

## The so-called conjunction *dakara* ‘therefore/so’ as an emergent discourse particle in Japanese conversation

Yumi Sasaki and Tsuyoshi Ono

The so-called conjunction *dakara* ‘therefore/so’ in Japanese is believed to have developed from a combination of the copula *da* and the causal conjunctive particle *kara* (Matsumoto 1988). In conversation data, one can still observe this original use and three types of “conjunction” use: consequential, explanatory, and discourse organizational (Maynard 1993; Mori 1999; Sasaki 2008). In this presentation, we would like to focus on the discourse organizational type, which seems to be the most extended use of the three. In this type, *dakara* is used to mark continuation at the discourse level: to resume an interrupted topic progression and grab a turn by pretending to continue with one’s own on-going turn in the conversation. It is of interest to note that this type is actually found in the phonologically reduced forms of *dakara*, such as *daka* and *da*, more often than the other two types, another indication that this type shows the most extended use of the three. We thus find that the most extended use of *dakara* is associated with a more global level of continuation in discourse while its linguistic material is reducing, becoming more like a particle.