



CAM AND LAJUAN'S CONVERSATION: relevant approaches to its analysis

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Cam and Lajuan's **casual conversation**

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01

SOCIOLINGUISTIC

Ethnography of speaking

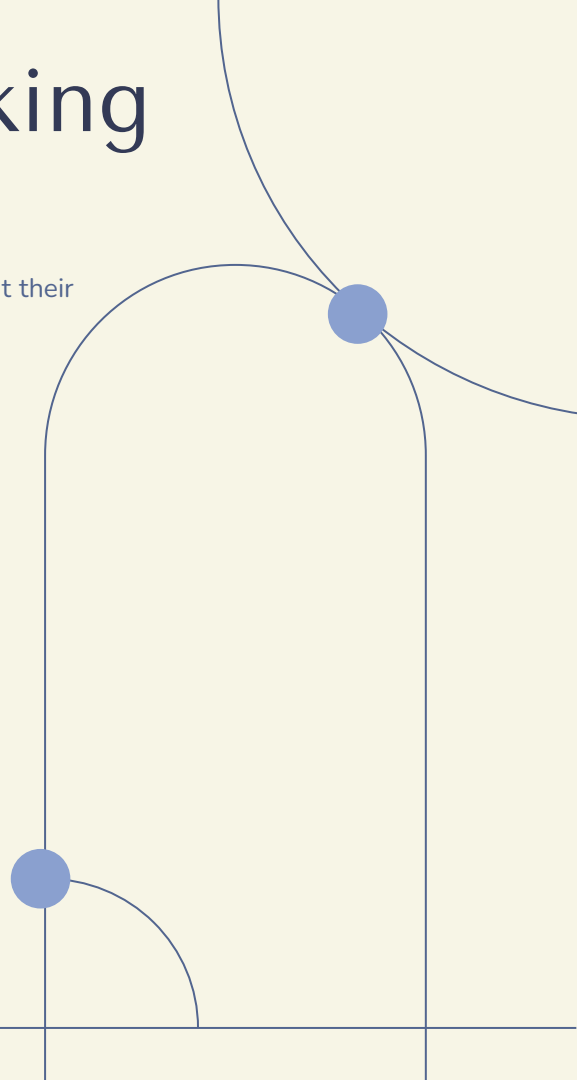
Analysis of the speech event through study
of aspects of the context



Ethnography of speaking

Dell Hymes' speaking grid

- S** → **Setting and place** Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two friends are talking about their families and friends, and their own experiences as gay men
- P** → **Participants** Both Cam and Lajuan are speakers and ratified addressees; Cam becomes an unrated bystander when Lajuan engages in a phone call
- E** → **Ends** Maintaining social relationships through sharing experiences
- A** → **Act sequence** Adjacency pairs, back-channelling responses and monologues
- K** → **Key** Overall happy tone, concerned at times when appropriate to the topic
- I** → **Instrument** Spoken communication
- N** → **Norm** High tolerance of gestures, physical contact and loudness
- G** → **Genre** Conversation



02

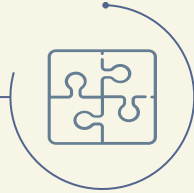
SOCIOLINGUISTIC

Interactional Sociolinguistics

Analysis of the context in the production and interpretation of discourse



Interactional sociolinguistics



“How can what one speaker says
be heard as following sensibly
from what another has said?”



Two strategies to construct
conversational coherence:
discourse markers
contextualisation cues

DISCOURSE MARKERS

LAJU: When he¹ was talking to me on the phone last week he was telling me how much he still loved me. And he doesn't know what to do about this whole situation.

CAM: How could he really love you though, he doesn't know you that much.

LAJU: He doesn't know me, because in the last ten years we talked to each other maybe once a month.

CAM: Well that's quite a bit though.

LAJU: And actually maybe not even that. Sometimes it's every other month.

¹he: Darren, Lajuan's ex-boyfriend

CONTEXTUALIZATION CUES

LAJU: He was probably the best sexual partner could ever imagine.

CAM & LAJU: [laughter]

CAM: Oh my God.

LAJU: And we never had sex. He's the only person I know who kissed me, when he kissed me I just came, right on the spot.

CAM: You never had sex.

LAJU: Not, you know. Not the booty dance.

CAM & LAJU: [laughter]

CAM: [laughter] The booty dance.

LAJU: We had um.

CAM: You had oral sex.

03

LOGICO-PHILOSOPHICAL

Speech Act Theory

Analysis of interpretation rather than
production of utterances in the conversation



Speech Act Theory



LAJU: Like he¹ called me last week (.) and said he wanted to be with me.

CAM: (..) You're kidding

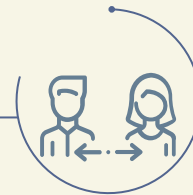
¹he: Darren, Lajuan's ex-boyfriend



CAM: See uh my (.) my mother was like that more so (.) and then my father was (..) different.

LAJU: Very emotional (..) very hugging

CAM: Yeah (.) very hugging



LAJU: We: (.) had u:m

CAM: (...) You had oral sex

LAJU: Oral sex

04

SOCIAL SEMIOTIC



Critical Discourse Analysis - Critical Linguistics

Analysis of the realization of macro-social structures in the conversation

Critical Discourse Analysis

CAM: First thing I had to do (.) to see a psychiatrist.

LAJU: Oh, she made you go do that.

CAM: Mm I went

LAJU: Oh Jim's mother told him that too

LAJU: I hate when people say that because if I felt that was my choice I don't think that would've been the first choice I would've picked

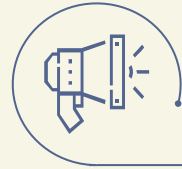
CAM: Oh God no

LAJU: And it's not to say that I'm ashamed of being gay

CAM: No

LAJU: What it is (.) is that because of what society has done or has laid the rules for us I don't think I would have chosen to be gay. I wouldn't. Why would I want to be gay and have deal with what we go through.

CAM: Exactly



POWER



IDEOLOGY



CONCLUSION

Cam and Lajuan's conversation

- Ethnography of Speaking
- Interactional Sociolinguistics
- Speech Act Theory
- Critical Discourse Analysis



THANKS

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