

# **Using conversation analysis (CA) to analyse classroom discourse in CLIL lessons**

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# Key Learning Points



Recognise and discuss key theoretical and methodological assumptions of CA as an approach to the analysis of classroom discourse

Identify and critically evaluate different CA perspectives on learning (developmental and purist) and their implications for CLIL

Consider and critically evaluate CA as an approach for addressing current research issues in CLIL: namely multilingual and multimodal approaches

Use CA concepts and tools to analyse extracts from CLIL lessons and identify your own research questions and projects in which CA could be used

# Session Outline

- What is CA? Key conceptual and methodological tools;
- CA and (language) learning: CA-for-SLA and developmental and purist approaches;
- Relating and applying CA to current research issues in CLIL: use of multimodal and multilingual resources;
- Identifying research topics and designing your own CA projects on interaction in CLIL lessons.



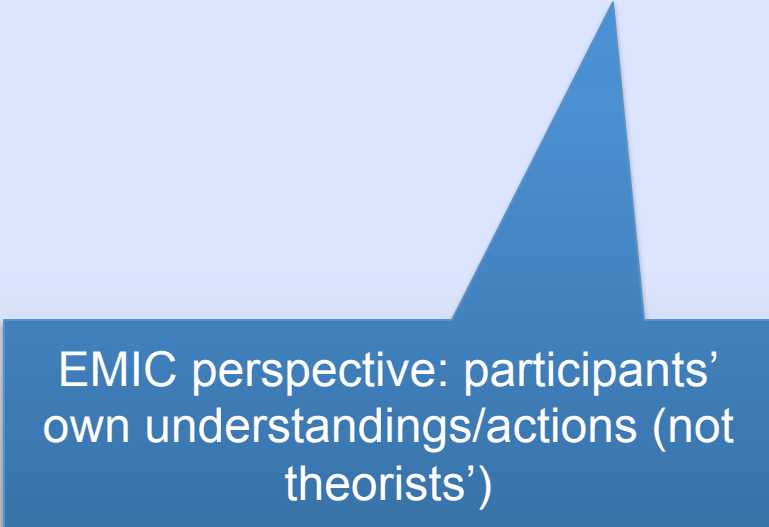
Practice in  
analysing data  
throughout!

# **Section 1: Analytic and methodological tools of conversation analysis**

# What is Conversation Analysis?

CA is the study of recorded, naturally occurring talk-in-interaction. (It aims) to discover how participants understand and respond to one another in their turns at talk, with a central focus on how sequences of action are generated.

(Hutchby and Wooffitt 2008: 12)



EMIC perspective: participants' own understandings/actions (not theorists')



DETAILED TRANSCRIPTION  
Nothing *a priori* left out as irrelevant

# Key constructs in conversation analysis



Turn-taking

Adjacency pairs

Preference

Repair

# Turn-taking

Current speaker selects next speaker  
or if this mechanism does not operate, then ...



Next speaker self-selects  
*or if this mechanism does not operate, then ...*



Current speaker may (but does not have to) continue

# Turn constructional units (TCUs)

“a word, a phrase, a clause or a sentence that completes a communicative act”

Wong & Waring 2010: 16



- (1) [CA ASI 2004 data—modified]
- |    |          |   |  |                |
|----|----------|---|--|----------------|
| 01 |          |   | ((ring))                                   |                |
| 02 |          |   | (5.0)                                      |                |
| 03 | Shelley: | → | <b>district attorney's office.</b>         | phrasal TCU    |
| 04 | Debbie:  | → | <b><u>Shelley</u>,</b>                     | lexical TCU    |
| 05 | Shelley: |   | Debbie,=                                   |                |
| 06 | Debbie:  | → | ↑ <b>what <u>is</u> the <u>dea</u>::l.</b> | sentential TCU |
| 07 | Shelley: |   | what do you ↑mean.                         |                |





# Answers to practice task

01 Lena: The school is small.

Sentential

02 Heidi: [The size] of the school.

Phrasal

03 Lena: [°yeah°]

Lexical

but that I could put into “community” maybe”.

