

The organization of disagreement in multiparty talks: Is it culturally specific and teachable?

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Abstract

This paper scrutinizes the organization of disagreement within a conflict talk among young Indonesian close friends. The data presented in this paper were collected by audiotaping and transcribing, following Conversation Analysis (CA) approach, a casual conversation among housemates. Following the sequential structure of argumentation proposed by Kangasharju (2002) and Norricks & Spitz's (2008), the analysis shows that the proposed structure is not always applicable to the data. The seemingly driving force of the argumentation organization in multiparty casual talks is the need of speakers to mitigate or delay disagreement for being a dispreferred act which can jeopardize harmonious bond among speakers. Also found is the use of comparable discourse markers in both English and Indonesian languages. Providing the audio/video and transcript of a real conversation can provide learners with authentic sample of language uses and give them an opportunity to analyze and compare the 'rules' of conversation in their first language and in the target language, which should then be applied in a pedagogical task e.g. role-play.

Keywords: Conversation Analysis, sequential structure of argumentation, multiparty talks