



DIALOGUE INTERPRETING AND SHARED KNOWLEDGE

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GROUP 3

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ATTAINING SHARED KNOWLEDGE IN AND BY INTERPRETER-MEDIATED INTERACTION

- Interpreter: warrant for the avoidance of misunderstanding?
- Interpreting investigated as interaction - communication seen as a collective activity
 - Focus shifts from "what is true knowledge?" to "how is something established as shared, or common knowledge?"

ATTAINING SHARED KNOWLEDGE IN AND BY INTERPRETER-MEDIATED INTERACTION

- Conversation as a chain of possibilities
 - Miscommunications may stand out as factors promoting dialogical communication
 - Conventionalized means to check the existence of intersubjectivity between co-actors
- Mediating function
 - Two- and three-party constellation (Simmel 1964, Goffman 1982)
 - Ordinary VS institutional conversation
 - One-language VS two-language conversation

GENESIS AND DEVELOPMENT OF MISCOMMUNICATION

○ Local factors:

- Discourse contributions in immediately preceding turns (Sacks, Schegloff & Jefferson 1974)
- Matters outside of the verbal flow itself (Bergmann 1990)

○ Global factors:

- Cultural and social background knowledge, deeply embedded in language use, tied to interlocutors' expectations

THE CASE

○ Context:

- Interpreter-mediated interview at immigration division of a local Swedish police station

○ Actors:

- Pia: young female police-interrogator
- Alex: young man applying for prolongation of his residence permit in Sweden
- Iza: dialogue interpreter

Extract (1) (G 26:12⁴)

- Alex:123⁵. a eto- izvinjajus'. eto tjto, v mnozjestvennom? tjisle tam napisanno. ((light laughter))
but this - excuse me. what is this. in the plural? written there. ((light laughter))
- Iza:124. tjto zdes' napisanno. de har inte rest runt i regionen i sommar. e::: oni ne razre- ne razezjalis- po- e::: v oblasti letom.
what is written here. they did not travel around in the area this summer. e::: they did not tra- travel around in- e::: in the surroundings during summer.
- Alex:125. ja ponimaju no ona zadala voprosy mne ili nam? ja...
I understand but she put the questions to me or us? I...
- Iza:126. e::: har du ställt frågan beträffande mig eller beträffande oss?
e::: did you put the question concerning me or concerning us?

ANALYSIS OF THE ENCOUNTER

Extract (3) (G 26:7)

Pia: 1. har ni gjort nånting? speciellt i sommar?
have you done something? special this summer?
(1s)
Pia: rest eller?
travelled or?
-> Iza: 2. vy ne zanimalis' tjem-to::: (.) interesnym? letom.
you did'nt do something::: (.) interesting? this summer.
Alex: 3. net. nitjem.
no. nothing.
Iza: 4. nej. ingenting.

no nothing.
Pia: 5. ni har- ni har int rest runt här i området?
you did- did you not travel around here in the region?
Iza: 6. putesjestvovali vokrug... (.) po rajonu?
travelled around... (.) in the region?
-> Alex: 7. net. ja byl tol'ko vgorode.
no. I was/have been only in town.
-> Iza: 8. nej. jag har varit bara i sta'n.
no. I have been only in town.

THE DIFFICULTY FOR THE INTERPRETER TO CLEAR UP A MISUNDERSTANDING

Extract (4) (G26:7)

Pia: 9.m. (2s) ((types for 28 s)) (2s) har du några släktingar eller vänner som bor i sta'n som du kände innan du flyttade hit?
m. (2s) ((types for 28 s.)) (2s) do you have any relatives or friends who live in the town whom you knew before you moved here?

Iza: 10. u vas imejutsja ili rodnye ili druž'ja s kotorymi vy byli znakomy do togo, kogda vy pereselilis' sjuda?
do you have either relatives or friends with whom you were acquainted before, when you moved here?

ON THE LOCAL LEVEL OF DISCOURSE

- What led listeners and speakers onto different tracks could from another perspective be seen as sources *promoting* their communication:
 - Interpreter must conceive “fragments of interaction” as “decontextualized wholes”
 - The activity of writing is bound to distract the writer’s concentration from the discourse
 - The vagueness normally used in interviews is here counteracted

ON THE GLOBAL LEVEL OF DISCOURSE

- The miscommunication event actualised cultural differences in addressing conventions
- The dialogue interpreter has a certain pre-given responsibility for the primary participant's achievement of shared knowledge
- The interpreter is a participant herself, not a distant analyst