

SEQUENCE ORGANIZATION

-or why that now?

Caveats

- Focus on Talk
- Focus on basics
- Focus on my version

Sequence organization and CA

- Focus on the practical operation of linguistic messages being used by people in actual communicative situations
 - ▣ How speakers design their talk to convey particular social actions
 - ▣ how that talk is interpreted by others as having the status of a certain action
 - ▣ how participants make inferences about what meanings are being conveyed on that occasion
 - ▣ how participants organize their talk

Grossly apparent and observable facts:

- Interaction is fundamentally a sequential activity.
 - ▣ participants take turns and talk is designed to reflect back on prior turns and project ahead to future ones
 - we interpret talk as if it is tied in some way to prior and future turns

- Emic (members' problem) of interaction:
 - ▣ What is this thing doing here now?
 - Participants in interaction somehow have to be able to “monitor” and “analyze” what action(s) a current speaker/actor is doing in order to respond/react appropriately

Analytic/methodological solution:

- ▣ Sequence organization: a vehicle for getting some action or activity done in an orderly fashion, so that sequences of turns have a shape or structure, can be tracked for where they came from, what is being done through them and where they might be going

63 Mathias: .hhhh meneh:m .h Jeg har jo en liste,
 .hhhh buteh:m .h I have a list jo,



46 Mathias: Hva' a' det da du laver i øjeblikket?
What is it then you're doing at the moment?

47 (0.5)

48 Claus: Jeg ska' li' skrive ene:h (.) liste.=>Jeg
I just have to write a eh (.) list.=>I've

49 h'gennemgået mine malinger for å' se
been through my paints to see

50 hva'ffor no'en jeg ska' ha nye a'.<
which ones I need new ones of.<

51 (0.5)

52 Mathias: .hhh Å↑rh↓årh.
.hhh ↑Ah↓a.

53 (0.4)

54 Claus: Å' så:eh >jeg ku' ikk' huske hva' den hed,<
And theneh >I couldn't remember what it's called,<

55 (0.8)

56 Claus: ∞d[en de]r∞.=
∞t[hat o]ne.∞=

57 Mathias: [>.hh<]

58 Mathias: =N↑årh.=>.hh< Den hedder flesh ink.=
=↑Oh.=>.hh< It's called flesh ink.=

59 Claus: =Jerh.
=Yeah.

60 Mathias: fuldstændig li'ssom ve'- alle de andre
exactly like with- all the other

61 flesh.
flesh.

62 Claus: [↑Mm,

63 Mathias: .hhhh meneh:m .h Jeg har jo en liste,
.hhhh buteh:m .h I have a list jo,



63 Mathias: .hhhh meneh:m .h Jeg har jo en liste,
. hhhh buteh:m .h I have a list ʝo,

64 Claus: Jah.
Yes.

65 Mathias: .hhh å' farver. å' så no'et,
. hhh and colours. and stuff,

66 Claus: Hm mm,

67 Mathias: hvis du' intressered'j',
if you're interested ʝo,
(0.5)

68 Claus: Jerh. Meneh j:eg tror li':
Yeah. But eh I: think I'll
jeg kigger på det derovre,
just look at it over there,
de mest eh (.) kritiske.
the most eh (.) critical.
(0.7)

72 Mathias: Ja=ja. se'fø' [lig al'så
Yes=yes. of c[course ALTSÅ

73 Claus: [(s:ort å' rød å'
[(b:lack and red and

74 hvi:d [å'
whi:te[and

75 Mathias: [.hhh Ja=ja men vi fi- Vi ka' snAKKe OM det
[.hhh Yes=yes but we fi- We can tALK ABOUT it

76 på: onsdag,
on: wednesday,

77 Claus: Jerh.
Yeah.
(0.2)

78 Mathias: >Når jeg kommer i skole så ta'r jeg
>When I go to school then I'll just bring
81 li' min< .hhh mit blad med >å' det der,<
my< .hhh my magazine along >and that stuff,<



Basics of a sequential analysis:

- ▣ Start from an observation about how some bit of talk (or action) was done, and ask: What could someone be doing by talking in this way? What does that bit of talk appear designed to do?
- ▣ The answer should be grounded by showing that it is that action which co-participants in the interaction took it to be, as revealed in/by the response they make to it.

- The basics of sequence organization
 - Adjacency pairs and preference organization
 - Pre-sequences, insertion sequences
 - Expansions?
 - Extended structures?

