

Introduction

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This special issue grows out of a two-part colloquium that Marjorie Harness Goodwin and Deborah Tannen organized at the American Association of Applied Linguistics meeting in Portland, Oregon, in 2004. Our goal in organizing the symposium was to bring together research from two projects supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation investigating family interaction based on extended recording of multiple families as they lead their daily lives: the Sloan Center on Everyday Lives of Families at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the Sloan-supported study 'Mothers and Fathers at Work and at Home: Creating Parental Identities through Talk' at Georgetown University. In keeping with the interests of the Sloan Foundation, both studies focus on the discourse of middle-class, dual-income families with children.

The UCLA study is the far larger of the two, as UCLA is the site of a Sloan Center that includes an interdisciplinary team drawn from applied linguistics, anthropology, psychology, and education, under the direction of Elinor Ochs. The UCLA data are drawn from a corpus of video recordings of 32 families in which both parents worked outside the home and the family was dependent on parent income to pay the mortgage on their home. Families were filmed on two weekdays (from the time the children awoke until they left for school, and then when they returned home in the afternoon until they went to bed) and on two weekend days. High quality 3-chip video cameras were used and sound was recorded using a 'shotgun' microphone mounted on top of the camera and wireless microphones worn by family members. Most frequently cameras were held on a monopod, rather than a tripod, so that the videographers could fluidly follow family members as they moved from space to space.

The Georgetown project, much smaller in scope, was a two-year study directed by Shari Kendall and Deborah Tannen, for which both parents in four families wore or carried digital tape-recorders for a week, recording everything they said (and everything that was said in their presence) from the time they awoke until they went to bed. (They were free to turn

the tape recorders off when they felt that was necessary.) The digital tapes recorded for four hours, minimizing the requirement to stop and change tapes. After taping was completed, each adult participant was shadowed by a project member who spent one or more days with them, getting familiar with the family, the work situation, and co-workers. All tapes were transcribed, whenever possible by the same research team member who had shadowed that parent, yielding a corpus of over a million words.

All the papers gathered here present analyses of how individuals use language to do the 'work' of families as they constitute their individual and family identities, negotiate rights and responsibilities, and learn values, philosophies, and ways of resolving conflicts. The sessions also contribute to theoretical paradigms in interaction analysis and provide an opportunity to integrate and contrast the findings and methods of two closely related yet theoretically and methodologically divergent approaches: for the most part, the UCLA researchers integrate ethnographic perspectives with the theoretical paradigm of conversation analysis, while the Georgetown-based researchers integrate ethnographic perspectives with the theoretical paradigm of interactional sociolinguistics.

We designed the session to intersperse papers from the two projects; we maintain this organizing principle here as well. The current collection of papers is divided into two sections. Papers in Part I address broad issues of family interaction. Shari Kendall (Georgetown, now at Texas A&M) investigates the verbal strategy of impersonalization as a means by which couples negotiate points of contention and, more generally, competing worldviews. Charles Goodwin (UCLA) investigates how members of a family shape both each other as cognitive and moral agents, and the developmental course of the family as a dynamic process, through ways of organizing action within interaction. Alla Tovares (Georgetown, now at Howard University) suggests that the term 'quotidian hermeneutics' is a more accurate translation of a key Bakhtinian concept which, she shows, characterizes family members' discussion of the television program *Who Wants to Marry a Multimillionaire*, which was aired around the time that two of the families taped their conversation. Concluding the first section, Karen Sirota (UCLA) examines bedtime routines to uncover discourse processes and structures that negotiate intimacy and autonomy.

Papers in Part II trace family members' discourse across contexts to uncover discourse structures that accomplish socialization as well as the negotiation and integration of conflict sequences. Marjorie Harness Goodwin (UCLA) examines directive/response sequences to show how families develop structures of control and styles for managing conflict. Cynthia Gordon (Georgetown, now at Emory University) examines how a mother creates contrasting interactional alignments in three different

conversations by reshaping her own and her child's words from a conflict-ridden interaction, to pretend play, to a narrative account. Leah Wingard (UCLA, now at San Francisco State) analyzes the first mention of homework as the first step in the process of getting homework started and considers the implications of this first mention for understanding directive sequences in parent-child talk. Deborah Tannen (Georgetown) examines how three couples' conflicts about domestic responsibilities are recycled, reframed, and rekeyed in different contexts, both within the family and in conversation with friends.

As a whole, this collection of papers advances our understanding of family interaction based on two related but distinct research projects, both of which afford unique access to actual interaction among family members. Together, the findings of these two projects, juxtaposed and interspersed here, represent a new level of insight into the everyday lives of families at the same time that they afford a uniquely broad view of theoretical and methodological approaches to ethnographic microanalysis of interaction.

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