05 Heidi: yeah.

Clausal

Lexical

# Transition Relevance Places (TRPs)

01 Ava: I wanted to know if you got a uh:m  
02 wutchimicawllit [what do you call it] a:: parking  
03 place °this morning.°

Projectability

Grammar

Intonation

Pragmatics

Data from Schegloff 2007: 270  
(modified). Presented and analyzed  
in Wong & Waring 2010: 18-19.

# Key constructs in conversation analysis

Turn-taking

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# Adjacency pairs

Just as TCUs are the basic building blocks of turns, **adjacency pairs** are basic building blocks of sequences of turns.

- two turns
- by different speakers
- placed next to each other
- ordered
- different pair types

Greeting-Greeting

A: Hi

B: Hi

First pair part  
FPP

Second pair part  
SPP

Question-answer

A: Have you had lunch?

B: Yes.

Offer-acceptance

A: Would you like a coffee?

B: Yes please.

# Preference organisation

	Preferred	Dispreferred
OFFER	Accept	Reject
REQUEST	Accede	Refuse
INVITATION	Accept	Decline
OPINION	Agree	Disagree

Preference in CA is  
NOT a psychological  
concept.

Not all APs are  
subject to preference  
organisation.

# Preferred and dispreferred responses

Amy: w' d yuh like tuh come over t' morrow night  
Jane: yea:h.= that' d be nice.

Harry: I don' have much tuh do on We:nsday.  
(.)

w' d yuh like tuh get together then.  
(0.3)

Joy: huh we: :llhh I don' really know if yuh see  
i' s a bit hectic fuh me We:nsday yih know

Harry: oh wokay

# Key constructs in conversation analysis

Turn-taking

Adjacency pairs

Preference

Repair



# Repair: Key concepts and terms

**Repair practices** are ways of addressing problems in speaking, hearing or understanding of talk.

**Repair initiation** refers to the practice of signaling or targeting a trouble source.

**Trouble-source** is a word, phrase, or utterance treated as problematic by the participants.

**Repair outcome** refers to the solution to the trouble-source or abandonment of the problem.

# Organisation of repair

Self repair

S2: (We haven't tried) (.) the oxygen (.) this is plombum(.) eh (.) £lead£ iodine, where is potassium?

S: I think the wealth is the most important because if you don't have -  
T: Wealth or health?  
S: Health

Self-initiated

Other-initiated

S1: how do you say (.) *chispas*  
SS: sp[arks  
SS: [SPARKS  
S1: (0.2) ((slight nod)) (blow) sparks (between) stones

S2: of races of dogs <of dogs races>  
T: different uh breeds you say (.) *razas* breeds (0.8) of of dogs (.)

Other repair

# Transcription symbols

# Transcription symbols

Sharp rise in pitch  
(or fall if arrow  
downwards)

01 T: the ↑first (.) sentence (0.4) ((looks at the paper))

02 who says the first sentence?

Micro-pause  
(one-tenth of a  
second or less)

Pause in tenths  
of seconds

+ moves gaze from the papers to students

the old woman

(.1)

05 T: o↑ kay but er: could you please make a whole sentence

06 for ex↓ample er:: ((looks at the paper))

Transcriber's notes  
in double brackets

Stretching of  
sound (colons)

the old woman says, 'hello: can you hear ↑ me:'

+ looks at L

the old woman says £hello can you hear me hh £.

Non-verbal  
actions

09 Ss: ((students laugh)) ((T looks at the paper))

h's indicate  
breathiness or  
laughter

10 T: £good£ (0.6) er:: the second one?

+ looks at L + looks at the p

Smiley voice  
(pound sign)

Question marks  
indicate upward,  
question-like intonation

# Activity – practice task

To put everything together, look again at the classroom transcript we saw earlier (it's on the next slide). Find at least one example of each of the following:



- (1) Adjacency pair (first and second parts)
- (2) Turn-constructive unit (TCU)
- (3) Transition-relevance place (TRP)
- (4) Preference organisation
- (5) Repair (which type?)

