

## Using CA as a tool for data analysis: Common problems and pitfalls

A workshop for the Faculty of Education, Hong Kong University

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**Abstract:** Last year when I visited UHK, I talked about the application of Conversation Analysis (CA) as a method for investigating a wide variety of settings and issues in social life. This year I have been asked to reflect on some of the difficulties in applying CA, some of its 'problems and pitfalls'. I'll first summarise some of the applications and advantages of CA in the context of the conversation between President George Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair, at the G8 meeting in St Petersburg in July last year – the famous *Yo Blair* conversation. My reflections on the difficulties associated with using CA will focus on access; collections (not single cases); comparative analysis; the 'politics' of action; and the limitations of sequence analysis. I will illustrate these issues throughout with practical examples from a wide range of (ethnographic) settings.

#1 "Yo, Blair!": Overheard conversation and the 'special relationship' (George Bush and Tony Blair, recorded at the G8 meeting, St Petersburg, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

1 Bush: Yo, Blair. How are you doing?  
2 Blair: I'm just...  
3 Bush: You're leaving?  
4 Blair No, no, no not yet. On this trade thingy (inaudible)  
(17 lines omitted)  
22 Bush: I know you picked it out yourself.  
23 Blair: Oh absolutely, in fact (I knitted it) ((both laugh))  
24 Bush: What about Kofi? (he seems alright. I don't like his ceasefire plan.)  
25 His attitude is basically ceasefire and everything else (sorts  
26 out/happens).  
27 Blair: Yeah, no I think the (inaudible) is really difficult. We can't stop  
28 this unless you get this international business agreed.  
29 Bush: Yeah.  
30 Blair: I don't know what you guys have talked about, but as I say I am  
31 perfectly happy to try and see what the lie of the land is, but you  
32 need that done quickly because otherwise it will spiral.  
33 Bush: I think Condi is going to go pretty soon.  
34 Blair: But that's, that's, that's all that matters. But if you... you see it will  
35 take some time to get that together.  
36 Bush: Yeah, yeah.  
37 Blair: But at least it gives people...  
38 Bush: It's a process, I agree. I told her your offer to...  
39 Blair: Well...it's only if I mean...you know. if she's got a... or if she  
40 needs the ground prepared as it were...Because obviously if she  
41 goes out, she's got to succeed, if it were, whereas I can go out and  
42 just talk.  
43 Bush: You see, the irony is what they need to do is to get Syria to get  
44 Hizbollah to stop doing this shit and it's over.

## Three ways of offering

### Conditionals, "If X, (then) Y..."

- #2 [Telephone call] (Lesley has called Serena to tell about a job at her husband's company, which Serena's father might like)
- 1 Ser: Yeah. No th- (0.2) that would be brilliant uh ac[tually
- 2 Les: [It is
- 3 actually a very well paid jo:b.
- 4 (0.3)
- 5 Ser: Oh:
- 6 Les: Yea:h, .t.hh Anyway eh:m .t.h tell him if he wants to have a word
- 7 Ser: Yeah what's the=
- 8 Les: =.hhh to ring my husband up when we c-come back from Newcastle

### Interrogative forms, such as "Do you want (me to)...?"

- #3 [Telephone call]
- 1 Lot:: W'l ↑lissin (.) e-uh: do you want me to come down ↑getchu
- 2 to[morrow or ]a n y t h]ing?
- 3 Emm: [↓n:N o : : ] dea↓:r.]
- 4 Emm: No[: I'm] ↑fine
- 5 Lot: [to the] sto: :]re'r anythi:ng?

### Declarative forms, variously "I'll (do) X/I have X/You can (have) X" (though occasionally the interrogative "Can I..?")

- #4 [Telephone call]
- 1 Emm: W'l anyway tha:t's a'dea:l so I don'know what to ↓do about
- 2 Ba:rbra .hhhhh (0.2) c'z you see she w'z: depending on: him
- 3 takin'er in tuh the L.A. deeple s:- depot Sundee so ['e siz]
- 4 Lot: [I:'ll ] take'er in:  
Sundee,

These three lexico-syntactic formats are used in quite different (sequential) environments. So these are not equivalent forms – they have their 'proper place' in conversation; speakers select from among these three formats the one which is appropriate to the particular 'place' in conversation.

