WHO IS ARTTIS?

ARTTIS-VU is a group of researchers who focus on talk, text, and intertextuality as it is produced in different institutional settings: - courtroom interaction - police interrogations - news interviews - online health interaction - job interviews - televised political debates - trauma interviews

In order to better understand such settings we approach our research materials from different perspectives and methods in the domain of interaction analysis, including but not limited to conversation analysis, discursive analysis, critical discourse analysis, and framing analysis.

We make an effort to apply the findings of our research in order to improve current communicative practices of the different target groups we study.

We meet at least once a month at VU University Amsterdam to discuss data and theoretical notions relevant to our fields of research. If you want to join one of our ARTTIS data sessions, send us an email!!

First we make recordings (video or audio)

Then we make transcripts:

P= police officer
V= suspect

1. P= vertelt, (1)
2. V= "vertelt", (2)
3. V= "vertelt", (3-6)
4. hoe het verhoal is gegaan zo maar,
5. waarom ik ben ben opgepakt,
6. (2) en ben opgepakt.

The symbols show the intonation details:
| brackets indicate overlap |
| words in between * signs is spoken softly |
| underline indicates which syllable(s) is/are stressed |
| one second pause |

We look at HOW the actions are accomplished:

The officer tells the suspect to tell the story by using an imperative. The suspect treats this imperative as ambiguous. He repairs the question by repeating it and by rephrasing it twice. He rephrases by saying 'how the story went' and secondly, by saying 'why I’ve now been arrested.' His story therefore, will be one of being arrested, not one of what crime he committed.

What we often see is that suspects are experienced at ‘doing being ordinary’ or ‘doing being innocent.’

How do we do Interaction Research?

DATA PREPARATION

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We look at ACTIONS that are accomplished:

In line 1, the police officer invites the suspect to tell a story. The suspect does not answer and begins his story in lines 3-6.

Joyce Lamerichs & Marca Schasfoort are working together on a project on trauma interviews with children. They are using the perspective of conversation analysis and discursive psychology to conduct a fine-grained analysis of 25 interviews with children (age 8-12).

The children have been interviewed by a trained psychologist who investigated how children have experienced single incident trauma (e.g. death in the family, a serious accident, murder) and what their strategies for coping are. The focus of Joyce and Marca’s research is on ways in which the psychologist is formulated to get at particular answers, and how the child’s answers are subsequently taken up by the professional, for example to encourage the child to tell more.

This project is being conducted in collaboration with Eva Alisic, a trained psychologist who works for the University Medical Centre (UMC) Utrecht.

Alan Cienki is working on a project titled ‘The multimodal nature of talk in contexts of persuasive communication’. This research considers the interplay of both audio and visual elements of spoken language, such as how prosody and gesture with speech are deployed by speakers to frame their message as well as themselves. Specific contexts include televised debates by politicians and pitches by entrepreneurs to persuade potential investors.

Fleur van der Houwen was trained as a sociologist specializing in the analysis of language variation and change. She draws on various methods, including speech act theory, conversation analysis, and critical discourse analysis. Her research focuses on language use in criminal courts and e-health, as well as on how institutions are represented in the media. Fleur is registered with the LDM as an expert in (forensic) linguistics and advises on cases that are sent to her for analysis. Cases vary from an analysis of secretly taped conversations, case file documents from a rape trial, authorship of letters of threat as well as other types of writing.

Wyke Stommel has recently been granted an NWO-grant (program Comprehensible Language and Effective Communication) for a comparative study of chat and telephone Alcohol and Drugs help line interaction. The project is being conducted in cooperation with Trimbox Institute, CAMeRA and Sensor.

ARTTIS Project Examples

Keun Young Sliedrecht is writing her thesis about interaction in institutional settings. The data consists of 60 audio recordings of job interviews, police interrogations and news interviews. From a conversation-analytic perspective she studies how participants in these three institutional settings organize 'formulations' (Heritage & Watson, 1979) or summaries. With the analysis of formulations she sheds light on the way participants organize interactions in these institutional encounters and she compares her findings to the given data to the institutional participants in handbooks.

Tessa van Charlardorpe completed her dissertation ‘From police interrogation to police record’ in 2011. In this dissertation she outlined how a written police record comes to be constructed through talk and typing. Her current research project is titled: ‘Writing, blogging, facebooking, rapping, tweeting about criminality: An insight into the life world, norms and values of the Dutch youth through websites, YouTube, Hyves, Facebook & Twitter.’

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