

‘Turn continuation and bodily-visual action’
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with an embedded presentation:
‘Interactional Linguistics and Multimodal Turn Construction:
Considering Connections’
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We consider points in interaction where conversation researchers have shown that talk routinely occurs, but where we find bodily-visual actions (BVAs) coordinated with and extending beyond possibly complete verbal actions. The BVAs we examine share features with verbal turn-constructive practices, but BVAs have constructive properties that distinguish them from verbal TCUs. In our conclusion, we suggest that such differences may motivate particular uses of verbal and bodily-visual modalities.

After briefly reviewing research on multi-modality in turn construction (Drake presentation), we examine four relationships between verbal and bodily-visual actions, considering how BVAs relate to turn construction and turn continuation. A BVA can occur as follows:

- (1) After a possibly complete verbal turn, as a new unit initiated in the same interactional space where a verbal increment might be used
- (2) After an adverbial clause capable of functioning as a complete turn in itself (Ford 1993)
- (3) Within a verbal turn, initiated before the turn is complete and continuing into the post-turn space
- (4) Beginning in a transition-relevance space and paralleling a verbal sequence

This talk reveals our desire to take seriously the point made by Goodwin (2000a, b, 2003), Hayashi (2003, 2005), Iwasaki (2009), and others that researchers seeking to understand language and social interaction do themselves a disservice if they privilege the verbal dimension; rather, as suggested in Stivers/Sidnell (2005), each semiotic modality, while coordinated with others, has its own organization. One job for interactional linguistics is to come to understand how these different modes of organization are deployed by interactants as they construct turns and as they manage transition relevance.

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