ABSTRACT

This study attempts to answer the question how there exists consistency between naturally occurring conversation and movie dialogues, or scripted talk. Hence, it has two focal points: dialogue scripted for the screen and the linguistic construction of spontaneity or naturalness of occurrence in that type of dialogue. Assuming a stock of components that are significant to NOC, which are rife in movies talk as well, this study pins down the textual cues which lead to the formation of naturalness of dialogue in movies. Therefore, and to achieve this, It is indispensable to generate a list of components (practices) found in NOC, and these presumably are included in scripted talk in order to evoke an illusion of realism. The patterns of the interaction order commonly termed "naturally occurring" are shown to be fundamental to the process revealing the similarity between the two types of talk, NOC and movies dialogue. Analyses of the complex everyday talk practices in the three-movie corpus conversations, which are turn-by-turn analysed, reveal the consistency the two types of talk appear to share and this process of analysis, thus, further verifies the hypothesis this study hinges upon. Focusing on the conversational contexts in which they accumulate, the workings of certain particularly interesting and versatile NOC practices are described: questions predominantly initiate and maintain extended exchanges. Backchannel signals typically suggest that a participant is a recipient of an extended turn. Three-part exchanges are more rife adding an interpersonal element to conversation. Vague language, discourse markers, downtoners, and hedges are mitigating devices that have a playing down function. They are considered a face-saving politeness strategy that helps facilitate cooperation between interlocutors. An exchange consists of turns which are ordered and thus describable. A turn is repairable and is either preferred or otherwise dispreferred. Prefabricated formulaic utterances

render any topic manageable. At conversational boundaries, conversations are opened and wrapped up which is a structural attribute. In everyday talk, interlocutors' response may be as subtle as a telling of a story. Typical spoken phenomena known as dysfluencies help interlocutors plan what to say next and are considered face-threatening politeness strategy as they assuage face-threatening and imposition in problematic situations. Utterances are cohesively tied through the repetition and reformulation of the previous speaker's contribution to conversation. Non-verbal devices display not only coherence on the structural and interpersonal plane but indicate economy of talk. Eventually, in casual conversation, instances of tit-for-tat often occur in everyday situations.

The study hence not only contributes to the fields of linguistic stylistics and media studies, but also to discourse analysis, in particular through revising the concept of naturally occurring conversation.