# Task: analysing a transcript

- 01 T: the ↑ first (.) sentence (0.4) ((looks at the paper))
- 02 who says the first sentence?  
+ moves gaze from the papers to students
- 03 L: the old woman
- 04 (1.1)
- 05 T: o ↑ kay but er: could you please make a whole sentence?
- 06 for ex ↓ ample er:: ((looks at the paper))
- 07 the old woman says, 'hello: can you hear ↑ me:'  
+ looks at L
- 08 L: the old woman says £hello can you hear me hh £.
- 09 Ss: ((students laugh)) ((T looks at the paper))
- 10 T: £good£ (0.6) er:: the second one?  
+ looks at L + looks at the paper

# Feedback on transcript analysis task

01 T: the ↑first (.) sentence (0.4) ((looks at the paper))

02 who says the first sentence?

+ moves gaze from the papers to students

the old woman

(1.1)

05 T: o↑kay but er: could you please make a whole sentence?

06 for ex↓ample er:: ((looks at the paper))

07 the old woman says, 'hello: can you hear ↑me:'

+ looks at L

08 the old woman says £hello can you hear me hh £.

((students laugh)) ((T looks at the paper))

£good£ (0.6) er:: the second one?

+ looks at L + looks at the paper

Question-answer adjacency pair (lines 1-3)

Turn-constructural unit (TCU)

Possible transition relevance place (TRP)

Dispreferred response

Repair (other-initiated other-repair)

# **CA and (language) learning**



# Respecifying 'learning'

(...) the classical view of language learning as an individual cognitive construct is ethnomethodologically respecified as a form of situated social action that observably emerges in the intersubjective space among participants.

Markee & Kunitz 2015: 429

# Two CA perspectives on learning

**Developmental:** accepts that CA on its own cannot demonstrate learning. Combines CA with other learning theories (sociocultural, situated learning theory, emergentism etc.)

**Purist:** argues that adopting other theories from outside CA compromises its emic, data-driven analytical approach. CA can show how learning behaviours lead to incorporation of new language into participants' repertoires without using other theories.

1 L9: can we call jane maybe,  
2 ((unintelligible))  
3 (0.3)  
4 L11: myeah,  
5 L9: nt jane?  
6 T: uh huh?  
7 L9: your input plea[h [huh] huh ]  
8 T: [huh]  
9 L11: [h huh [huh] huh.] huh  
10 L9: \*hhhhh there is this e<sup>o</sup>:::h<sup>o</sup>  
11 (0.6) some sort of an idiom  
12 you pretend to pay us and we  
13 pretend to work ((L9 is reading  
14 from his text))  
15 T: ok.  
16 what do you think that could be:  
17 do you have any idea  
18 ((T looks at L11 as  
19 she says 'you'))  
20 L11: do you- do you know what the word  
21 pretend, (.) means,  
22 (1.0)  
23 T: do i know what the word pretend means  
24 ((T draws herself up to her full height  
25 and points to herself as she says i))  
26 L11: yeah- i- i- /dawt/  
27 i don't know that see  
28 T: oh ok owho-o odo-o does anybody know  
29 what the word pretend means.  
30 ((T is speaking to the rest  
31 of the class))

1 L9: can we call jane maybe,  
2 ((unintelligible))  
3 (0.3)  
4 L11: myeah,  
5 L9: nt jane?  
6 T: uh huh?  
7 L9: your input plea[h [huh] huh ]  
8 T: [huh]  
9 L11: [h huh [huh] huh.] huh  
10 L9: \*hhhhh there is this e°:::h°  
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30 ((T is speaking to the rest  
31 of the class))

# Key points of analysis

Members' methods for making sense of what they are doing when they talk are both *context sensitive* and *context renewing*.

Turn-by-turn proof procedure both for members and analysts.

