

Stance in the sequence

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The notion of linguistic stance as a non-grammaticalized form of evidentiality is here explored through an investigation of naturally-occurring English interaction. Recent work in conversation analysis has revealed how speakers may use various linguistic and paralinguistic resources in particular sequential positions to make claims to epistemic priority or subordination vis-à-vis their recipients. Such resources are not identifiable as stance markers independently of the sequential contexts in which they appear; sequential position is shown to be central in providing at once a constraint on what can be said and a resource to exploit in saying it. I shall examine a number of clips of audio and videoed interaction to show how both the *composition* of an interactional resource (e.g. reported speech, laughter, certain forms of embodiment) works in synergy with its sequential *position* to deliver the action implemented by a turn in interaction.