

Title

Touches in Mandarin-speaking interaction: Managing participation and sequence organization.

Abstract

Touch is one of the sociocultural corporeal fields of action, which is a constituent of the multimodal resources deeply rooted in social interaction. It has been studied as a device to establish intimacy, deliver compassionate responses, calibrate actions, and effects on how the target participant responds. Touches in Chinese-speaking interaction were claimed to request the recipient to re-orient toward the interrupted trajectory in story-telling context as well as maintain the co-participant's attention and engagement in joking context.

In this seminar, I will examine the touches in Mandarin-speaking multiparty daily interaction, using conversation-analytical method. The touches will be systemically demonstrated as a modality in the multimodal complex, which functions in conducting participation and sequence organization. The findings show that the non-focal participant uses touches to solicit mutual gaze, establish and re-establish participation frameworks, and manage action trajectories.

Bio-note

Dr Jessie Chen's research is on Mandarin Conversation Analysis. She is interested in the multimodal resources, such as gesture, gaze, touch, and facial expression as well as the lexico-syntactical units, such as response tokens and particles. Dr Chen employs empirical, collection-based analytical studies of conversation and interactions in both daily and institutional contexts.