the author wishes to draw to the attention of the reader.