- *If..then* conditionals are used when the call has been made for the purpose of making the offer (the reason for calling), which can include telephoning or stopping by someone's office (as in #2)
- Declaratives are used when they have talked quite explicitly about a difficulty or a trouble, in the immediate prior turn before the offer (so the offer is prompted or interactionally generated by the trouble, as in #4)
- Do you want forms are used when a difficulty has been implicit, usually much earlier in the conversation (never in the immediate prior turn) (much earlier before #3 Emma has mentioned a problem about getting her Thanksgiving turkey)

#5 [NB:II:2:4] (Emma has just had an operation to remove a toe nail. Nancy has called to see if Emma would like to go shopping – she met a “very very nice man last night”, and wants to tell)

1 Nan: AWoh doggone I [thought] maybe yih [could  
 2 Emm: [I : 'd -LIKE TIH [GET S 'M  
 3 LID'L[E slipper]s but uh:  
 4 Nan: [Y e :\*ah.]  
 5 (0.7)  
 6 Emm: .t.hhh \*I jis do:n't think I better walk it's -jis bleeding  
 7 a tiny bid'n a:nd u-I think I'm gon'stay o:ff of it it  
 8 thro:bs: a liddle b\*it. Yihknow thet's no fun tuh have a  
 9 nai:l tak[en \*off.]  
 10 Nan: [°Y e a h] r\*ight.° hh[hh  
 11 Emm: [°Oh: G\*o:d,°  
 12 (.)  
 13 Nan: We:ll dih you wanna me tuh be tih is pick you Ken u you (.)  
 14 get induh Robins'n? so you c'buy a li'l pair a'sli-ppers?h  
 15 (.)  
 16 Nan: I mean er: c'n I getchu some-thin:g? er: sump-'m:? er sum-'m:?

**A brief exercise: What have each of these excerpts in common?**

- #6 Gene: Wul did'e ever git ma:ri:edr anything?  
Patty: Hu:h?  
Gene: Did yee ever git ma:ri:ed?
- #7 Wheeler: Well I was talking to a friend.  
Simpson: What?  
Wheeler: I was talking to a friend.
- #8 Louise: Cuz I came inna converdible wi'the top down,  
(2.0)  
Ken: hh What?  
Louise: I came inna converdible wi'the top down.
- #9 Alex: Well thenk you anyway  
Ilene: Mm:?  
Alex: Thenk you anyway,
- #10 Jean: Well I mean I won't be where she c'n get  
me honey,  
Ans.: Pardon?  
Jean: I won't be where she c'n get me.
- #11 Eve: W't time then.  
Gordon: .hnh Pod'n?  
Eve: w't t<sub>i</sub>:me.
- #12 Bea: Ye:s. .hh Well thet yes that's far more import'nt.  
(.)  
Rose: Hm:?  
Bea: That's fa:r more import'nt. .hhh hh
- #13 Marylou: B't see I didn' ev'n know it was slj:ced.  
Claire: Hu:h?  
Marylou: I din' ev'n know it was slj:ced ....
- #14 Leslie: Oh well Kathrine's got to sleep in her house alo:ne this  
weekend up in York  
Trevor: Sorry?  
(0.2)  
Leslie: Kathrine's got to sleep, in:: the house up in  
York alo:ne this weeken:d.

#15 [PM:FZ:22, 5-6:19-23] (Italian primary school)

1 T cosa succe:de? durante la no]tte <quando noi dor-  
2 what ha:ppens? during the ni]ght <when we sle-  
3 St [è un bel po' più FRE:ddo  
4 [it is quite a lot CO:Lder  
5  
6 T cosa c'è::: in giro <c'è: la lu::ce? c'è:- (.) cioè pe-  
7 what is the:::re around<is the:re li::ght? the:::re's-(.)well thi-  
8 pensa::te  
9 you th::ink  
10 T cos'è? che fa diventare ca::l]do.  
11 what is it? that makes hea:[:t.  
12 St [°il so'°  
13 [°the su'°  
14 (0.4)  
15 St il sole  
16 the sun  
17 (0.6)  
18 T >allora< durante la notte c'è il so::le?  
19 >so< during the night is there the su::n?  
20 St °no:°  
21 Sts no:::  
22 T a[lo::ra::,  
23 s[o no::w:,  
24 St [°c'è il buio°  
25 [°there's dark°  
26 (.)  
27 T quindi LA- (.) tempe::-ra::-,-  
28 so THE- (.)tempe::-ra::-,-  
29 (.)  
30 Sts tu:::ra::?  
31 tu:::re::?  
32 T cosa fa <si alza o si abbassa di n[otte.  
33 what does it do <does it rise or fall at ni]ght.  
34 Sts [si [abba::ssa::  
35 [it [fa::lls  
36 Sts [si abba::[ssa::  
37 [it fa::[lls  
38 Sts [si  
39 [it  
40 abbassa::  
41 fa::lls  
42 T si abba::ssa::.  
43 it fa::lls.

