Examining how simultaneous talk functions in a qualitative research interview

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The general aim of this study was to describe some of the discursive practices for managing qualitative research interviews. The specific aim was to examine the form, function, and location of simultaneous talk in a qualitative research interview. A conversation analysis (cf., Sacks, 1992) of 266 lines of transcribed talk from New Zealand Interview 2 (van den Berg, Wetherell, & Houtkoop-Steenstra, 2003) on race relations in New Zealand during the 1980s was completed. First, simultaneous talk was identified in the transcript. Second, acknowledgement tokens and continuers (cf., Gardner, 2001) that were produced in overlap with other talk were excluded. Third, the remaining instances were categorised using Ferguson’s (1977) interruptions taxonomy and Jefferson’s (1984) notes on the interactional properties at overlap onset. Simultaneous talk occurs at or near a transition relevant place where speaker change can legitimately occur. Judging a break in the continuity of the first speaker’s talk was difficult and subjective. This undermines using Ferguson’s criteria to categorise simple, overlap, butt-in, and silent interruptions. However examining the sequential, semantic, and interactional properties of the talk prior to, at, and following overlap onset, shows how a recipient closely attends to the talk in progress. Thus simultaneous talk is aligned to the syntactic complete-ness, adequacy, or dysfluency of questions, answers, and other actions produced in a qualitative research interview. Simultaneous talk is typically treated as interrupting, and is maligned in ‘how to interview’ textbooks. A focus on speaker change and breaks in verbal continuity overlook a recipient’s fine-grained attention to the current speaker’s talk. The orderly, lawful, and recurrent onset of simultaneous talk in qualitative research interviews point to its role in progressing this conversation. This finding displays how interviews are socially constructed and culturally informed events.

Keywords: simultaneous talk, research interviews, discursive practices, conversation analysis, managing qualitative research interviews

Examining physical activity participation and mood among overweight women with type 2 diabetes

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The aim of this study was to examine the relationship between physical activity (PA) and depression among overweight women with Type 2 diabetes (T2DM). Participants were 61 overweight (BMI ≥ 25) women with diagnosed T2DM, aged between 33 and 70 years (median age = 62 years; IQR = 37). Following standard consent procedures, 600 questionnaire packs (containing information and demographic forms, mood and physical activity questionnaires, supporting letter from a Diabetes Specialist, and a reply paid envelope) were mailed out through the Baker/International Diabetes Institute. Interested overweight, diabetic women completed and returned the questionnaires, indicating consent. Response rate was low (10.2%; 61/600). Results indicated that a substantially greater proportion of participants (83.6%) reported depression (n = 51) than no depression (n = 10). There was no significant relationship between total PA and depression (r = -.15, p = .26); work-based PA and depression (r = -.06, p = .62); or leisure based PA and depression (r = -.14, p = .27); There was a significant negative correlation between the amount of active house-work and depression level (r = -.25, p = .048). There was no significant difference in depression between women in active (action, maintenance) or inactive (pre-contemplation, contemplation, preparation) stages of change (χ2(1)=.17, p = .68). To conclude, there was no relationship between depression and total, work-based, or leisure-based PA. Those with higher levels of depressive symptoms engaged in less house work (sub-type of leisure PA) than those with fewer depressive symptoms. Depression was not related to stage of change. Although the substantial number of participants reporting depression in this sample complements extensive evidence of a strong reciprocal relationship between depression and diabetes, it is greater than reported estimates of