This allows researchers to describe how (language) learning processes are publicly displayed and accomplished in situ as observable learning behaviors.

Challenges classical cognitivist view of language learning as an individual mental accomplishment.

**Current issues in CLIL pedagogy and how  
CA might address them**

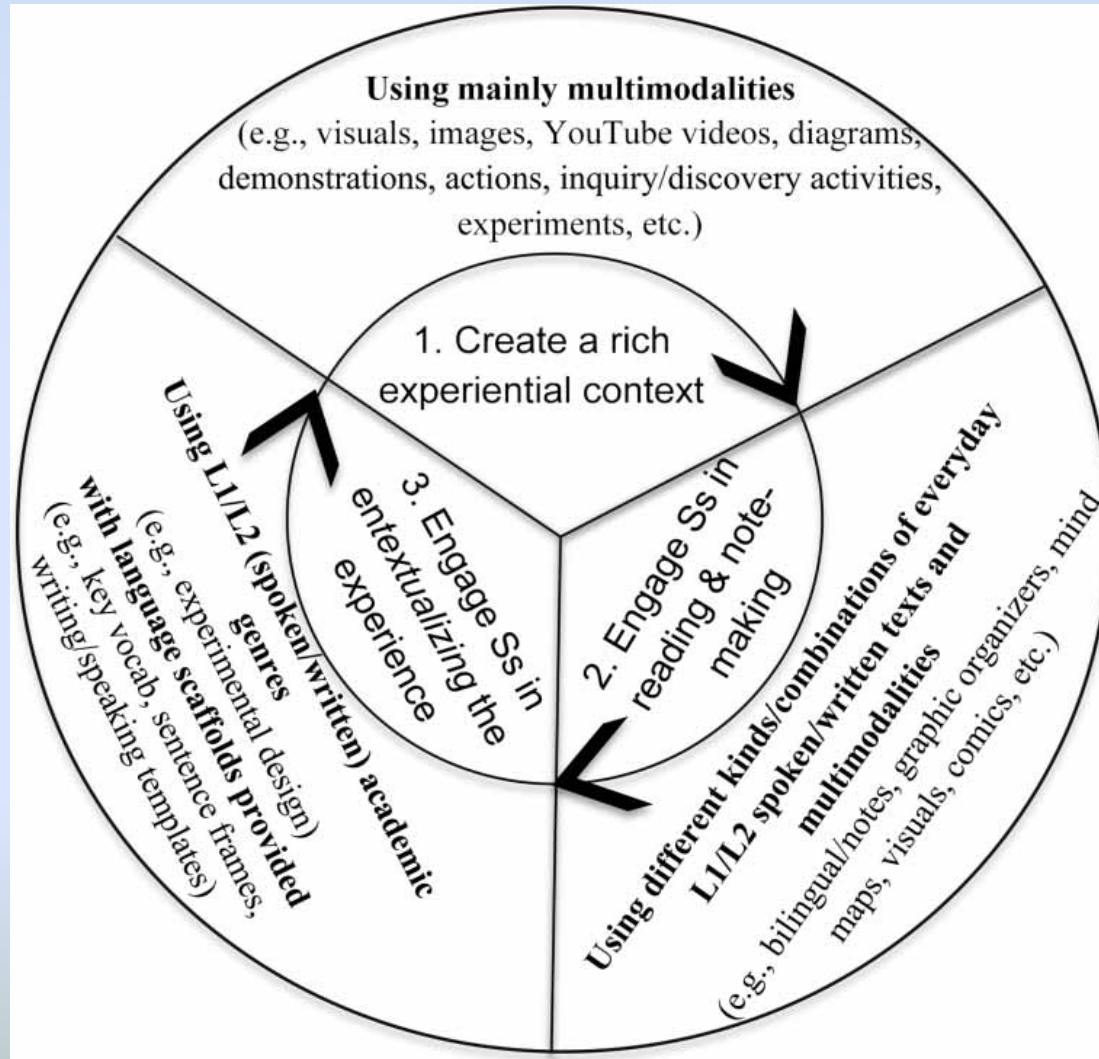
## CLIL is multilingual

CLIL and content-based learning part of a 'paradigm shift' away from a monolingual bias (Cenoz 2015). Need for a reassessment of the potential of L1 in CLIL and research evidence on the potential role of L1 in CLIL (Lin 2015).