#16 [MPS: NSY: 999 Calls: 85] ((The communicator knows that the call is from 'a lady' and concerns a stabbing in East Street Market))

1 Com: Hello:?=

2 Ca: =Hello: ye:ah [(we got)

3 Com: [What's your name.=

4 Ca: =Moh name's Missiz Hɑ:rding

5 Com: Missiz whQ?

6 Ca: Hɑ:rding.

7 Com: Hɑ:rding.

8 Ca: HardingH A R (.) D I N G.

9 (0.8)

10 Com: What happen[ed.

11 Ca: [Stay there Li:sa. .hhh There's bin

12 uh stabbin outside thuh Prince Regents pub=I've

13 ca:lled un ambula[nce.

14 Com: [Prince what.

15 (.)

16 Ca: There's bin uh stabbin.

17 Com: Rih- Regent's pu:b?

18 Ca: Ye:ah Prince Regents pub on Ea:st Street.

19 (0.5)

20 Ca: They go in uh ci:rcles down there.=>Thuh

21 man< (0.6) I think thuh man's dead I'm not

22 su:re.

23 (1.8) ((typing))

24 Com: ( [ ] )

25 Ca: [Lisa stay the::re.

26 Com: Stay on-=

27 Ca: =( ) stay[ing there

28 Lisa: [I'm (not) staying he::re.

29 (Ca): Scuse me.

30 Com: Hello:?

31 (.)

32 Com: Hello.

33 (0.4)

34 Ca: Hello.

35 Com: Uh you still the:re.

36 Ca: Yeah I'm still he[re

37 Com: [>Alright< [Stay stay

38 Ca: [Lisa don't go

39 [(down there)

40 Com: [Sta:y ta:lking tuh me ple:ase. Alright?=  
41 Ca: =°Oh: god.° My da:ughter's goin DOWN the:re,  
42 (3.4) ((typing))  
43 Ca: Please 'urry up un get somebody there.  
44 (1.1)

45 Com: Who uh- who's bin stabbed.

46 Ca: uh- I- I'm not su:re there's uh man la:yin

47 there.

48 Com: There's uh man la:yin there.=

49 Ca: =Yeah u- (.) er: I think mah da:ughter said

50 he's name's Shaun.

51 Com: Sha:un.

52 Ca: Sha:un.

53 (0.7)

54 Ca: It's frum °u° I think they're frum twenny nine  
55 Jesfud.  
56 Com: Mm:?  
57 (0.8)  
58 Ca: Twenty nine (Jepsome) House,  
59 (1.3)  
60 Com: Frum twenny nine Jepsome.  
61 Ca: Jesfud.  
62 Com: Jesul (Ho:w)?<sup>1</sup>  
63 Ca: Ye:ah.  
64 Com: Okay.  
65 Ca: So that's- (.) ee's actually layin on thuh  
66 stre:et in King's Street ih- on East Stre:et.  
67 (.)  
68 Ca: Ruh-right outside thuh Prince Regents p[ub  
69 Com: [He's  
70 right outside thuh Prince Regent.=  
71 Ca: =Ye:ah.  
72 Com: What's your home address ple:ase?  
73 Ca: It's nineteen Pincome House.  
74 Com: Nineteen?  
75 Ca: Pincome House.  
76 Com: Pincome?  
77 Ca: Pincome.  
78 Com: P I N K:?  
79 Ca: P- (0.4) Lisa don't go down there ple::as[e.  
80 Com: [Tuh-  
81 tell'er stay where she i:s wu[h- (.) where  
82 yo:u are.= [Uh-  
83 Ca: [Uh-  
84 Ca: =( )said stay where you a:re.[( )  
85 Com: [Tuh- tell er  
86 tuh come back then °tck° to the address if  
87 you're worried about her=uh you at ho:me,  
88 Ca: Yeah I'm at home.  
89 Com: (Yuh-) nineteen Pincome P I N K:.  
90 Ca: C O (.) M B E.  
91 Com: Pinco:m:.  
92 (0.5)  
93 Ca: Ye:ah.  
94 Com: Is that uh nearby?  
95 (0.6)  
96 Ca: Pardon?  
97 (0.6)  
98 Com: Where is that Pincombe House.  
99 Ca: It's on Ea:st Street.  
100 Com: Ea:st Street.  
101 (0.8)  
102 Ca: I've just looked out thuh wer- window I've  
103 heard a:ll thuh scre:[ams?  
104 Com: [Yeah wher- whys yuh  
105 daughter gone down there.=  
106 Ca: =My da:ughter's still in er room ut thuh moment

