



A cross-linguistic and cross-methodological approach to storytelling in talk-in-interaction

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Symposium format:

- **Symposium Multimodal**

Symposium mode:

- **Hybrid**

Sub-themes:

- LANGUAGE RESOURCES: multi-modality (including gesture), corpora, artifacts,
- LANGUAGE IN USE: communication, interaction, conversation analysis, discourse, corpus, media
- RESEARCH: methods, approaches and (collaborative) practices

Short Abstract:

The symposium will focus on storytelling in talk-in-interaction. To tell stories about experiences or events beyond the deictic *hic et nunc* fulfills different pragmatic, discursive and interactional functions in talk-in-interaction. Since participants are fully involved in this activity, storytelling in talk-in-interaction is a dynamic and embodied semiotic phenomenon that unfolds sequentially within discursive and interactional contexts, and the emerging stories are motivated by these contexts while their very concrete linguistic shape depends on them. From a functional viewpoint, interactive storytelling accomplishes different social actions like complaining, trouble telling, answering questions, expressing solidarity and soliciting empathy. We are inviting researchers from different perspectives on oral narration in talk-in-interaction, such as Conversation Analysis, Interactional Linguistics, Discourse Analysis, or oral syntax. The languages of presentation in the symposium may be English, French, German or Spanish, provided that the slides are translated into English to allow inter-comprehension with the audience.

Argument (2 pages maximum, i.e. about 500 words or 3000 characters including bibliography):

The symposium will focus on storytelling in talk-in-interaction. To tell stories about experiences or events beyond the deictic *hic et nunc* fulfills different pragmatic, discursive and interactional functions in talk-in-interaction. Since participants are fully involved in this activity, storytelling in talk-in-interaction is a dynamic and embodied semiotic phenomenon that unfolds sequentially within discursive and interactional contexts, and the emerging stories are motivated by these contexts while their very concrete linguistic shape depends on them. From a functional viewpoint, interactive storytelling accomplishes different social



actions like complaining, trouble telling, answering questions, expressing solidarity and soliciting empathy (Niemelä 2011: 17).

Acknowledging that telling stories is a widespread interactants' strategy that occur highly frequently in talk-in-interaction, the overall goal of this symposium is to discuss and share a better understanding of the transversal mobilization and discursive integration of lexical, syntactic and macro-syntactic, prosodic and bodily resources of storytelling in talk-in-interaction.

While studying storytelling in talk-in-interaction, challenging research questions appear, such as:

1. Why does a story emerge at a certain moment in talk-in-interaction?
2. How do interactants identify a story in talk-in-interaction?
3. What are the features of storytelling in talk-in-interaction (structure, linguistic resource, bodily resources, voice-related resources, interaction-related resources)?
4. How does the storytelling in talk-in-interaction impact on the ongoing interaction (shared knowledge, common ground, modification of the interactants' involvement into the ongoing interaction, intersubjectivity)?
5. To what kind of problem solving does storytelling contribute?
6. How to link the analytic dimensions of interaction with the analytic dimensions of storytelling?

To answer these questions, we are inviting researchers from different perspectives on oral narration in talk-in-interaction, such as Conversation Analysis (Goodwin 1984, 1990, 1997, (Sacks 1986, Sacks, Schegloff & Jefferson 1974), Interactional Linguistics (Couper-Kuhlen & Selting 2018), Discourse Analysis (Brès 1994), or oral syntax (interactionist: Auer 2009, emergentist: Hopper 1987, structural: Blanche-Benveniste & al. 1990). The individual communications may concern:

- **oral narration in talk-in-interaction in different languages;**
- **multimodality and embodiment of the joint social action of storytelling** (e.g., gestures, gaze, body posture, body language, turn-taking organization);
- **ecological contexts of interactional storytelling** (e.g., family contexts, medical contexts, classroom interactions, during interviews, business interactions, in informal conversations);
- **storytelling prosody** (e.g., storytelling mode, voice-related recontextualization of past experience, reported speech and verbatim quotation prosody, interactive identity construction, text-to-speech synthesis for human-machine-interaction);
- **linguistic and (macro-)syntactic studies on oral storytelling** (e.g., paratactic structures, prefabricated formats and constructions, communicative fragments, chunks).
- the **deployment of shared knowledge during collaborative storytelling** (e.g., treatment of common ground, integration of new knowledge);
- the **functional spectrum of storytelling in talk-in-interaction** (e.g., trouble telling, explanation, argumentation, creating togetherness, phatic communication).



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References

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