## CLIL is multimodal

Lin (2015) proposes a 'Multimodalities/ Entextualization Cycle' in which students move from L1/ L2 spoken/written language and multimodalities towards control of L1/L2 spoken/written academic genres.

# Multimodalities/Entextualization Cycle (MEC)





# **Multimodal and embodied resources in CLIL classroom interaction**

# Reflective Activity



Look at the extract on the next slide (Kääntä 2015) from a secondary CLIL history lesson in Finland. The topic is Christmas in Victorian times.

What non-verbal resources does the teacher use to:

- allocate a turn to Mauri
  - to evaluate his answer
1. Are these resources used instead of or as well as talk?
  2. How are they sequentially placed in relation to the teacher's and the student's talk?

1 T where did the turkey come from? (.)  
T GAZE AT RIGHT SIDE OF CLASS  
2 'cos in En- eu turkey is not uh- (0.5)  
{T GAZE SHIFT TO LEFT SIDE

3 doesn't come from Europe original -  
{MAURI HAND RAISE  
{T GLANCE  
AT RIGHT SIDE

4 or isn't European birth. =  
{T POINTS



5 Mauri =uh United Sta[tes.

IMAGE 2

6 T [NODS = ↑ yeah.



7 that's where it was brought to  
8 Europe an' .hh

IMAGE 3

# Comment

- The teacher allocates a turn to Mauri by pointing at him with the papers in her hand (line 4);
- She evaluates his answer non-verbally by nodding (line 6);
- The pointing is done at the same time as the teacher is talking (in the initiation stage of the IRE sequence). Thus, she carries out two actions at the same time: initiates the IRE and allocates a student to speak;
- The nod appears before Mauri has quite finished his response turn, so the teacher has parsed it and anticipates its successful end. She then provides her verbal evaluation 'in the clear'.

# Key points of analysis

Teachers perform conditionally-relevant interactional tasks through embodied actions concurrently with other actions performed through talk.

These actions can occur at the initiation or the follow-up (evaluation) stage of IRF(E) sequences.

In the evaluation phase, embodied actions such as nods (as we have seen) can act as projective devices which anticipate how the teacher is going to evaluate the student's response.

These embodied actions can be, but don't have to be, followed up with a verbal turn which further provides evaluation of the student's utterance.

## ~ SCHOOL RULES ~

No scholar shall wear a dagger or any other weapon.  
They shall not bring to school any stick or bat, only  
their meat knife.

# Analysis task

1. What is the nature of the two knowledge gaps they work on in this extract?
2. Who initiates each sequence?
3. Who provides the missing information?
4. What happens when the information is given?
5. Which multimodal resources are used and by whom?
6. Comment on Susanna's turn in lines 14-16. What is she doing here?

01 Inka -> onks se †dogger vai (0.5)  
 be-3SG-Q 3SG dogger or  
 is it dogger or

02 -> [(dogger)] (0.5) [vai dagger]  
 dogger or dagger



03 Susanna-> [dagger ]

04 Sakari -> [dagger ] (.) da[gger ]

05 <da[ggeri]> ]

06 Inka -> [what is] a dagge::r

{GAZE TOWARDS SAKARI; SHIFT TO SUSANNA

07 Susanna it is an (.) [err (.) th]at kind of,

08 Sakari [knife ]  
 {'STABS' WITH RIGHT HAND



09 Inka [(net) ]

10 Susanna [knife,] (0.4) err, (0.8) they-

11 there are err that [kind of in R:unescape

{GLANCES AT SAKARI

12 Inka [>meat knife< (.) >meat knife<]

13 (2.0)