107 ngw.  
108 (0.7)  
109 Ca: There's uh lot uv hysterical scre:amin goin on.  
110 (0.4)  
111 Ca: Un thuh man's not movin at all.  
112 Com: Ee's not moving at all.  
113 Ca: Ee's not mo:ving no.=  
114 Com: =>Okay did you< see anything my dear.  
115 Ca: I didn't see nothing all.=>I heard wuz< thuh  
116 screams un I see someone runnin through thuh  
117 pa:rk un I looked out thuh window un I see im  
118 laying there.  
119 Com: You sa:w someone run into uh pub?  
120 Ca: I- I sa:w two uv uh- two people runnin through  
121 thuh pa:rk.  
122 (.)  
123 Ca: An:d I sa:w I looked out thuh winduh un I saw  
124 thuh man laying [( )]  
125 Com: [What (par) park is that?  
126 Ca: Pardun?  
127 Com: What pa:rk.  
128 Ca: It's thuh pa:rk right facin me.  
129 (0.6)  
130 Com: Opposite Pincombe.  
131 Ca: Ye:ah.  
132 (0.7)  
133 Com: D'you think they could be conce:med.  
134 (1.1)  
135 Ca: Pardun?  
136 Com: D'you think they probably did it.  
137 Ca: I don't kno:w.  
138 (0.4)  
139 Ca: I see er:m I think Flabye runnin through thuh  
140 pa:rk [after um.  
141 Com: [Who?  
142 Ca: Flaby:e. I think I saw im [(run-)  
143 Com: [Rabbye?  
144 Ca: Yeah thuh ma- thuh man's name's Flabye I think  
145 I sa:w him running throu:gh thuh pa:rk a:fter  
146 thuh people.  
147 (5.4) ((typing))  
148 Com: Stay on thuh line.  
149 (1.0) ((typing))  
150 Ca: uhh God ple:ase urry up.  
151 (1.0) ((typing))  
152 Com: >Right so that< (it's) be:lieved thut uh member  
153 uv thuh public called Pink- >puh-par what was  
154 iz name< Rabbi?  
155 Ca: I think iz name's (.) er: Flabye ee: (0.6)  
156 thuh- thuh  
157 Com: [Flaby:e?  
158 Ca: Flabye ye:ah it's-  
159 Com: F L A?  
160 Ca: I'm not sure 'ow you spell iz na:me.  
161 (3.2) ((typing))  
162 Com: Was chasing them yeah?



163 (0.8)  
 164 Ca: >Pardon?<=  
 165 Com: =>Which way did they ru:n?<  
 166 (0.8)  
 167 Ca: Er: through the pa:rk ah think.  
 168 (1.1)  
 169 Com: (Males?)  
 170 (0.8)  
 171 Ca: Er:- I don't know=I didn't see them all I see  
 172 wuz two two men runnin through the  
 173 pa:rk [(I didn't )  
 174 Com: [>Alright<=what's your phone num-  
 175 ((tape cut))

#17 [MPS Emergency calls:67]

1 Com: Does your mum need an a:mbulance d'you think?  
 2 Ca: u-Ye:s.=hhh  
 3 Com: D'yo- D'you know where she's hu:rt?  
 4 (0.5)  
 5 Ca: Yeah she's in the kitchin.  
 6 (0.8)  
 7 Com: No: where- where is she hu:rt?  
 8 (1.0)  
 9 Ca: .hhh  
 10 Com: >(Alrigh) don't worry [about that.<=How old are yo:u?  
 11 Ca: [°In the stomach,°  
 12 Ca: In the s- (0.7) six.  
 13 Com: So you're six. Oka:y.  
 14 (3.2) ((caller's breathing))  
 15 Com: Don't worry okay?  
 16 (9.4) ((caller's breathing/typing))  
 17 (Ca): °Tuh!°  
 18 Com: What are they doin now.  
 19 Ca: .hh (1.1) .hhh I don't kno:w.  
 20 Com: You don't kno:w.  
 21 (0.9)  
 22 Com: Don't wor[ry].  
 23 Ca: [(Just hurry up an) get here.  
 24 Com: Ye:ah we'[l  
 25 Ca: [Un get uh ambulance.  
 26 Com: Ri:ght, (0.6) wha-wuh:- (0.8) °i°-is yuh mum hu:rt.  
 27 Ca: Yes.  
 28 Com: °Right.°=D'you know where she's hu:rt.  
 29 Ca: In the ^ki- .hh in the stomach,  
 30 Com: In the stomach.

