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A leader's gaze and pointing gestures to request actions in emergency care interactions: describing *multimodal Gestalts*

Dr. Keiko Tsuchiya

Abstract

Pointing is a fundamental symbolic gesture, which is used even by prelinguistic human Infants to share their interests and engage others in joint attention (Tomasello, 2007). How a trauma leader achieves joint attention with their team members in emergency care interactions is our central interest in the EYE WORK project, which is a Japan-UK international/interdisciplinary research project and involves emergency care consultants, linguists and information engineers to capture the multimodally embedded practices with an eye-tracking device. This talk will focus on an analysis of a leader's use of pointing gestures in making request during one of the emergency care simulation sessions in Japan, describing the *multimodal Gestalts* (Levinson & Holler, 2014; Mondada, 2014) of his gaze, pointing, utterances, and other multimodal resources embedded in the practices. The preliminary findings include: 1) in most cases, the leader's pointing was observed in his making requests to a foundation (junior) doctor, 2) multiple indexicals were used to help identify different referents in a single request sequence, i.e., the primary index of his gaze locates the addressee, and his pointing gesture a body part of the patient, where a treatment will be applied, while, his voice (single-word utterances) indexes equipment to be used, signaling the requested action (treatment) as a whole, and 3) the above order represents the timing (temporal order) of his signaling the multimodal indices.

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Bio

Keiko Tsuchiya (Ph.D., Nottingham University) is Associate Professor of School of International Liberal Arts and Graduate School of Urban, Social and Cultural Studies, Yokohama City University, Japan. She is the author of "Listenership Behaviours in Intercultural Encounters : A time-aligned multimodal corpus analysis (2013, John Benjamins Publishing Company), and currently leading [the EYE WORK project](#) which aims to multimodally investigate emergency care interactions with eye-tracking glasses. Her research interest also includes language education in Japan, i.e., micro/macro discourses of ELF (English as a Lingua Franca) and CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) in local contexts.

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