Adjacency pairs

- the basic unit of sequence construction
 - whilst there are sequences that are not exclusively based on adjacency pairs (story-tellings for instance), a broad range of sequences does seem to be produced with reference to the practices of adjacency pair organization

Characteristics of adjacency pairs

- A sequence of two communicative action
- That are produced by different speakers
- And typically occur adjacent to each other
 - (one after another)
- They are relatively ordered
 - (one is a First Pair Part (FPP) that has to come before the other Second Pair Part (SPP))
- And are type-connected
 - (not all SPPs can come after all FPPs)

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I just have to write a eh (.) list.=>I've

49 h'gennemgået mine malinger for å' se
been through my paints to see

50 hva'ffor no'en jeg ska' ha nye a'.<
which ones I need new ones of.<

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∞t[hat o]ne.∞=

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58 Mathias: =N↑årh.=>.hh< Den hedder flesh ink.=
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=Yeah.

60 Mathias: fuldstændig li'ssom ve'- alle de andre
exactly like with- all the other

61 fle[sh].
fle[sh].

62 Claus: [↑Mm,

63 Mathias: .hhhh meneh:m .h Jeg har jo en liste,
.hhhh buteh:m .h I have a list jo,

64 Claus: Jah.
Yes.

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Adjacency pairs – the classics

- Already identified “organized patterns of stable, identifiable structural features...[that] stand independently of the psychological or other characteristics of particular speakers” (Heritage, 1984, 241)
 - Offers
 - Requests
 - Assessments
 - Greetings
 - Invitations
 - Questions
 -

The basic properties



P: Ka' du ikk' tænde loftlyseti
Can't you turn on the overhead lighti
{HH2 washes P's lower body

HH2: J↓oh,
Y↓es,
(2.2)

HH2: Det ved du det ska' hun ha' a' vide ALti',
You know she has to be told that always,
{HH2 places disposable cloth in bin bag

P: °Jerh/Mm°
°Yeah/Mm°
{HH2 turns towards light switch
(1.2)
{HH2 turns light on

HH2: Hun gø' ikk' det a' sig s:elv,
She doesn't do it by herself,

Conditional relevance

- Given the recognizable production of a first pair part, on its first possible completion its speaker should stop, a next speaker should start and produce a second pair part of the same pair type.
 - When a first action is done and recognized for what it is, co-participants are expected to produce the second, responding and type-fitting action

The basic properties

A: But we haf >we had th- d;idn't we have< (.) two companies?=Like
the one[s (.) that]

B: [Yeah the] one was the::: delivering the::: (0.5) dee (.)fourty
two:(hh) .h he ai[tch he mat]erial, .hhe

A: [aitch heh]

C: (the) supplier,

B: the suppli:er.=y[eah]

A: [ok]ay so-
(0.6)

A: Shall we take this as the suppl[i j]er?

B: [jaer]

B: jaer
(0.1)



Niels: >Ja hallo det' Niels,<
>Yes hello it's Niels,<
Mathias: Hej Niels;
Hi Niels;
Niels: Dav Mathias,
'Day Mathias,
Mathias: .hh Du ha'de ringet;
.hh You'd called;
Niels: Jeg vi' spørge om du ku' lege;
I wanted to ask if you could play;
Mathias: Jerh, I dag?
Yes, Today?
Niels: Ja.
Yes.
Mathias: >.h< F↑int,
>.h< F↑ine,



Conditional relevance

- If next speaker does not produce the second pair part, this is noticeable and accountably missing

```
Fie: Det' AnneSophie. hhh  
It's AnneSophie. hhh  
(1.0)  
Fie: Hallo?  
Hello?  
(1.0)  
((Sound from telephone))  
Ester: H(h)al[lo hhehhe det' mig.  
H(h)el[lo hhehhe it's me.  
Fie: [ha-  
[he-  
(0.1)  
Fie: Je[rh,  
Ye[ah,  
Ester: [hheh .hheh det' mig.  
[hheh .hheh it's me.  
(0.3)  
Ester: Ester.  
Fie: H*↑e::j Est[er.  
H*↑i:: Est[er  
Ester: [Jeg havde >.hh< >Jeg var< kommet te'  
[I had >.hh< >I had< accidentally  
å' trykke på fjederen på mit rør >så ka' du  
pushed the spring on my handle >then you can't  
[ikk'< høre hva' jeg si'er jeg k[a' høre dig.  
[ hear what I say I ca[n hear you.
```





```

Duut
(3.0)
Fie: Moby-Landvad rut[en,
      The Moby-Landvad fer[ry,
Mathias: [>.mlh H†EJ,<
          [>.mlh H†I,<
(0.2)
Fie: Hej Mathias,
      Hi Mathias,
      (0.2)
```