### Third Position Repair (and intersubjectivity)

#18 [CDHQ:1:52] (from Schegloff 1992)

1 Ann: 1-> Which one::s are closed, an' which ones are open.  
 2 Zeb: 2-> Most of 'em. This, this, [this ((pointing))  
 3 Ann: 3-> [I dont mean on the shelters,  
 4 I mean on the roads.  
 5 Zeb: Oh!  
 6 (8.0)  
 7 Zeb: Closed, those're the ones you wanna know about,  
 8 Ann: Mm[hm  
 9 Zeb: [Broadway.

#19 [Doctors out-of-hours calls:1:1:13]

1 Clr: =Eh: my wife has uh: just fainted, 'hh She's (0.7) been to:: the doctor's  
 2 a:nd eh: our doctor at ((omitted)) gave er: 'hh some painkillers because 'e said she had  
 3 a:um: a virus in the howel,  
 4 (0.2)  
 5 Doc: R:ight,  
 6 Clr: Eh: she's been in be:d, and she had a sort've fainting spell  
 7 (Doc): 'hhhh  
 8 Doc: [((gulp))  
 9 Clr: She wen' u- into a cold sweat. an:d blacked  
 10 ou[t for a(b-) period.]  
 11 Doc: ['h h h h h h ]  
 12 Doc: 1-> hhHow long was that,  
 13 Clr: 2-> E:hm, tha'was about' half an hour ago,  
 14 Doc: 3-> p! pt hHow long was she actually blacked out [for, though.  
 15 Clr: [E:hm I'm not  
 16 quite sure 'cause (.) I went in a bit later and she told me,  
 17 t'hh a:nd she: asked me to:: see 'er tuh the toilet,

#20 [ENT Oncology]

1 Dr: An' then he'll get you back after tha:t, (0.3) to start your treatm'nt  
 2 (0.9)  
 3 Pt: 1-> Uh yeah 'n how long d'z trea'm'n last Doctor,  
 4 Dr: 2-> Between four an' six weeks,  
 5 (.)  
 6 Pt: 3-> No I mean ih-ih-ih in-in-in (.) ih-in timewi:se ü- per da:y.=  
 7 Dr: =OH:. (.) Ten minutes,  
 8 Pt: 'Zat all?  
 9 Dr: ihYeah.  
 10 (0.5)  
 11 Dr: Very quick  
 12 (0.6)  
 13 Pt: W'l go-why can't they give you fu:ll treatment in one day then?

**#21 - WPS 31 (From Guimarães 2007) (From a study of complaints about abuse by women, to Brazilian police centres for the protection of women)**

- 03 Pin: <sup>t1</sup>> Ó o que foi que acontece:u¿  
*See/Listen what was that happened*  
 So okay what happene:d¿
- 04 Wom: <sup>t2</sup>> Oia minha fia, já tem sete anu que  
*Look my daughter, already has seven year that*  
 Look young lady, it's been seven years
- 05 <sup>t2</sup>> o meu menino mora cum essa mulé:,  
*the my son lives with this woman*  
 that my son has been living with this wo:man,
- 06 Pin: <sup>t3</sup>> Não. O que foi que aconteceu agora.  
*No. What was that happened now*  
 No. What happened just now.
- 07 [ (°Co:nta/Pro:nto°) ]  
 [ (Tell / Ready) ]  
 [ (°Te:ll/Re:ady°) ]
- 08 Wom: [ Ago]ra? Agora pouco memo dumi:ngo  
 [ No]w? Now little really Sunday  
 [ No]w? Now just recently on Su:nday
- 09 ela chegou na minha casa, .hh deu duas  
*she arrived in the my house gave two*  
 she got to my house, .hh gave two
- 10 pancada na porta quando eu pensei que=ela  
*blows on the door when I thought that she*  
 punches on the door when I thought=she

