

Observation and Conversation Analysis

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Doing Observation

- **The ‘Recording Angel’**
 - **Your impressions are not evidence**
 - **What did people say?**
 - **What did people do?**
 - **How do you justify the inferences you have made from the observations?**
 - **How can you link these at a second-order level to form generalizations = theory?**

Kennedy Smith Rape Trial 1991

- **William Kennedy Smith alleged to have raped Patricia Bowman at Easter 1991.**
- **Cross-examination of Bowman's friend, Ann Mercer, by Roy Black for the defence.**
- **Mercer has told the prosecutor that Bowman told her she had been raped by Smith**

Exercise

- **This clip lasts 4 minutes and 21 seconds.**
- **Make the best verbatim note you can.**
- **In pairs, you will then have five minutes to determine why this is regarded as a classic.**
- **Be as precise as you can – exactly how does Roy Black manage to discredit this witness?**



Exercise

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- **Be as precise as you can – exactly how does Roy Black manage to discredit this witness?**

Conversation Analysis

- **Using modern technology to add value**
- **Defining how some recognized phenomena work**
 - **Persuasive rhetoric since Ancient Greeks**
- **Discovering new things**
 - **Resumptive repetition**



Resumptive Repetition

- **3-turn structure for interaction**
 1. **Action**
 2. **Response**
 3. **Repair/next action**
- **Resumptive repetition**
 1. **Question**
 2. **Response**
 3. **Next question begins with final phrase of Turn 1**



Resumptive Repetition 2

- **Encodes spatial and temporal information**
 - **Breaks down action into small components which are still chained together**
 - **Expands sense of duration**
- **Encodes identity information**
 - **Presumed relations between women and rapists**
- **Creates a poetic effect**

Types of Resumption

- **Sequential**
- **Nonrepetitive**
- **Intrasequential**
- **Intra-turn with Suprasequential**
- **Contrastive List**



- **Nonrepetitive Resumption**







- **Intrasequential resumption**









- **Intra-turn resumption with
Suprasequential Resumptive Repetition**



- **Contrastive List**



Membership Categorization

- **Moral order of paired categories**
 - **Women and rapists occupy antagonistic categories**
 - **Mercer's actions are incompatible with this opposition**
- **Use of historic present up to line 209**
 - **Immediacy and charge**

Care Proceedings circa 1980

LAB: Were there ever other people staying overnight at Mrs Harper's?

LEO: Well, there was me

LAB: Apart from you?

LEO: Well, Connie stayed occasionally

LAB: Anybody else?

LEO: Mrs Harper's boyfriend

LAB: And was there anybody else?

LEO: No

LAB: Has there been anybody else when Mrs Godfrey [Family Aide] has come in the morning?

LEO: No

Impact?

- **Why is it so difficult to secure rape convictions**
- **Training in courtroom skills**
 - **Avoid problems of simulated interactions**
 - **Theoretically-informed improvisation rather than ‘tips and tricks’**

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