The basic properties

Fie: Det' AnneSophieǂ
It's AnneSophieǂ

Peter: Ja go'daw AnneSophie, Det' Peterǂ
Yes good day AnneSophie, It's Peterǂ
(0.7)

Fie: Jerh,
Yeah,

Peter: Tak for hils'nenǂ
Thanks for the greetingǂ
(1.2)

Peter: te' min fødselsdagǂ
for my birthdayǂ
(0.8)

Fie: .clhH (0.3) n:Nåh, [Okay,
.clhH (0.3) oOh, [Okay,

Peter: [>A' du ikk' rigtig klar over< hvem jeg er?
[Aren't you really aware of< who I am?

Fie: Nejh.
Noh.



Adjacency and preference

- A First Pair Part make conditionally relevant a type-connected Second Pair Part, but often there are more than one specific type of second action that can fill the Second Pair Part “slot”
 - Offer – Acceptance/Rejection
 - Request – Compliance/Rejection
 - Invitations – Acceptance/Declination

Adjacency and preference

- Responses to First Pair Parts (and other kinds of actions) are organized by a preference system in which some second actions are treated **by participants** as preferred and others as dispreferred
 - Offer – **Acceptance**/Rejection
 - Request – **Compliance**/Rejection
 - Invitations – **Acceptance**/Declination

Adjacency and preference

- Preference organization is a *structural* phenomenon, rather than a psychological
 - ▣ Distribution: Preferred Second Pair Parts are more common than dispreferred ones
 - ▣ Delivery: Preferred SPPs are delivered faster than dispreferred ones
 - ▣ Design: Preferred SPP's are structurally more simple than dispreferred ones

Adjacency and preference

Niels: >Ja hallo det' Niels,<
>Yes hello it's Niels,<
Mathias: Hej Niels;
Hi Niels;
Niels: Dav Mathias,
'Day Mathias,
Mathias: .hh Du ha'de ringet;
.hh You'd called;
Niels: Jeg vi' spørge om du ku' lege;
I wanted to ask if you could play;
Mathias: Jerh, I dag?
Yes, Today?
Niels: Ja.
Yes.
Mathias: >.h< F↑int,
>.h< F↑ine,



Mathias: jeg ville for resten høre om du kunne lege i dag,<
I wanted by the way to hear if you can play today,<
(1.1)

Mathias: eller en a' de andre dage,
or one of the other days,
(1.1)

Malte: >Jahm' ser du j-< Jeg' nemli' li' kommet hjem
>Yesbut you see I-< I've you see just come home
fra min mormor.=Å' så ska' vi jo meget snart a' sted .hh
from my grandmother.=And then we're jo very soon leaving
te' det der=>Hva' hedder det land der.< [England.
for that =>What's that country called.< [England.



Adjacency and preference

- Participants display their orientation to the fact that some responses/actions are dispreferred
 - Dispreferred actions are often accounted for
 - First pair Part producer may attempt to pursue a preferred response
 - First Pair Part producer may back down when they recognize a dispreferred is on its way
 - Dispreferred responses that are not marked as such are treated as “problematic”

Dispreferred actions are often accounted for

|63 Mathias: .hhhh meneh:m .h Jeg har jo en liste,
.hhhh buteh:m .h I have a list JO,
64 Claus: Jah.
Yes.
65 Mathias: .hhh å' farver. å' så no'et,
.hhh and colours. and stuff,
66 Claus: Hm mm,
67 Mathias: hvis du' intressered'j',
if you're interested JO,
68 (0.5)
69 Claus: Jerh. Meneh j:eg tror li':
Yeah. But eh I: think I'll
70 jeg kigger på det derovre,
just look at it over there,
71 de mest eh (.) kritiske.
the most eh (.) critical.
72 (0.7)
73 Mathias: Ja=ja. se'fg'[lig al'så
Yes=yes. of c[ourse ALTSÅ
74 Claus: [(s:ort å' rød å'
[(b:lack and red and
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76 Mathias: [.hhh Ja=ja men vi fi- Vi ka' snAKKe OM det
[.hhh Yes=yes but we fi- We can TALK ABOUT it
77 på: onsdag,
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78 Claus: Jerh.
Yeah.
79 (0.2)
80 Mathias: >Når jeg kommer i skole så ta'r jeg
>**When I go to school then I'll just bring**
81 li' min< .hhh mit blad med >å' det der,<
my< .hhh my magazine along >and that stuff,<