**#22 - WPS 20 (7:20) (From Guimarães 2007)**

- 03 (19 sec)
- 04 Pol: <sup>t1</sup>> Foi quando que aconteceu i:sso.  
*Was when that happened this/it*  
 When did it ha:ppen.
- 05 (0.2)
- 06 Wom: <sup>t2</sup>> Bom, isso aconteceu e::m: nós tamos em  
*Well, this/it happened in we are in*  
 Well, it happened i:n: we are in
- 07 <sup>t2</sup>> dois mil e três=de dois mil e um pra  
*two thousand and three of two thousand and one to*  
 two thousand and three=from two thousand and one to
- 08 <sup>t2</sup>> dois mil e dois¿=>Mais ou menos.<=Tá  
*two thousand and two¿ More or less. Is*  
 two thousand and two¿=>More or less.<=There's
- 09 <sup>t2</sup>> com um ano e cinco meses que eu tou  
*with a year and five months that I am*  
 a year and five months since I've got
- 10 <sup>t2</sup>> com a ba:nca¿  
*with the stall*

- the sta:ll;
- 11 Po1: <sup>t3</sup> Não. Quero saber da amea:ça que ele  
*No. Want to know of+ the threat that he*  
 No. I want to know about the thre:at that he
- 12 <sup>t3</sup> [(fez)]  
*did/made*  
 [(made)]
- 13 Wom: [Si:m.] De hoje- foi hoje me:smo:ç=  
*Yes. Of today was today same/really;*  
 [Ri:ght.] Today- it was on this very da:y:ç=

### #23 - WPS 36 (From Guimarães 2007)

- 01 Po4: <sup>t1</sup> [Si:m. Quando fo:i E]:dvalda que:,  
*Yes When was name that*  
 [Ye:h. When wa:s E]:dvalda tha:t,
- 02 <sup>t1</sup> as=a: agressão de:le >essa Ú[ltim]a?<  
*the(pl) the(s) aggression of his this last one*  
 the=his abu:se >this la[st on]e?<
- 03 *door closing noise -->* [door]
- 04 (1.2)
- 05 Wom: <sup>t2</sup> Em média te:m, [(0.2)] cinco anu  
*In average has five year*  
 On the average there's bee:n, [(0.2)] five years
- 06 *door noise -->* [ ]
- 07 Wom: <sup>t2</sup> assi:m.=  
*like*  
 li:ke.=
- 08 Po4: <sup>t3</sup> =NÃO!=AGO:RA.=Ele agrediu você quando?=  
*No! Now. He abused you when*  
 =No!=No:w.=When did he abuse you?=  
 =Ontem, antes de o:nte:m,  
*yesterday before of yesterday*  
 =Yesterday, the day before ye:ste:rday,
- 10 Wom: Ontem ele me agrediu assim não f:-  
*Yesterday he me abused like not ph*  
 Yesterday he abused me like not ph:-
- 11 fisicamente né? Com pala:vra[s.]  
*physically no With words*  
 physically right? With word[s.]

Finally, on the 'politics' of action: What action is being 'performed' in these examples?

To remind you: here's the 'offer' Blair didn't quite make in example 1. So, an offer, a suggestion, 'an idea'?

30 Blair: I don't know what you guys have talked about, but as I say I am  
 31 perfectly happy to try and see what the lie of the land is, but you  
 32 need that done quickly because otherwise it will spiral.  
 33 Bush: I think Condi is going to go pretty soon.  
 34 Blair: But that's, that's, that's all that matters. But if you... you see it will  
 35 take some time to get that together.  
 36 Bush: Yeah, yeah.  
 37 Blair: But at least it gives people...  
 38 Bush: It's a process, I agree. I told her your offer to...  
 39 Blair: Well...it's only if I mean...you know. If she's got a... or if she  
 40 needs the ground prepared as it were...Because obviously if she  
 41 goes out, she's got to succeed, if it were, whereas I can go out and  
 42 just talk.  
 43 Bush: You see, the irony is what they need to do is to get Syria to get  
 44 Hizbollah to stop doing this shit and it's over.

