

REFERRING TO PERSONS AND GROUPS IN GORUM CONVERSATION

Felix Rau

University of Cologne

Slides: fxru.org/slides/ICAAL7/ICAA7.html

REFERENCE IN CONVERSATION

- Project on audio recognition (overlap)
- Backchannels
- Virtually nothing on Austroasiatic
- Very much work in progress

REFERRING

“it is the speaker who refers [...]: he invests the expression with reference by the act of referring” (Lyons 1977, p. 177)

REFERRING TO A PERSON

SACKS & SCHEGLOFF (1979)

1. minimization
2. recipient design

ENFIELD (2013)

1. Design the expressions for the recipient
 1. achieve recognition
 2. invoke or display relationship proximity/type
2. Minimize the expressive means
 1. use a single referring expression
 2. use a name rather than a description
 3. use only one name for a binomial if possible
3. Fit the expressive format to the action being performed
4. Observe local cultural/institutional constraints
5. Associate the referent explicitly with one of the speech participants

ESTABLISHING REFERENCE IS INTERACTIONAL

LK: ʧail ɖa'd ɖabu bo_j baro so neta_jju neku? 'for the tiles, I have
given twelve hundred'

bākita arlaŋ 'no loan yet'
sidannuʧa 'the ones from Sida'

DD: (mm) 'uh huh'

LK: (lu)p inɖeŋolnu sidannuʧa 'Sida of Upper Inɖeŋol'

DD: ʔoʔo 'oh yes'

“In making reference [...], a speaker must select from a variety of lexical and gestural possibilities. Reference is therefore a matter of selection, whether lexical or otherwise.” (Enfield 2013, p. 433)

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC INVENTORY

- pronouns
- given names
- nick names
- kinship terms
- full names

(1) no'd
3sPRO.DIR
'(s)he'

(2) subas=qi
Subas=DEF
'Subas'

(3) baiṇon=qi
eggplant=DEF
'Eggplant (a boy)'

(4) aba=niṇ
father=1sPOSS
'my father'

REFERENCE TO GROUPS

- (5) no'dgi
3pPRO.DIR
'they'
- (6) miŋ=du babu=ɖi
I=and Babu=Def
'me and the sir'
- (7) buboŋ gutor=ɖigin
boy girl=DEF:PL
'the boys and girls'
- (8) ana=niŋ=gi
elder.brother=1sPOSS=PL
'my elder brothers'

ASSOCIATIVE PLURALS

(9) liti=n=gi
Liti=DEF=PL
'Liti and so'

(10) amkuj=nin=gi
woman=1sPOSS=PL
'my wife and so'

(11) gardu=digin=nu as_uṅ
guard=DEF:PL=ATTR house
'the forest guard's family's house'

BACKCHANNELS

(MINIMAL RESPONSES)

The *Uh huh*, *Mm*, *Huh?*, and *Yeahs* of the world.

- problematic term
- not essentially different from other utterances
- not constitute a separate channel
- do not claim the floor
- overlap is seemingly unproblematic

- *Continuers* (e.g. Mm hm, Uh huh)
- *Acknowledgements* (e.g. Mm, Yeah)
- *Newsmarkers* (e.g. Really?, change-of-state token Oh, the ‘idea-connector’ Right)
- *Change-of-activity tokens* (e.g. Okay, Alright)
- *Assessments* (e.g. Great, How intriguing, 🐮💩);
- *Brief questions* (e.g. Who?, Which one?, or Huh?);
- *Collaborative completions* (“finishing each others s...”)
- *sighs, laughter, nods* etc.

MINIMAL RESPONSES CROSSLINGUISTICALLY

- Are these function universal?
- Language specific inventories?
- Huh?

MINIMAL RESPONSES IN GORUM

- Continuers/ Acknowledgement: *mm / ə̃*
- change-of-state/recognition: *(?)o ?o*

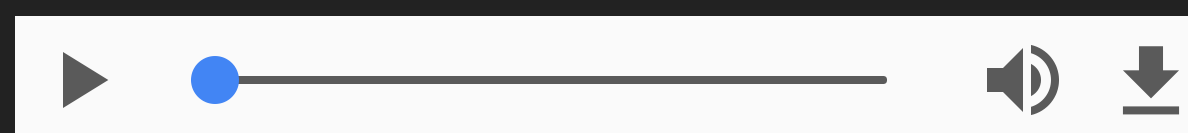
EXAMPLE 1

LK: gãsi tile'ɟɟi (.50) boɟnai gãsi tile'ɟɟi (.33) 'old man Gansi,
old man Gansi
Bodnaik'

DD: ə̃ 'uh huh'

LK: aɟi mersa koɟkejju (olku) 'he was digging up
the chili plants'

DD: ə̃ 'uh huh'



EXAMPLE 2

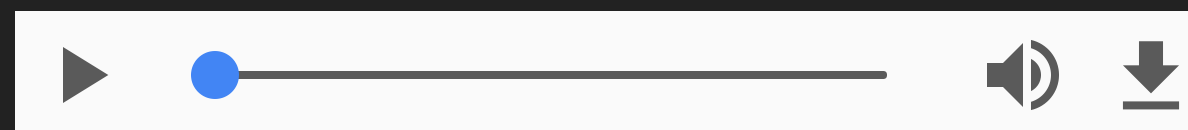
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EXAMPLE 3

DD: norsiᅇᅇi ajtun 'Norsing and Aitu'
LK: ʔo ʔo ʔo 'yeah!'
DD: miᅇnuᅇa 'are mine (my Panziabai/ritual relatives)'
LK: ə̃ ə̃ ə̃ norsiᅇᅇi ajtun 'uh huh, uh huh, Norsing and Aitu'
DD: moᅇun 'Modu'
LK: ə̃ ə̃ 'uh huh'
DD: kulnan 'Kulna'
LK: ə̃ 'uh huh'
DD: no'dnuᅇa 'are his'
LK: iᅇᅇi banzaᅇᅇiginnuᅇa 'this nephew's household's'
DD: ə̃ 'uh huh'
LK: ə̃ 'uh huh'



EXAMPLE 4

LK: uqubun kajki bilen lupdinu dorrajgi 'yesterday, the one of our
oldest one brought tiles
perhaps'

DD: ə.ə̃ə̃ 'uh huh'

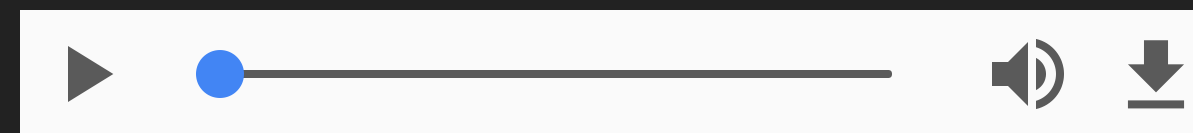
LK: Domunu 'of Domu'

DD: ʔo ʔo 'oh yes'

LK: panongi neʔ ujjej dorrajgi 'Pano and so went and
brought some
subasqigin neʔ Subas and so'

DD: ə.ə̃ə̃ 'uh huh'

LK: duarejjej 'they moved them.'



... AND NOW?

- Gorum seems to be broadly in line with what we know of reference in conversation
- We need a better understanding of the function of mm, ã, and (?o?o
- associative plurals are a fascinating window into the way social structure is negotiated
- more data and more time or better tools to analyse the data

THANK YOU!

Contact: f.rau@uni-koeln.de

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