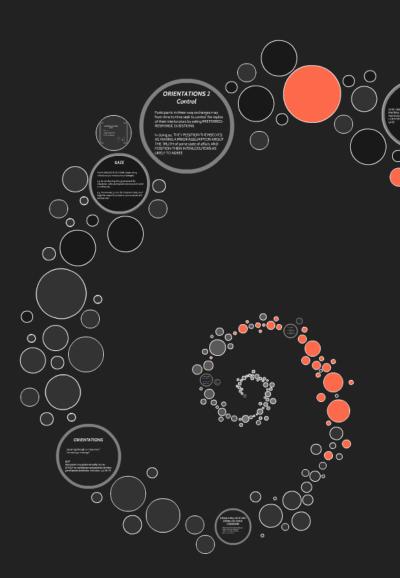


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# Role, positioning and discourse in face-to-face interaction

INTERACTIONAL AND DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

FOCUS: participants' moves in terms of their impact on the event and its internal evolution

# ROLE vs STATUS

"Interpreters don't have a problem with ethics, they have a problem with the *role*"

**Roy 1990** 

ROLE = fixed stance, adopted in advance and sustained through an encounter VS

PARTICIPATION STATUS/FOOTING = temporary and evolving nature

# PARTICIPATION STATUS

not pre-determined stance deemed to be appropriate for fulfilling a particular socioprofessional task

### **BUT RATHER**

"the alignment we take up to ourselves and others present as expressed in *the way we manage the production or reception of an utterance*" (Goffman 1981)

OWNERSHIP OF MEANING

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## **POSITIONING**

DYNAMIC FEATURE OF TALK:
by their conversational moves,
participants position themeselves and
others, and are, in turn,
positioned by others' moves

CONSTANT NEGOTIATION BETWEEN PARTICIPANTS

## **SPEAKERS**

align themselves with the discourse that one specific term is associated with

## **HEARERS**

make the association

NB: INTENDED MEANING vs HEARABLE MEANING



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# CROSS-LINGUISTIC AND CROSS-CULTURAL DISCOURSE

PROJECTING THE RIGHT PERSONA AND ADOPTING THE RIGHT LINGUISTIC COMPORTMENT (mostly host country)

## **ORIENTATIONS**

"speaking through an interpreter"
"conveying a message"

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Interpreter's reception actually has an
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# ORIENTATIONS 2 Control

Participants in three-way exchanges may from time to time seek to control the replies of their interlocutors by asking PREFERRED-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

In doing so, THEY POSITION THEMSELVES AS MAKING A PRIOR ASSUMPTION ABOUT THE TRUTH of some state of affairs AND POSITION THEIR INTERLOCUTORS AS LIKELY TO AGREE

# CONTEXTUALIZATION CUES

Gumperz 1982

constellations of linguistic feature which signal the ways in which speakers intend and hearers accept the meaning of their utterances

- code switching
- style shifting
- prosodic cues
- lexical and syntactic choices
- · deviation from standard formulae



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### DISPLAY VS REPLAY

Wadensio 199

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replay the expressive features, temporary positioning onself as ADOPTING THE PERSONA of the speaker being translated

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LIKE

### **GAZE**

PARALINGUISTIC FEATURE determining inclusionary or exclusionary strategies

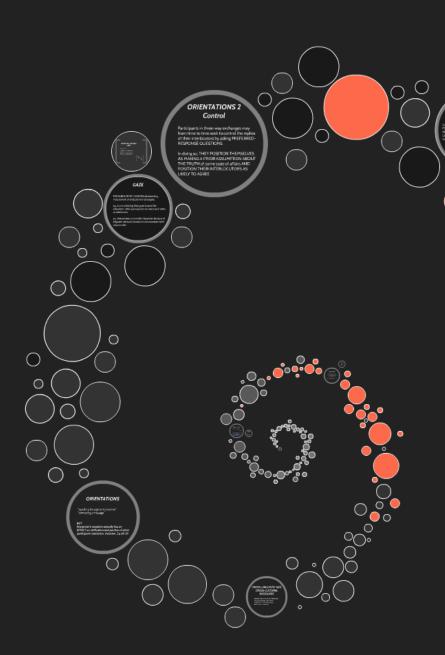
e.g. by not directing their gaze toward the interpreter, other participants can treat each other as addressees

e.g. Interviewees turn to the interpreter because of linguistic insecurity (unable to communicate with anyone else)



# INTERACTIVE NATURE OF POSITIONING

NOT MERELY THE CHOICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL SPEAKER
(as footing is)
BUT RATHER SOMETHING THAT IS
EITHER ACCEPTED AND ADOPTED BY OTHER
PARTICIPANTS OR REJECTED AND REPLACED



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