Prosody in Interaction
Edited by Dagmar Barth-Weingarten, Elisabeth Reber and Margret Selting
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Prosody is constitutive for spoken interaction. In more than 25 years, its study has grown into a full-fledged and very productive field with a sound catalogue of research methods and principles. This volume presents the state of the art, illustrates current research trends and uncovers potential directions for future research. It will therefore be of major interest to everyone studying spoken interaction. The collection brings together an impressive range of internationally renowned scholars from different, yet closely related and compatible research traditions which have made a significant contribution to the field. They cover issues such as the units of language, the contextualization of actions and activities, conversational modalities and genres, the display of affect and emotion, the multimodality of interaction, language acquisition and aphasia. All contributions are based on empirical, audio- and/or video-recorded data of natural talk-in-interaction, including languages such as English, German and Japanese. The methodologies employed come from Ethnomethodology, Conversation Analysis and Interactional Linguistics.

HB 978 90 272 2633 4  EUR 99.00
EB 978 90 272 8846 2  EUR 99.00

Video clips (.mov) and audio files (.wav) of numerous examples in this volume can be found at http://dx.doi.org/10.1075/sidag.23.media

“This wonderful collection of papers contributes to the already longstanding tradition of studies on prosody in interactional linguistics. It pays a significant tribute to the outstanding work done by Elisabeth Couper-Kuhlen who has radically contributed to our understanding of the role of prosody in interaction. The volume not only shows the central role of prosody for the organization of interaction, but also demonstrates the interplay of prosody and other multimodal dimensions, going from syntax to gesture and embodied conducts. In this sense, the volume invites to integrate in a holistic way all of the resources participants mobilize in constructing the emergent order of social interaction.”
Lorenza Mondada, University of Lyon

“With contributions from some of our most prominent scholars, Prosody in Interaction honors one of the primary originators of this CA-inspired line of work by offering revealing accounts of the place of prosody in action. There can be no question that prosody plays an indispensable role in producing action in talk-in-interaction, and the contributions to this volume furnish solid empirical evidence of just what roles it plays across languages and circumstances. Accompanying commentaries to most of the contributions give added depth to the volume.”
Gene H. Lerner, UC Santa Barbara

“It is most fascinating how much has been found out about the previously elusive medium of prosody since a small group of scholars have begun to investigate it within the environment in which it has evolved and keeps evolving, social interaction. This book provides us with a thorough understanding of the systematic ways in which we use the musical parameters of speech — melody, voice, rhythm — to manage interactions and social relationships, beat by beat, turn by turn. We learn to appreciate the immense range of social and symbolic tasks accomplished by prosodic choices and formats, as well as the wealth of research that is still to be done.”
Jürgen Streeck, The University of Texas at Austin
Table of contents

Foreword
Preface
List of contributors

Introduction
Prosody in interaction: State of the art
Margret Selting
Future prospects of research on prosody: The need for publicly available corpora: Comments on Margret Selting "Prosody in interaction: State of the art"
Arnulf Deppermann

Part I. Prosody and other levels of linguistic organization in interaction
The phonetic constitution of a turn-holding practice: Rush-throughs in English talk-in-interaction
Gareth Walker
Rush-throughs as social action: Comments on Gareth Walker "The phonetic constitution of a turn-holding practice: Rush-throughs in English talk-in-interaction"
Susanne Günthner
Prosodic constructions in making complaints
Richard Ogden
The relevance of context to the performing of a complaint: Comments on Richard Ogden "Prosodic constructions in making complaints"
Auli Hakulinen
Prosodic variation in responses: The case of type-conforming responses to yes/no interrogatives
Geoffrey Raymond
Retrieving, redoing and resuscitating turns in conversation
John Local, Peter Auer and Paul Drew
Doing confirmation with ja/nee hoor: Sequential and prosodic characteristics of a Dutch discourse particle
Harrie Mazeland and Leendert Plug

Part II. Prosodic units as a structuring device in interaction
Intonation phrases in natural conversation: A participants' category?
Beatrice Szczepik Reed
Making units: Comments on Beatrice Szczepik Reed "Intonation phrases in natural conversation: A participants' category?"
Jan Anward
Speaking dramatically: The prosody of live radio commentary of football matches
Friederike Kern
Commentating fictive and real sports: Comments on Friederike Kern "Speaking dramatically: The prosody of radio live commentary of football matches"
Johannes Wagner
Tonal repetition and tonal contrast in English carer-child interaction
Bill Wells
Repetition and contrast across action sequences: Comments on Bill Wells "Tonal repetition and tonal contrast in English carer-child interaction"
Traci Walker

Part III. Prosody and other semiotic resources in interaction
Communicating emotion in doctor-patient interaction: A multidimensional single-case analysis
Elisabeth Gülich and Katrin Lindemann
Double function of prosody: Processes of meaning-making in narrative reconstructions of epileptic seizures: Comments on Elisabeth Gülich and Katrin Lindemann "Communicating emotion in doctor-patient interaction: A multidimensional single-case analysis"
Elisabeth Reber
Multimodal expressivity of the Japanese response particle Huun: Displaying involvement without topical engagement
Hiroko Tanaka
Response tokens – A multimodal approach: Comments on Hiroko Tanaka "Multimodal expressivity of the Japanese response particle Huun"
Dagnar Barth-Weingarten
Multiple practices for constructing laughables
Cecilia E. Ford and Barbara A. Fox
Multimodal laughing: Comments on Cecilia Ford and Barbara Fox "Multiple practices for constructing laughables"
Karin Birkner
Constructing meaning through prosody in aphasia
Charles Goodwin
Further perspectives on cooperative semiosis: Comments on Charles Goodwin "Constructing meaning through prosody in aphasia"
Helga Kotthoff

Author index
Subject index