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| **Units of talk - units of action** |
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| **Background** |
| This project comprises the editing and publication of a volume on units of language and interaction. While a practice of defining the exact characteristics of units is the norm in traditional linguistics, where language is studied as a system outside its interactional context, analysts of language in conversation ‘need to hold loosely (their) conceptions of structure, rule, and unit’ (Ford 2004: 48), and keep in mind the flexibility of language as a resource for dealing with constantly emerging contingencies. This focus helps guard against the analytical danger identified by Ford (2004) that ‘the drive to define units may cause us to miss systematic practices that make conversation work for participants in real contexts of use’ (Ford 2004: 38). |
| **Aims & Design** |
| Adopting a discursive perspective on units of talk and their relation to actions, the chapters in this volume address the following questions:   * What types of stretches of talk are repeatedly treated by conversationalists as holistic entities? Are there new, or previously un-described units that are relevant for talk-in-interaction? * How are traditionally accepted units realized and oriented to in talk-in-interaction? * At which points in structure do we find repeated orientation to closure, and/ or new beginnings? * Which modes of interaction – i.e. lexical, syntactic, prosodic, gestural, action-related – are affected by the construction of units? Are there multimodal units for the accomplishment of which clusters of features are employed together? * How does the analysis of multimodal aspects of interaction influence how units are perceived and constructed? * What is the relationship between units and actions? * Given the emergent nature of talk-in-interaction, is it helpful to analyze talk as a succession of units at all, or are boundaries of actions and action formats more relevant to participants? |
| **Funding** |
| European collaborators |
| **Impacts** |
| Panel:  July 4 – 8, 2010: Panel ‘Units of Talk-in-Interaction’. *International Conference on Conversation Analysis* (ICCA10), Mannheim, Germany. |
| **Publications** |
| Szczepek Reed, B. and Raymond, G. (Eds.) (forthcoming 2013): *Units of Talk – Units of Action*. Amsterdam: Benjamins. |