14 Susanna -> I wouldn't know [it if I would not have not] err,

15 Inka [r:::u|ne:: ]

{GAZE TO TEXT

16 Susanna -> played Runescape



# Sequence organisation of epistemic searches (Jakonen & Morton 2015)

## SEQUENTIAL POSITION

## EXAMPLE SOCIAL ACTIONS

PRE-EXPANSION(S)

RECIPIENT-SELECTION

(SUMMONSES, GAZE SHIFTS, DISPLAYS OF AVAILABILITY)

**A INFORMATION  
REQUEST**

IDENTIFICATION OF A KNOWLEDGE GAP

USING SEMIOTIC AND SEQUENTIAL RESOURCES

INSERT EXPANSION(S)

REPAIR/CLARIFICATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE GAP

**B RESPONSE**

KNOWING' OR 'UNKNOWING' RESPONSE

POST-EXPANSION(S)

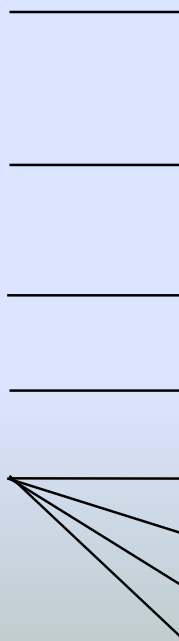
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CONTESTMENT

NEW RECRUITMENT

NEW, 'CHAINED' REQUEST

BASE  
ADJACENCY  
PAIR  
(CF. SCHEGLOFF 2007)

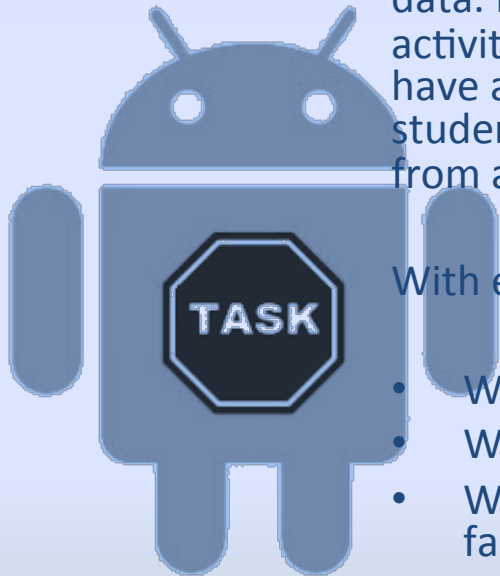


# **Multilingual resources in classroom interaction**

# Activity – practice task

Look at the data extracts on the next two slides (Sert 2015). Each is an example of classroom codeswitching, and thus the use of multilingual resources.

Both extracts are from Sert's Luxembourg secondary school data. In the first, 'Gewissen', the students are doing a speaking activity from the textbook in which they have to discuss 'Do you have a social conscience?'. In the second extract, 'Einsam', the students are using a worksheet in which they have to choose from alternative words.



With each extract, answer the following questions:

- Who does the code-switching?
- Who is responsible for the switch of languages?
- What is the pedagogic purpose overall in each extract (as far as you can see)
- What is the pedagogic purpose of the codeswitching sequences?



# Einsam

01 Tea: let's move on to the next one.  
+Lyn raises her hand  
02 'these words are similar but not the same'.  
03 choose the correct words', we have  
04 >alone lonely< etcetera. ((raises head and looks at  
Lyn))  
05 (0.5)  
06 Lyn? The first pair of sentences? ((looks at the  
text))  
07 Lyn: 'leave me alone'  
08 (0.5)  
09 Tea: yes? ((looks at Lyn))  
10 Lyn: 'being lonely' ((both look at the text))  
11 (0.4)  
12 Tea: good yeah(.) in the first one you use alone,  
13 in the second one lonely: >.  
14 (0.7) ((looks at the students))  
15 → what is the german word, (0.4) for lonely:?  
+looks at students +Raf raises hand  
16 (0.9)  
17 yes rafa?  
18 → Raf: >einsam<.  
19 Tea: einsam (.) yeah it has uh(0.4)slightly negative  
20 connotation, okay (.) >so it's (kinda) often  
21 used in contexts>for feeling sad (.) unhappy:(0.6)  
22 unsatisfied (0.7)next one kim.

