Seminar in Interactional Linguistcs

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We all talk and through talk we interact. But:
- How do we do talk and interact?
- How do we really 'communicate'?
- What is beyond words?
- What are the rules and limits of conversation and communication?
- Where is language in all that?
- **And what is language?**

These **BIG questions** are catered for by *Interactional Linguistics* (see below for explanation). **And now you will have every chance of entering this fascinating territory and try to find out what happens when we talk to each other in a variety of social situations.**

In trying to find answers to the questions above we will resort to Conversation Analysis and Multimodal Analysis as our prime tools. They prove to be effective as we consider **language not a code-like denotational structure but an aspect of sense-saturated communicative coordination and a result of human actions and co-actions**. On this view **conversation is an unfolding process of two or more interactants entering their cognitive dynamics which allows them to connect to each other and to their environments** while pursuing their individual and shared goals. Such a process can be referred to as sense-making through **dialogicality**.

From: Wikipedia
"Interactional linguistics is a recent interdisciplinary approach to grammar and interaction in the

fields of linguistics, the sociology of language, and anthropology. Scholars in interactional linguistics draw from functional linguistics, conversation analysis, and linguistic anthropology in order to describe "the way in which language figures in everyday interaction and cognition."[1] Studies in interactional linguistics view linguistic forms, including syntactic and prosodic structures, as greatly affected by interactions among participants in speech, signing, or other language use. The field contrasts with dominant approaches to linguistics during the twentieth century, which tended to focus either on the form of language per se, or on theories of individual language user's linguistic competence.[2] Recent research in Interactional linguistics finds that "the beginnings of the emergence of grammar can be found in individual interactions"[3] and that "grammar emerges through interaction among participants who are constantly reusing and modifying prior utterances to achieve current interactive goals."[3]"

References:
[1] Ochs, E., E. Schegloff and S. Thompson. (1996) Interaction and Grammar. Cambridge University Press.
[2] Couper-Kuhlen, E. and M. Selting. (2001) Studies in Interactional Linguistics. John Benjamins.
[3] Su, Danjie. (2016) Grammar emerges through reuse and modification of prior utterances. Discourse Studies 18(3). 1-24.
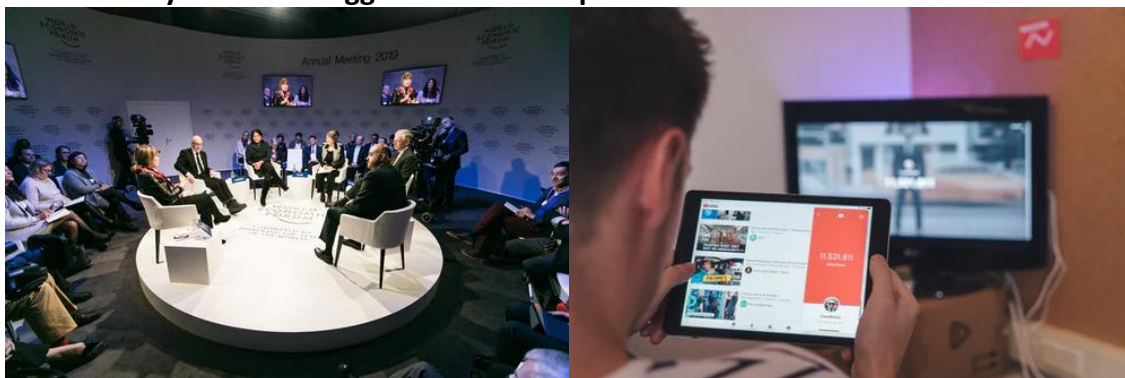
Key concepts:
dialogue, dialogicality, communication, conversation, language, interactivity, interaction, enaction, context, mind

Overlapping disciplines and areas of study:
- integrational linguistics
- ethnography of communication
- ecolinguistics
- biosemiotics
- dialogism and dialogical theory
- interactivity

Possible research you will be suggested to develop:

- record some non-scripted talk-in-interaction from a TV or radio interview. Transcribe the interaction and investigate the way turn taking is organized in this type of interview talk.
- record some non-scripted spontaneous talk-in-interaction from the TV or radio. Transcribe the interaction and investigate the way turn taking is organized in non-interview talk.
- record some scripted talk-in-interaction from a dramatized TV or radio interview (e.g. in a play, sitcom, soap opera or film) of a similar style to what you chose for exercise 1. Transcribe the interaction and investigate the way scripted turn taking is organized in this type of interview talk. See what simplifications the scriptwriters make.

- record some scripted (but non-interview) talk-in-interaction from the TV or radio. Transcribe the interaction and investigate the way turn taking is organized in scripted non-interview talk. See what simplifications the scriptwriters make.

Sources and reference materials
- Antos, G., Ventola, E., & Weber, T. (2008). Handbook of interpersonal communication. Berlin, DE: Mouton de Gruyter.
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- Linell, Per Towards a Dialogical Linguistics
- Wertsch, J. V. (1991). Voices of the mind: A sociocultural approach to mediated action. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press.
- Harris, R., & Wolf, G. (1998). Integrational linguistics: A first reader. Kidlington, Oxford, UK: Pergamon.
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- Hymes, D. (2015). Ethnography, Linguistics, Narrative Inequality: Toward an Understanding of Voice. Routledge.
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Methodology: qualitative data analysis

- conversational analysis
- cognitive event analysis
- cognitive project analysis
- dialogical analysis
- narrative analysis

Methodological bibliography:
- Auerbach, C. F., & Silverstein, L. B. (2003). Qualitative data: An introduction to coding and

analysis. New York: New York University Press.

- Saldaña, J., Saldaña, J., & Miles, M. B. (2013). The coding manual for qualitative researchers + qualitative data analysis: A methods sourcebook. London: Sage Publications.
- Flick, U. (2013). The Sage handbook of qualitative data analysis. London [etc.: Sage.
- Knoblauch, H. (2012). Video analysis: methodology and methods: Qualitative audiovisual data analysis in sociology. Frankfurt am Main: Lang.
- Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M., & Saldana, J. (2013). Qualitative Data Analysis: A Methods Sourcebook. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications.

Steps to success:
1. identify area of life which might interest you
2. pinpoint peculiarities and question points (problematic areas)
3. pose research questions
4. prepare assumptions and hypotheses
5. select literature
6. make notes and edit them
7. do your research emerging from your research question
8. write an outline of your paper

9. prepare your draft
10. develop and edit your draft
11. present final paper

Seminar agenda
- seminar overview
- discipline presentation
- topic discussion
- topic selection
- presentation of ideas
- literature collection
- individual work