Managing co-participation: Gaze and gesture in word search in Mandarin-speaking daily interaction.

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This study explores word search processes in Mandarin-speaking triadic interaction in daily context. It employs qualitative, collection-based conversation analytic methods. 19 people were recruited to participate. They enacted daily interaction in a group of three. 358 minutes of recordings were subjected to conversation-analytic transcription and analysis, focusing on the verbal and non-verbal resources in word search. It is argued that the speaker can employ a solitary word search, a joint word search, as well as transition from one type of process to the other when the candidate solution is not achieved by the former process. It also shows that the speaker can employ an interpersonal gesture in a joint word search, explicitly attributing the interactive turn space to a recipient for a conditionally relevant co-participation next.

Bio-note:

Ms Jessie Chen is a PhD candidate in the Department of Linguistics, Macquarie University. Her research is on Mandarin Conversation Analysis, response tokens, particles, and sales interaction. Ms Chen employs empirical, collection-based analytical studies of conversation and interactions in both daily and institutional contexts.