

Abstract

Ph.D. dissertation in general linguistics at Göteborgs university, Sweden, 2005. Title: *Att fortsätta och att återgå. Studier i koherensskapande praktiker i vardagliga flerpersonssamtal*. English title: *To continue and to resume. A study of coherence-creating practices in everyday multiparty conversations*. Author: Cajsa Ortesjö. Language: Swedish, with an English summary. Department: The Department of linguistics, Göteborg University, Box 200, SE-405 30 Göteborg

The thesis has two parts: a collection of four articles and an introduction, including a summary of the articles. The introduction is a comprehensive background to the articles, their theory and method.

The aim of this thesis is to contribute to the understanding of how communicative projects in everyday multiparty conversations can be continued and resumed after interruptions. This includes an analysis of various practices of coherence-creating by participants in conversation. The theory and method is that of interactional linguistics, which is inspired by conversation analysis. The data is drawn from a corpus of everyday conversation, principally of audio recordings of mealtime conversations in a six-person family. Some of the studies also draw on material from the Gothenburg Spoken Language Corpus.

The first of the four articles, is a single case study focusing on how a discontinuous turn is formed as one coherent unit with the help of syntax and prosody.

In the second article it is argued that the collocation *men iallafall* ('but anyway') is a resumption marker used after digressions from and side sequences in the main project. The collocation *jo iallafall* ('well anyway') is used to claim the turn back after some kind of interruption in a project.

The third article discusses *så* ('so' or 'then') as a discourse marker in initial position in an utterance. As an adverb it signals continuation of a discourse unit, i.e. a narrative. As a conjunction it marks that the following utterance is commenting, summing up or reformulating the previous discourse. *Så* is also a one word utterance for marking an action as completed.

The last article presents two different communicative projects and how the participants act to continue and resume the projects after a range of different interruptions. It is argued that the linguistic resources used reflect the seriousness of the interruption, from simple continuations after parentheses and endogenous side sequences, over resumption markers after more turn-threatening interruptions to explicit forms for re-introductions and turn demanding.

KEY WORDS: Continuation, resumption, discourse markers, interruptions, multiparty conversation, interactional linguistics, conversation analysis, communicative projects, *men iallafall*, *jo iallafall*, *så*, family interaction, coherence