#24 [NB:VII:2]

1 Mar: I wz jus tickled thetche- nYihkno:w w'n you came u:p en uh-.hhh=  
 2 Mar: =W'I haftuh do tha[t more] o[:ften.  
 3 Edn: [hhhhh] [Wul why don't we: uh-m:=  
 4 Edn: =Why don't I take you'n Mo:m up there tuh: Coco's.someday fer  
 5 lu:nch.We'll go, bkuzz up there tu[h,  
 6 Mar: [k Goo:d.  
 7 Edn: Ha:h?  
 8 Mar: That's a good deal. .hh-.hh=  
 9 Edn: =Eh I'll take you bo:th [up  
 10 Mar: [No::: we'll all go Dutch.=  
 11 Mar: =B't [let's do that.]  
 12 Edn: [N o : we wo:n]t.  
 13 (.)  
 14 Edn: Beguz uh:: u-may u-dz yer mom like t'shop ov'r 'n: look arou:n' 'n th'stores

#25 [NB:1:6:8]

1 Lot: °Oh I love tuh gee I ride mine all [th' tj:me.°  
 2 Emm: [°Ye:ah.°  
 3 Lot: I love it.  
 4 Emm: .hhh WELL honey? ( ) Ah:l (.) pob'ly SEE yih one  
 5 a' these da:y[s,  
 6 Lot: [Qh: GQ:d yeah [(ah wish)]=  
 7 Emm: [ehh huh ]=  
 8 Lot: =But I c- I jis [couldn' git do:w[n ( )  
 9 Emm: [Qh-u [Qh I know=  
 10 Emm: =I'm not as[kin yih tih] c'm dow-]  
 11 Lot: [Jee : z i z ] I mean ] I jis  
 12 (0.2)  
 13 Lot: I didn' have five minutes yesterday.

#26 [Medeiros:2] (High School Truancy Office: The truancy officer calls the home of children suspected of being truant)

1 Off: Yea:h. Well, u::h the- obviously she's not going to  
2 her cla:sse:s an' we need tuh find out where she is:  
3 going would you: talk t'her about it tonight'n .hhh  
4 send her into the attendance office tomorrow morning so  
5 that we c'n straighten these out.  
6 Mom: Mmmkay[: I'll see what she says about it.  
7 Off: [Uh:: we have a new-  
8 Off: .hhh Okay:. We have a new uh:: detention system now  
9 (.)  
10 Off: that if they don' clear the:se they'll become truants.  
11 (.)  
12 Off: .hh A:nd she will need to come in en clear them up.  
13 (.)  
14 Mom: Nnkay

#27 [Field:U88:1:4:3] (Teenagers: Dana and Gordon are girl/boyfriends: Gordon called Dana late last night, a little 'the worse for wear', and Dana's mother answered the phone. He's called back the next day, and Dana had a miserable evening with her friends, one of whom made her so::: cross))

1 Dan: And I was so a[ngry  
2 Gor: [kuhhhh .hh-[h  
3 Dan: [a:n' (0.3) ( )  
4 ( [ ) an' oh::: Ghhhod.[C'z-  
5 Gor: [hhhhhhhhhh [But was: was the ↓film good. ↓  
6 (0.3)  
7 Dan: Yes it wa[s b't  
8 Gor: [Did you en↓joy it. ↓  
9 (0.6)  
10 Dan: Yes but it's: (.) oo I can't hardly remember the film becuz I got so  
11 (bucked) up 'n ↓mm:mm.  
12 Gor: ehhhhh ↓↓Oh:-:-oo,hh  
13 Dan: It's not you:r fault, but it's just becuz (0.3)  
14 Christie's ((w)) °so damn thick.

#28 [Rahman:1:2:JT]

1 DSK: Hello Goodzwin,  
2 JEN: Ehm good mohrning. eh it's Missiz Rah:man heuh, I ca:lled  
3 in on Thuhrsday: tih see: if uh I c'd make en appointment  
4 t'see Mistuh (Fawcett),  
5 (1.2)  
6 JEN: An', I haven't heard anything 'n I wz wondring if: uh:m  
7 (I c'd possibly see im)  
8 (Mister Fawcett c'd see me) one day next week.  
9 (0.8)  
10 DSK: Uh:m ah'll j's check iz diary c'n you hold a minute (eh  
11 [please).  
12 JEN: [Yes,  
13 DSK: ( ),  
14 (7.0)  
15 DSK: Hello:,  
16 JEN: Hello?  
17 DSK: Uh what name was yih again[please  
18 JEN: [Missiz Rah:man. R-a-h m-a-n.  
19 DSK: R-a-h m-a-n. .h Right. Ken you just hold on one moment.  
20 JEN: eYes.  
21 DSK: Thank you,

