WEAK CESURAS: WHAT FUZZY BOUNDARIES CAN ACCOMPLISH IN TALK-IN-INTERACTION

EDITORS
Dagmar Barth-Weingarten, Potsdam, Germany
Richard Ogden, York, UK

DESCRIPTION
Notions like TCU, turn, action, activity, project, and practice, are basic terms in Conversation Analysis and Interactional Linguistics (IL). While analytically highly valuable, such concepts suggest that participants interact by using clearly identifiable building blocks. Moreover, they are often considered Gestalt-based chunks, created by converging unit boundaries in various linguistic dimensions (e.g., Sacks et al. 1974, Ford/Thompson 1996, Schegloff 2007, Szcepek Reed 2010). Yet, research has pointed out that everyday talk is difficult to cut into chunks (e.g., Auer 2010, Deppermann/Proske 2015): missing boundary cues blur unit ends in single dimensions and diverging (sub)unit ends make Gestalt-based chunks such as the TCU fuzzy (see, e.g., Couper-Kuhlen/Ono 2007, Walker 2007, Li 2014, Pekarek Doehler et al. 2015). Both phenomena create weak cesuras (see Barth-Weingarten 2016).

This special issue would like to draw attention to such fuzziness and show that it can indeed be interactionally functional (Ford 2004: 31, Clayman 2013: 158). Resulting from an international workshop in 2018 and a follow-up IEMCA panel last July, six papers plus an introduction to the topic will highlight relevant interactional phenomena with detailed systematic analyses. Adopting the cesura concept (Barth-Weingarten 2016) to capture the form side, the papers highlight various practices involving fuzzy boundaries participants use for interactional purposes such as managing specific aspects of turn-yielding, informing, questioning, assessing, and quoting in languages such as English, German, French, Chilean Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese. We set out to argue that, while the assumed “challenges for segmentation” can be considered symptoms of language change (grammaticization, e.g., Hopper 1998), they are first and foremost an integral part of talk-in-interaction as they afford the participants with greater flexibility in, and more resources for, accomplishing action. Moreover, taken seriously, they allow us some new insights into notions central to CA/IL.


LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS:
Dagmar Barth-Weingarten (Potsdam, Germany), Richard Ogden (York, UK)
Practices with weak cesuras in talk-in-interaction

Elizabeth Couper-Kuhlen (Helsinki, Finland)
OH+OKAY in informing sequences: From multi-unit turn to turn-initial particle

Simona Pekarek Doehler (Neuchâtel, Switzerland)
From multi-unit to single-unit question: prosodic and bodily-visual cues for delimiting units

Dagmar Barth-Weingarten, Uwe-A. Küttner (Potsdam, Germany), Chase W. Raymond (Boulder, USA)
Cesuring in pivot constructions: How prosody and phonetics can inform action analysis

Daniel Mandel, Oliver Ehmer (Freiburg, Germany)
Fuzzy boundaries in quotations

Xiaoting Li (Edmonton, Canada)
The linguistic-bodily formats for syntactically incomplete assessments in Mandarin conversation

Verónica González Temer (Santiago de Chile, Chile), Richard Ogden (York, UK)
Multimodal constructions as a participant device for sense-making

DEADLINES:
February 2020: first drafts for internal review
April 2020: deadline for revised versions
July/August 2020: submission to Open Linguistics

HOW TO SUBMIT:
Authors are kindly invited to register at our paper processing system at: http://www.editorialmanager.com/opli/ and submit their contribution.
Every manuscript should be clearly marked as intended for this special issue. All papers will go through the Open Linguistics’ high standards, quick, fair and comprehensive peer-review procedure. Instructions for authors are available [here](mailto:). In case of any questions, please contact Guest Editor (dbarth@uni-potsdam.de) or Managing Editor (katarzyna.grzegorek@degruyter.com).

As an author of Open Linguistics you will benefit from:

- transparent, comprehensive and fast peer review managed by our esteemed Guest Editor;
- efficient route to fast-track publication and full advantage of De Gruyter e-technology;
- free language assistance for authors from non-English speaking regions.