First Pair Part producer may pursue when they recognize a dispreferred is on its way



C-K: [Oge:h ⚡(0.2) ⚡ Men vi hå- >Vi hå' så'n set< tænt
[Ande:h (0.2) But we ha- >We had sort of< thought
om det måske >ku' la' sig gøre< på torsdag,
whether it maybe >could be feasible< on thursday,
⚡(0.9) ⚡

Jens: HMNMMM

C-K: °Hva' si'r du te' det.°=
°What du you say to that.°=
Jens: =Det tror jeg ikk'.
=I don't think so.
⚡(0.6) ⚡

C-K: Det tror du ikk' det ka'=
You don't think that's possible=⚡

Jens: =Nej.=
=No.=

C-K: =Nej[hehehe
=No [hehehe

Jens: [.hhehh ehh men jeg prøver,
[.hhehh ehh but I'll try,

First Pair Part producer may back down when they recognize a dispreferred is on its way



Kisser: al'så jeg jeg syn's jo a:t >måske et par
well I I think JO tha:t >maybe a set of
billetter te' Nykøbing Falster revyen,
tickets for the Nykøbing Falster revue,
har< jeg sagt te' mormor ikk',
have< I told grandma right,
Fie: Jahm' hvordan fanden får vi fat i [dem?
Yesbut how the hell do we get hold[of them?
Kisser: [Jerh det'
[Yeah that's
jo så det nemli' ikk',
JO then it exactly right,

Fie: Ja[h
Ye[s
Kisser: [Jeg tænkte på om du kunne slå op på
[I thought whether you could look it up on
internettet >eller et'l'andet< å' se hva' der
the internet >or something< and see what's
var der.=>Men det ved jeg ikk' om i
there.=>But I don't know if you have that
har nede på arbejdet.<
at work.<
(0.6)
Kisser: Nej det har i ikk' v[el,
No you don't do you,
Fie: [Joh
[Ye[s
Kisser: Nåh. >.hh< men al'så: >ellers ved jeg sgu ikk'
Oh. >.hh< but ALTSÅ >otherwise I damn well don't
rigtigt Fie hva' vi ska' (f)finde pa.
know really Fie what we can think of.

Dispreferred responses that are not marked as such are treated as “problematic”

Mathias: D'hos Lindegaard, hhmh
This-is-at Lindegaard, hhmh

Jette: >Dav det' Jette Hvidsteen.=Træffer
>'Day it's Jette Hvidsteen.=Is your
jeg din far?<
father there?<

Mathias: .hh Nejh.
.hh Noh.
(0.5)

Jette: Nå,
Oh,
(0.9)

Jette: °mhu::hhe .hhhheh° Nej okay jeg prøver senere,=
°mhu::hhe .hhhheh° No okay I'll try later,=

Mathias: =mJerh.
=mJerh.
(0.3)

Jette: °Hej.°
°Bye.°



Adjacency and preference

- Preference organization can also be oriented to in the First Pair Part
 - Some First Pair Parts are less preferred over others
 - transaction from one person to another can be accomplished in various ways; A can offer B to do something; B can request A to do something: Offers are preferred over requests, so requests are often formulated in a dispreferred manner, where the actual request is never delivered

Preference organization can also be oriented to in the First Pair Part

Jette: [(Dav dav) .hh Joh Jeg ve' spørge (.) om fhh
 [('Day day) .hh Yes I wanted to ask (.) if fhh
>a' vi-< vi ha:r ♣(0.3) ♣ >eller vi' kommet i knibe
>that we-< we ha:ve (0.3) >or we've got in trouble
på museet.=Jeg ved ikk' om< om: >du overho'det har tid
at the museum.=I don't know if< if >you at all have time
°eller noget som helst men ° .tchh ♣(0.5) ♣ Vi mangler
°or anything but° .tchh (0.5) We're one person short
en på hh flaskesamlingen i dag.
at the bottle-collection today.
♣(0.7) ♣

Fie: .HH[hhhp-

Jette: [Men det' nok for-=
 [But that's probably too-=

Fie: =Det ka' jeg i[kk' hh. Al'så (.)
 =I can't do it hh. ALTSÅ (.)