# 'Mustelmia' ('Bruises')

- Students integrating language work that targets meaning and form with content activity;
- Activity: independent writing of a short piece on education in Tudor times (on the basis of previous readings);
- Example of student-initiated management of an individual knowledge gap during independent seat work, drawn from a broader collection of sequences (Jakonen and Morton 2015; Morton and Jakonen forthcoming).

# Analysis task

1. What is the nature of the knowledge gap in extract 1?
2. Who initiates the sequence?
3. Is the missing information provided? If so, by whom?
4. What happens when the information is given?
5. Which multimodal resources are used and by whom?
6. Comment on Susanna's action in line 40 (giving the finger to Sakari).  
What is she doing here?
7. Comment on the use of Finnish and English in the extract.
8. In extract 2, comment on the role of the dictionary in resolving the knowledge gap.

01 Sakari miten kirjotetaan (.) mustelmia  
 how do you write 'mustelmia' (bruises)  
 02 Susanna ↑hnh  
 {SHIFTS GAZE FROM HER TASK TO SAKARI  
 03 Sakari mustelmia  
 bruises

Lines 1-3: repair paves way to hearing the request in two different ways

04 Susanna RAISES HAND, PALM UPWARDS, THEN PUTS IT ON THE TABLE  
 (2.0)  
 05  
 06 SMILES AND LEANS FOREHEAD AGAINST THE BACK OF HAND

Lines 4-6: gestures conveying epistemic implications



07 Sakari englanniks  
 in English  
 08 Susanna RAISES HEAD AND SHIFTS GAZE TO SAKARI, SMILING  
 09 hh fmää en tiiä ootaf  
 hh EI dunno waitf  
 10 RESTS CHIN AGAINST HER PALM, GAZE UPWARDS  
 (1.5)



Lines 12-15: mismatch between focus on meaning and spelling becomes apparent

12 Sakari joku /bru:ses/  
 something like /bru:ses/  
 (1.7)  
 13  
 14 Susanna joo  
 yeah  
 {SHIFTS GAZE TO SAKARI  
 15 Sakari nii mut mite=  
 yeah but how

16 Susanna =ei (.) ne o arpia  
 no they are 'arpia' ((soars))  
 (1.0)  
 17  
 18 Sakari °hhjoo°  
 °hh yeah°  
 (0.6)  
 19  
 20 Susanna no onha  
 yes they are

Lines 16-20: both Susanna and Sakari claim to know the meaning of 'bruises' ->disagreement



24 SHIFTS GAZE TO INKA; INKA'S GAZE ON SUSANNA  
 25 ↑mikä o mustelma englanniks  
 ↓what's 'mustelma' in English  
 26 (1.0) / INKA YAWNS AND SHIFTS GAZE TO SAKARI  
 27 Susanna black (lälläl) ((SMILES))  
 28 Inka black fholef  
 29 Susanna [hhh hehe  
 {GAZE TO SAKARI  
 30 Sakari [eiku- (.) black dots  
 no I mean (.) black dots  
 31 (0.9)  
 32 T <okay>  
 {WALKS BEHIND SAKARI  
 33 Sakari what is (.) like (.) mustelma  
 34 T PLACES BOTH HAND ON THE DESK AND LEANS FORWARD  
 35 /bru:si:s/  
 36 (.)  
 37 >I'll give you-<  
 {BEGINS TO WALK TOWARDS HER DESK  
 38 I'll give you a ha- (.) dictionary here (-)  
 39 (1.4) / SUSANNA LOOKS AT SAKARI, SMILING  
 40 Susanna fsss(h)hhf  
 {SHOWS 'THE FINGER' TO SAKARI  
 {INKA SHIFTS GAZE FROM TASK TO SAKARI  
 41 (2.2) / SUSANNA SHIFTS GAZE BACK TO TASK  
 42 Sakari /pruses/



Soliciting further  
resources (lines 25 and  
33)



Line 40: Social  
consequences of knowing  
in the classroom?



