

Conversation Analysis (CA)
”Samtalsanalys”

Göteborgs universitet

Inst f lingvistik

Pragmatik ht 2006

Object of study

Routines, machinery, structure of ordinary conversation (talk-in-interaction)

Ethnomethodological roots

CA - Basic assumptions

- 1) Order is produced orderliness
- 2) Order is produced by the parties in situ: it is situated and occasioned.
- 3) The parties orient to that order themselves (not result of preformed theoretical conceptions)
- 4) Order is repeatable and recurrent.

- 5) The discovery, description and analysis of that produced orderliness is the task of the analyst.
- 6) Issues of how frequently, how widely, or how often particular phenomena occur are to be set aside in the interest of discovering, describing and analyzing the structures, machinery, organized practices, formal procedures (the ways in which order is produced)
- 7) Structures of social action, once so discerned, can be described and analyzed in formal, structural, organizational, logical, atypically contentless, consistent and abstract terms.

Precedents

- Bales Interaction Process Analysis (1950)
- Barker (1951) followed boy one day
- Pittenger, Hockett & Danehy (1960) redording and transcription of psychotherapy
- Soskin & John (1963) wireless transmitters - young couple
- Birdwhistell (1952, 70) kinesics -body movements
- Reusch & Bateson (1951) interactive and dynamic communication

- Gumperz & Hymes 1964: ethnography of communication
- Goffman 1959: rich observations of everyday interactions (Behavior in public places)
- Harold Garfinkel - ethnomethodology
 - seminar - Harvey Sacks
 - Sacks, Schegloff, Jefferson UCLA

Sacks

- 1) Ordinary talk is systematically and strongly organized
- 2) Its analysis should be based upon naturally occurring data
- 3) Analytic interests should not be constrained by external considerations

Lectures -> Data sessions

Descriptive

Sociology - practical reasoning

(Against Talcott Parsons - preformed categories,
traditional sociology)

Critique of category systems:

- Preformed
- Reductionistic
- Ignored local context
- Quantitatively biased

Face-to-face interaction

Recording and transcription (first audio) -
different features of speech preserved

Unmotivated looking

Discovering sequences

- **Adjacency pairs - conditional relevance**
 - Hello
 - Hello

 - This is Mr. Smigth may I help you
 - Yes this is Mr. Brown

 - Bill?
 - What?

 - Excuse me
 - Yes

Preference structure

- Not always only pairs
- Can be longer sequences with embedded pairs
- Sometimes not
 - 1 first pair part - 1 specific second pair part
 - But 1 to many (a range of suitable second pair parts) = preference structure

Turn-taking

Rules for who has the right to speak.

(see Levinson)

Cultural differences? Rules? Overlap?

Basically:

speaker 1, turn transition point,

1 continues (turn keeping)

or pauses, can assign turn to other (turngiving)

Speaker 2 accepts turn or takes turn (in pause or interrupting)

Etc.

Repair

Self-repair:

A: It's raining i mean snowing

Other-repair

A: Its raining

B: You mean snowing

Länkar

Svensk transkription i CA-format:

[http://www.ling.gu.se/projekt/tal/index.cgi?PAGE=3
&SUBPAGE=2](http://www.ling.gu.se/projekt/tal/index.cgi?PAGE=3&SUBPAGE=2)

Schegloff's Transcription module:

<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/soc/faculty/schegloff/TranscriptionProject/index.html>

Antaki's online tutorial:

<http://www-staff.lboro.ac.uk/~ssca1/index.htm>

Uppgifter - Konversationsanalys

Välj en av dessa två uppgifter:

(a) Läs in dig på vad Levinson skriver om CA's analys av telefonsamtal, i synnerhet "opening section" och "first topic slot". Under de närmsta dagarna försöker du vara uppmärksam på hur detta stämmer eller skiljer sig från samtal i din närhet. Titta inte bara på telefonsamtal, utan jämför med t.ex.

- Du träffar en kompis utan att direkt ha planerat det.
- En god vän ringer till din mobil med nummerpresentatör.
- Någon blir intervjuad på TV eller i radio.
- Ett chatt-samtal.

Hur påverkas öppningsturerna av samtalstypen? Var speciellt uppmärksam på de allra första turerna. Lämna in några exempel på samtalsöppningar du träffar på, och diskutera kortfattat vad det är som pågår och hur dessa samtal skiljer sig från "traditionella" telefonsamtal.

(b)

Välj något samtalsfenomen som CA behandlar, exempelvis "adjacency pairs", "preference" eller någon aspekt av turtagning. Förklara kortfattat vad det innebär, och leta även upp något eller några exempel i den utdelade dialogen, och resonera lite kring denna/dessa.

Några referenser:

- Norrby, C. Samtalsanalys. Lund: Studentlitteratur
- Atkinson, M. & Heritage, J. (eds) Structures of Social Action. Cambridge Univ. Press
- Psathas, G. Conversation Analysis. Sage.
- <http://www.nordiska.uu.se/convnet/>
(Under Links finns mycket.)