

Conversation, International Diplomacy and Playing Truant from School:

What the really detailed analysis of language in interaction can tell us about the not-so-small and the really quite big things in life (including how it is that Bush got the better of Blair)

HKU Constituent Theme

Languages, Media & Communication:

Language in Education & Assessment Seminar Series

Speaker

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(Chair: Dr Olga Zayts, Department of Linguistics, HKU)



11 December 2007 (Tuesday) 5:30-7pm
T4, Meng Wah Complex, HKU

Abstract

The aim of this lecture is pretty simple – it's to convince you that investigating closely the details of language use in interaction can contribute significantly to our understanding of how the institutions of a society work, how they operate. But in order to understand this, and show how institutions work, we need first to understand how ordinary interactions – ordinary conversations – work. So that if we want to understand how negotiations between world leaders play out, we need first to understand how we talk to/interact with our families and friends. There won't be much (linguistic or social) theory in this lecture: instead, I will illustrate these issues by considering a brief moment in a negotiation between President Bush and Prime Minister Blair at a G8 meeting; how people ordinarily make offers; disciplinary action in a high school; and political rhetoric and advertising.

Professor Paul Drew is a leading scholar internationally in Conversation Analysis and its application to the study of language, interaction and communication. He is currently working in two research areas, on affiliation and disaffiliation in interaction - this in collaboration with linguists at the University of York; and medical interaction in a variety of clinical settings, including primary care, diabetes and ENT oncology clinics (projects funded by the ESRC and Department of Health respectively). Although he has lectured at York since 1973, Paul Drew has held visiting positions at universities and research centres in the US, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Finland. He regularly teaches graduate training workshops and summer schools in CA, most recently in Denmark, Japan and the US. He is on the editorial boards of a number of international journals; and is editor, with John Gumperz, of Cambridge University Press's series *Studies in Interactional Sociolinguistics*.

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*This seminar is co-organized by Department of Linguistics, School of Humanities;
School of English; and the Faculty of Education, HKU.*

All are Welcome. Enquiries: 2859 2395