22 (15.0)  
 23 THO: Hello::,  
 24 JEN: Hello?  
 25 THO: I tried tuh ring you on: Thuhrsdih evening. b't I couldn'  
 26 get'ny reply::.  
 27 JEN: Oh dea:h. eh h hnh[h  
 28 THO: [T's alright] [Now?,  
 29 JEN: [.hhh  
 30 (.)  
 31 THO: [uh::  
 32 JEN: [eh Yes.  
 33 THO: when diyou wan'tuh come in Munda:y?,

### Transcription symbols

Co:/Pt:	speaker labels (Co: = counsellor; Pt: = patient)
=	links talk produced in close temporal proximity
• •	encloses talk which is produced quietly
<u>underline</u>	sometimes used to mark words or syllables which are given special emphasis of some kind
s:::	sustention of sound; the more colons, the longer the sound
.hhh	inbreath, each 'h' indicating one tenth of a second
[ ]	encloses talk produced in overlap i.e. when more than one speaker is speaking
(word)	parentheses indicate transcriber doubt
(this/that)	alternative hearings
((description))	description of what can be heard, rather than transcription e.g. ((shuffling papers))
cu-	'cut-off'
(0.2)	silence in seconds
(.)	silence of less than one tenth of a second
^	sometimes used to mark high pitch
(h)	indicates laughter while speaking

# Using CA as a tool for data analysis: Common problems and pitfalls

A workshop for the Faculty of Education, Hong Kong University

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#1 [SBL:3:2:2]

1 Claire: ..so I s'd well we'll make it We:dnesdee so when  
2 I: come home'n found I hadda go t' Lo:dge well I  
3 called everbu:ddy en .hhhh you hadjer cla:ss o:n  
4 Tue:sdee:s an: We:dnesdees'n Fri:da:[y:..  
5 Sara: [M m[h m ,  
6 Claire: [<aa  
7 Thurs:day.  
8 Sara: Mm hm,

#2 [SBL:1:1:12:11]

1 H: But he's going to have an exhibition  
2 (.)  
3 H: And its either going to be at ( ) or (Plaza)  
4 they haven't quite decided where its going to be:=eh- o:r  
5 perhaps in the ( ) in the lobby  
6 B: Uhu[h  
7 H: [.hhhh=hh An' he's gonna make his o:wn paintings  
8 (.)  
9 H: .hh=  
10 B: =Mmh[m  
11 H: [A:nd- or I mean his own fra:mes=  
12 B: =Yeah=  
13 H: =But gee he has some be:autiful thi:ngs

#3 [Holt October 88:1:8]

1 Les: a-a-a- Well she's (.) ↑out'v↑ hospit'l  
2 ↓no[;w, a]nd uh- you know it is: it is I thin:k ↓cancer=  
3 Joy: [Is she]  
4 Joy: =[.tch ↓e:-:-o:-:-[:  
5 Les: =[.h h h h h h h h[But uhm: I: think they seem to think  
6 it's alri:ght you know, th[at it's: bee:n: dealt with.=  
7 Joy: [°Mm°  
8 Joy: =[Oh: (of co[urse that )  
9 Les: =[.h h h h [and she's on tab↓lets. not uhm: radio  
10 treatment.  
11 Les: .hh[hhh  
12 Joy: [Oh I do [hope  
13 Les: [or radium: treatment.hhhh[h .hhhhhh1  
14 Joy: [I wz talking to:  
15 uhm: .tch .hh Helen Southerby



#4 [Heritage:1:5:3-4]

1 Dorothy: But (0.4) uh::m:: (0.9) uh-:: (.) if:: .h.h uhw he  
2 won't do whatchu want him tuh do: t- .h twice a  
3 week with you'n twice a wee:k with me.  
4 Edgerton: We:ll we[: we-  
5 Dorothy: [Uh twice a:, a month.  
6 Edgerton: Well we've got to we've gotta talk to him about  
7 it. I haven' mention'it to him yet.

#5 [Heritage:01:3:14] ((Jeremy is trying to buy a house))

1 Jane: Y'see YOU don't haftuh pay the commis[sion it's=  
2 Jeremy: [O h : n o :.  
3 Jane: =the A:GENT that hastuh pay th' c'mission.  
4 Jeremy: Oh: ye:s.  
5 (0.2)  
6 Jeremy: Yeh I kno:w. [But  
7 Jane: [e-It's the selluh rather?  
8 (1.0)  
9 Jeremy: Yes en:d what (0.2) what we r:eckoned wih-was thet  
10 (.) by:(d) (.) doing it (0.5) privitely....