

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 psychology, (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!**



From left to right and top to bottom:

Marca Schasfoort: Lecturer, Language & Communication, & founder of Schasfoort Communication consulting and training

Joyce Lamerichs: Assistant professor, Language & Communication

Fleur van der Houwen: Assistant professor, Language & Communication

Wyke Stommel: Postdoc, Language & Communication

Alan Cienki: Associate professor, English Linguistics

Keun Young Sliedrecht: PhD student, Language & Communication

Tessa van Charldorp: Assistant professor, Language & Communication

Martha Komter: Former member of ARTTIS, currently researcher at NSCR



How do we do Interaction Research?

DATA PREPARATION

First we make recordings (video or audio)

Then we make transcripts:

P= police officer

V= suspect

1. P: =vertel,
2. (1)
3. V: °(ver)tel°.
4. (0.4)
5. hoe het verhaal is
gegaan zeg maar?
6. waar[om ik ben nu ben opgepakt,
7. P: [↑ja,

ANALYSIS:

We look at **ACTIONS** that are accomplished:

In line 1, the police officer **invites** the suspect to tell a story. The suspect does a **pre-beginning** to his story in lines 3-6. He is also already **doing being innocent** in lines 5 & 6.

The symbols show the intonation details:

- = latching (utterance is latched onto previous utterance)
- (1) one second pause
- underline indicates which syllable(s) is/are stressed
- ° words in between ° signs is spoken softly
- [brackets indicate overlap
- ↑ indicates rising intonation

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.'

Scientific interest: how talk in institutional settings (in this case a police interrogation) is constructed and organised by participants in interaction.

Applied interest: advise police academy or police officers on what the effects are of certain ways of conducting interviews; help them reflect on ways of interviewing.

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 advice given to the institutional participants in handbooks.

Tessa van Charldorp 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.' Tessa looks at how Dutch youth talk about criminal activities online and what their language shows us about their norms and values. This project is financed by the Police Science & Research Programme.



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 questions by the psychologist are 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 use, such as how prosody and gesture with speech are deployed by speakers to frame their message as well as themselves. Specific contexts have included televised debates by politicians and pitches by entrepreneurs to persuade potential investors.

Fleur van der Houwen was trained as a sociolinguist 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 interactions**. This project is being conducted in cooperation with Trimbos Instituut, CAMeRA and Sensor.

Sample Publications

- Charldorp, T.C. van (2011). *From police interrogation to police record*. Oisterwijk: Boxpress.
- Charldorp, T.C. van (2011). The interactional construction of the police record via the coordination of talking and typing in police interrogations. *Crossroads of Language, Interaction and Culture*.
- Cienki, A. Multi-modal metaphor analysis. In Lynne Cameron (ed.), *Metaphor Analysis: Research Practice in Applied Linguistics, Social Sciences and the Humanities*. London: Equinox.
- Cienki, A., & C. Müller (eds.). 2008. *Metaphor and Gesture*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Houwen, F. van der. (2009). Formulating disputes. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 41, 10, 2072-2085.
- Houwen, F. van der, Charldorp, T.C. van & Tavecchio, L. (*in preparation*) *Forensische linguïstiek: een introductie*. Boom Juridische Uitgevers
- Lamerichs, J., Koenen, M., te Molder, H. (2009). Turning adolescents into analysts of their own discourse: Raising reflexive awareness of everyday talk to develop peer-based health activities. *Qualitative Health Research*, 19, 8, 1162-1175.
- Lamerichs, J., & Molder, H.F.M. te (2009). 'And then I'm really like . . .': 'preliminary' self-quotations in adolescent talk. *Discourse Studies*, 11, 4, 401-419.
- Lamerichs, J. & Molder, H.F.M. te (2011). Reflecting on your own talk: the Discursive Action Method at work. In C. Antaki (Ed.). *Applied Conversation Analysis. Intervention and Change in Institutional Talk*.
- Müller, C., A. Cienki, E. Fricke & D. McNeill (eds.). In preparation. *Körper-Sprache-Kommunikation / Body-Language-Communication*. 2 vols. For the series *Handbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Onrust, M., Schasfoort, M. & Torck, D. (2002). Verbale communicatie: praktijken van gesproken en geschreven taalgebruik. In: T. Janssen (red), *Taal in Gebruik*. Den Haag: Sdu Uitgevers, 181-197
- Sliedrecht, K.Y. & Charldorp, T.C. van (2011). Tussen spraak en schrift: de rol van samenvattingen in het politieverhoor. *Tijdschrift voor Taalbeheersing*, 33, 34-55.
- Stommel, W. (in preparation) "This cybernetic remote control is not what I need" An exploratory study of online, direct complaining in institutional interaction.
- Stommel, W. & van der Houwen, F. (forthcoming). Formulations in "trouble" chat sessions. In: Kupferberg, Irit & Izhak Gilat (eds.) *Computer-Mediated troubled talk*. Special Issue: Language@Internet
- Stommel, W. & Lamerichs, J. (forthcoming, 2012) Communication in Online Support Groups: Advice and beyond. In: Hamilton, Heidi & Chou, Wen-Ying Sylvia (eds.) *Handbook of Language and Health Communication*, Routledge: New York.

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE (or other) PUBLICATIONS!

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