

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND



Faculty of Humanities / Institute of Distance Education

Department of English Language and Literature

MAIN EXAMINATION – MAY 2017

COURSE TITLE : CONVERSATIONAL ANALYSIS
COURSE CODE : ENG 303 / IDE-ENG 303
DURATION : TWO HOURS
INSTRUCTIONS : THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF FOUR QUESTIONS.

**ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN TOTAL,
QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER**

ALL QUESTIONS ARE WORTH 30 MARKS EACH

**FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THE TRANSCRIPTION
CONVENTIONS COMMON TO CONVERSATION
ANALYTIC RESEARCH MAY RESULT IN A LOSS
OF MARKS**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED
BY THE INVIGILATOR**

QUESTION 1

- a) Discuss the thesis by Schegloff (2007: 59) that FPPs and SPPs are 'not symmetrical alternatives'. [15 marks]
- b) With the aid of examples from the excerpt below, discuss two major departures that occur from what appears to be the basic design feature of talk-in-interaction.

[15 marks]

L1 (3.2)

L2 Mom: c'n we have the blessi-h- Wesley

L3 (0.5)

L4 would you ask the blessi [ng please

L5 Wes : [ah right

L6 (0.2)

L7 Wes: Heavenly father, give us thankful hearts

L8 (fuh) these an'all the blessings <°ah:men°>

L9 (.)

L10 Vir: >°ahmen<

L11 (2.0)

QUESTION 2

With close reference to the excerpt below and any other conversations you might have heard, discuss the measures Schegloff (2007) believes are initiated by utterers of SPPs that aim at eliciting a preferred relationship with the FPPs.

[30 marks]

L1 Edna: Wanna come down an' have a bite a' lunch with

L2 Me:?=I got some bee::r en stu:ff

L3 (0.2)

L4 Nancy: Well yer real sweet hon:, uh::m(.) [let- I hav-

L5 [Or do yuh have

L6 sum'pn el[se t-

L7 [No: I have to uh call Bob's mother

L8 .h I told 'er I:'d ca:ll ér this morning

QUESTION 3

Discuss the sequence organization of repair in talk. Use the excerpts below as examples.

Excerpt 1

L1 Zee : an' he sorta scares me

L2 Andy: Have you seen 'im?

L3 Zee : .hhh We:ll I(m) I've met 'im

L4 Andy: .hhhhh Well uh actually: [when she's-

L5 Zee : [An'the way the:y

L6 pla:y. Oh:-

L7 (.)

L8 Andy: Serious huh?

L9 Zee: .h Yah,

Excerpt 2

L1 Kenny: 'E likes that waider over there,

L2 Kim : Wait-er?

L3 Kenny: Waitress, sorry

L4 Kim : 'Ats bedder,

Excerpt 3

L1 Lee: He had dis uh Mistuh W-m whatever k- I cant

L2 think of his first name, Watts on, the one that

L3 wrote [that piece

L4 Ray: [Dan Watts.

Excerpt 4

L1 Carol: erm I'm just checking is that (.)

L2 right you know (0.5) I d- I don't know

L3 his flight number and [I'm not sure

L4 Ann: [(whi-)

L5 Carol: whether he's coming in to channel four

L6 eh

L7 (.)

L8 Ann: TErminal 4

L9 Carol: yeah

QUESTION 4

Sidnell (2005) and Schegloff (2007) assert that there are measures that are initiated by the recipient of a base FPP or prospective SPP speaker in order to obtain a sequence whose parts are in a preferred relationship with the utterer of the FPP. However, these sequences are said to violate the illocutionary force of an adjacency pair. These are insert expansions. With close reference to the interactions below, discuss the nature and the significance of insert expansions in talk.

[30 marks]

Excerpt 1

L1 Patient: Do you think I'm insane?

L2 Doctor: Do you think so ?

L3 Patient: No, of course not.

L4 Doctor: But I think you are.

Excerpt 2

L1 A: D' you know the directions to the mall?

L2 B: uh (.) are ju drivin' or walkin'?=

L3 A: = walking (0.3)

L4 B: Get on the subway...