Japanese negotiation through emerging final particles in everyday talk

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Japanese postpositional particles *kara* 'because/so' and *kedo* 'although/but' are known to mark 'subordinate clauses' as in:

[clause *kara/kedo*] [main clause]

Studies, however, have suggested that *kara*- and *kedo*-marked clauses are acquiring an independent status where they can occur on their own without an overtly expressed main clause:

[clause *kara/kedo*.] ……..

In this kind of utterance, *kara* and *kedo* behave more like a final particle than like a clause combining particle.

Our conversational data are full of examples which appear to reflect this diachronic change in which *kara/kedo*-clauses appear on their own with various degrees of explicitness as to what might be implied by the speaker where there is no explicit 'main clause'.

In this talk, we will show that this emerging new grammatical status of *kara* and *kedo* is exploited by Japanese interactants to negotiate the outcome which they would like to achieve. Our findings suggest that in order to account for what *kara* and *kedo* are doing synchronically, we must introduce a diachronic understanding into the analysis. That is, only by bringing diachronicity to Interactional Linguistics can we begin to understand the prosody, syntax, and social action of clauses ending with these particles.