

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?







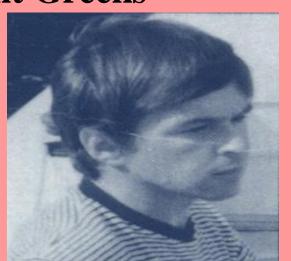
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Conversation Analysis

- 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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