Adjacency and preference

- AP's as the basic, most minimal unit of sequence construction
- Consist of two adjacent actions (FPP and SPP) that are relatively ordered, type-connected and produced by different speakers.
- The production of a FPP entails a structural preference for one type of SPP (preferred) over another (dispreferred) and participants can be seen to work to avoid the production of dispreferred actions

Beyond the adjacency pair

- Whilst AP's might be the basic, minimal unit of sequence construction – the smallest sequence possible, many sequences are in fact larger than the basic AP
 - Not all AP's are adjacent
 - There is other “stuff” around than AP's
- BUT: Much of this is still organized around the basic AP unit!
 - Participants can be seen/heard to be orienting towards the production of a particular pair of actions, but in orienting to for instance preference organization it just often takes more than two turns to accomplish this successfully

Beyond the adjacency pair

- Pre-sequences and insert sequences are both resources available for participants to solve interactional “problems”
- Pre-sequences are produced before a First Pair Part to check/ensure that the conditions for getting a preferred response to the FPP are as good as possible
- Insert sequences occur between First and Second Pair Part to clarify the meaning of the FPP before producing the SPP

Presequences for “testing the waters”



Mathias: °hh° >.hhh< Me:n forresten >Må jeg li' høre<
°hh° >.hhh< Bu:t by the way >Can I just hear<
‡kender du eh (.) fall out?
do you know eh (.) fall out?
(0.5)

Claus: Mmmmm: *Yeah* lidt,
Mmmmm: *Yeah* a little,
(0.3)

Claus: .huhh Jeg har hørt om det. ((while jawning))
.huhh I have heard about it. ((while jawning))

Mathias: ‡>Nåhmen< det' bare fordi >jeg har nemlig
‡>Rightbut< it's just because >I have actually
li' fået det< me' et computerblad.
just gotten it with a computer magazine.

Claus: ‡Muhm,

Mathias: .hhh Så' det lykkes mig å' befri en by fra
.hhh Then I've succeeded in liberating a town from
en ond trussel,
an evil threat,
(0.3)

Claus: ‡Mm, *°fedt.°*
‡Mm, *°cool.°*

Pre-sequences that pre-empt the production of a FPP

```
04      Claus:      >This is at Lindegård;<
                    Ja det' Claus:.=A': (.) Mathias hjemme,=
                    Yes it's Claus:.=Is: (.) Mathias home,=
05      Tine:       =>Jah li': et øjeblik,<
                    =>Yes just a minute,<
```

Insert sequences – eliminating potential obstacles for producing a SPP

Ester: [Ja eller ås']
 [Yes or else]
 no'en [sko der ka' tåle det. >som man ka'
 some [shoes that can take it. >that one can
 Sanne: [.hheha
 Ester: bru' te' no'et andet ås'< .hh .hlip
 use for other stuff too< .hh .hlip
 (1.9)
 Sanne: A's der har jeg ikk' rigtig no'en.
 ALTSÅ there I don't really have any.
 Jeg[har no'en .hh]h Jeg har no'en
 I [have some .hh]h I have some
 Ester: [Det har jeg heller ikk'.]
 [I don't either.]
 Sanne: støvler, S[å no'en vinterstøvler der ka' tåle vand]
 boots, L[ike some winter boots that can take water]
 Ester: [Men s:- Men så no'en som du rejs]er
 [But li- But like those that you're goin]g
 Ester: hjem i ka' de ikk' tåle lidt a' hver?
 home in can't they take almost anything?
 (0.2)
 Ester: .hhh [S:-]
 .hhh [L:-]
 Sanne: [Du]mener kondisk[oene?]
 [You] mean the tra[iners?]
 Ester: [Jer]h.
 [Yea]h.
 Sanne: .hh Al'så vandet går li' igen[nem,]
 .hh ALTSÅ the water goes strai[ght through,]
 Ester: [Nåh]for Søren,
 [Oh] my,



Interaction is fundamentally a sequential activity.

- ❑ Participants take turns and talk is designed to reflect back on prior turns and project ahead to future ones
- ❑ Adjacency pairs is a particularly powerful occasioning of this, because the FPP makes relevant a limited and specific set of second actions (conditional relevance)
 - Because of this powerfulness, FPP's can be separated from their SPP's by insert sequences, because the SPP is still expected
 - And adjacency pairs relate to each other, for instance when pre-sequences foreshadow or project subsequent actions
- ❑ But conditional relevance is just one type of relationship between actions; any utterance can influence a subsequent one and participants will always give a special interpretation to utterances that are immediately adjacent to each other