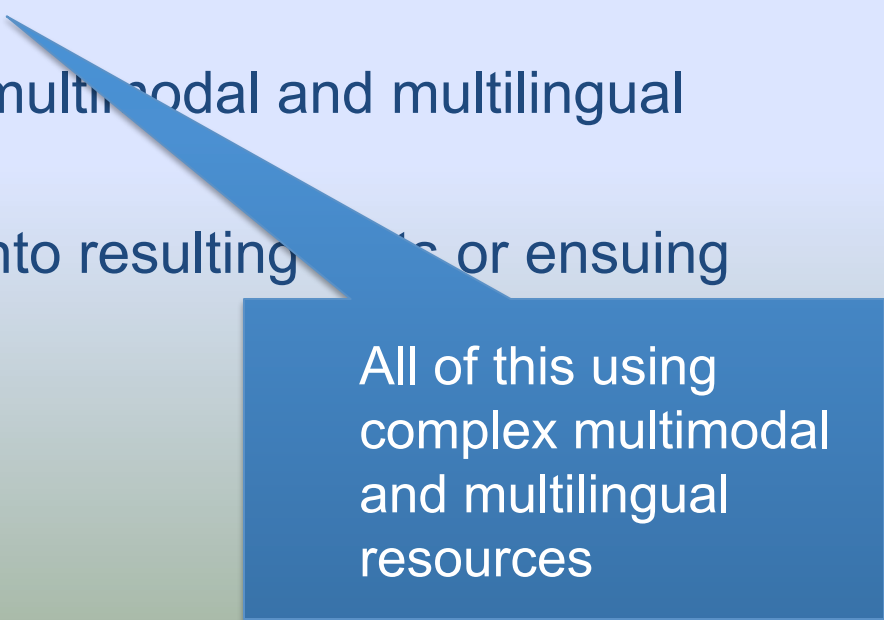
# Sakari's text

If I was a pupil in a Tudor school I would have bruises on my body because the teachers beat the pupils if they did any thing wrong. I would get crazy at Tudor school because there is no holidays and the school days were very long. In the lessons there is 60 pupils in class. If I would be at Tudor school I don't know what I would do,

# Integration as a learners' (emic) matter in CLIL lessons

## User-learners:

- Find their own learning objects in relation to communicative needs (completing content tasks);
- Negotiate which aspects of form/meaning are object of attention;
- Revise their own epistemic status about aspects of form-meaning relations;
- All of this using complex multimodal and multilingual resources;
- Reintegrate these items into resulting contexts or ensuing interaction.



All of this using complex multimodal and multilingual resources

# How could you use CA to investigate interaction in CLIL lessons?

Use of multilingual resources  
(translanguaging/  
language alternation)

Use of multimodal resources (embodied actions, artefacts)

Identity (discourse, situated, transportable)

Sequential organisation of CLIL lessons and classroom contexts (Seedhouse 2004)

Epistemics (e.g. 'insufficient knowledge – Sert 2015, epistemic search sequences)

Discursive psychology (radical respecification of psychological constructs, see Barwell 2012; Morton 2012).

# References and further reading

- Barwell, R., (2012). Discursive demands and equity in second language mathematics classrooms, *Equity in Discourse for Mathematics Education: Theories, Practices, and Policies*, In Herbel-Eisenmann, B., Choppin, J., Wagner, D. & Pimm, D. (Eds.), New York, Springer, 2012, pp. 147-164.
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## Website

Excellent introductory tutorial on CA from Loughborough University

<http://homepages.lboro.ac.uk/~ssca1/intro1.htm>