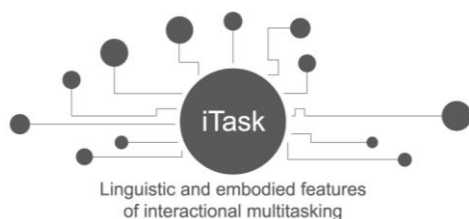


Suspending manual activities during body torques: Sustaining and reinforcing interaction in multiactivity situations

Antti Kamunen

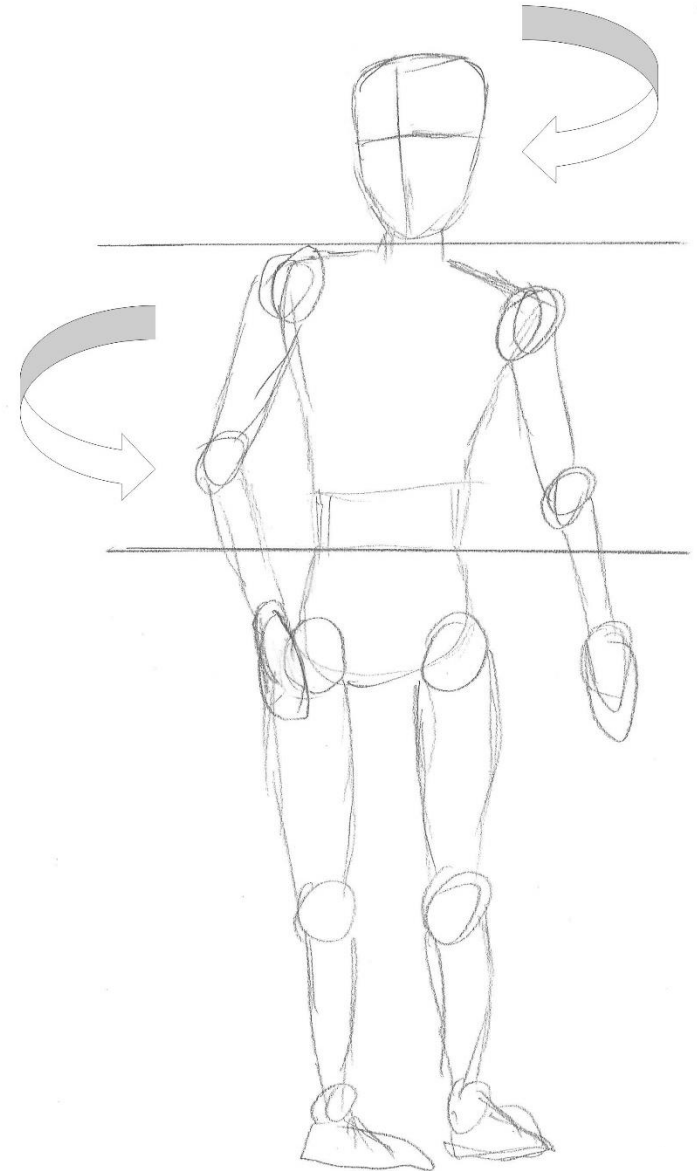
CA Day, Loughborough

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Body torque (Schegloff, 1998)

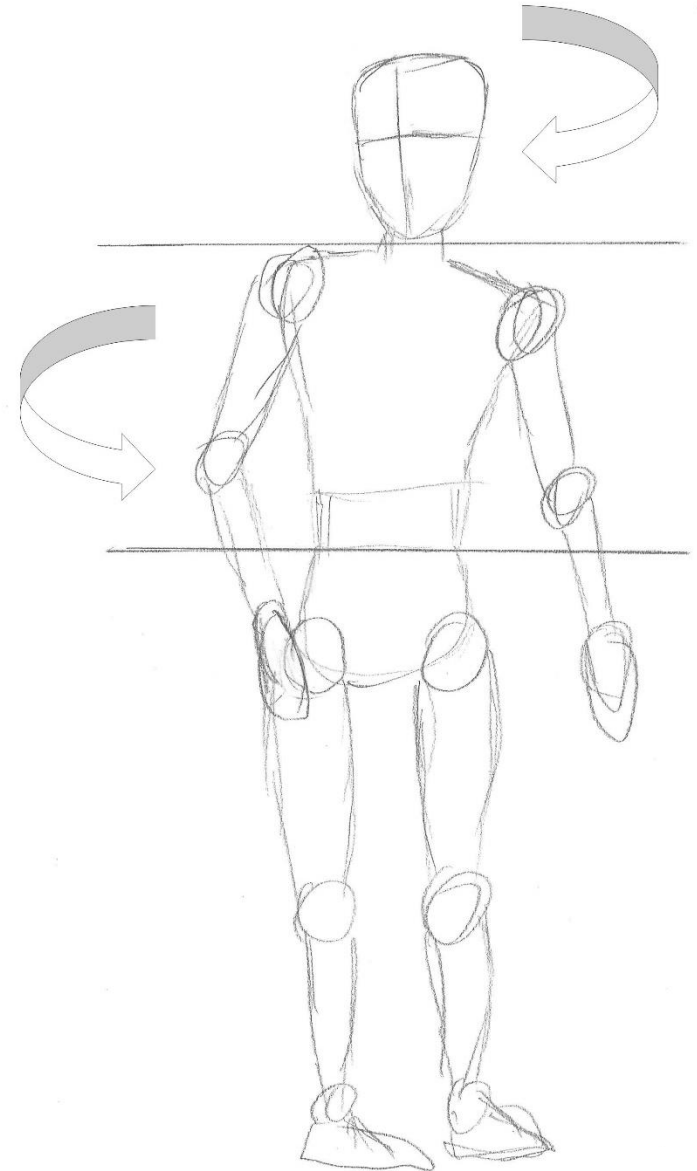
- “divergent orientations of the body sectors above and below the neck and waist, respectively”
- an embodied feature of interaction with a “capacity to display engagement with multiple courses of action and interactional involvements” (p. 536)



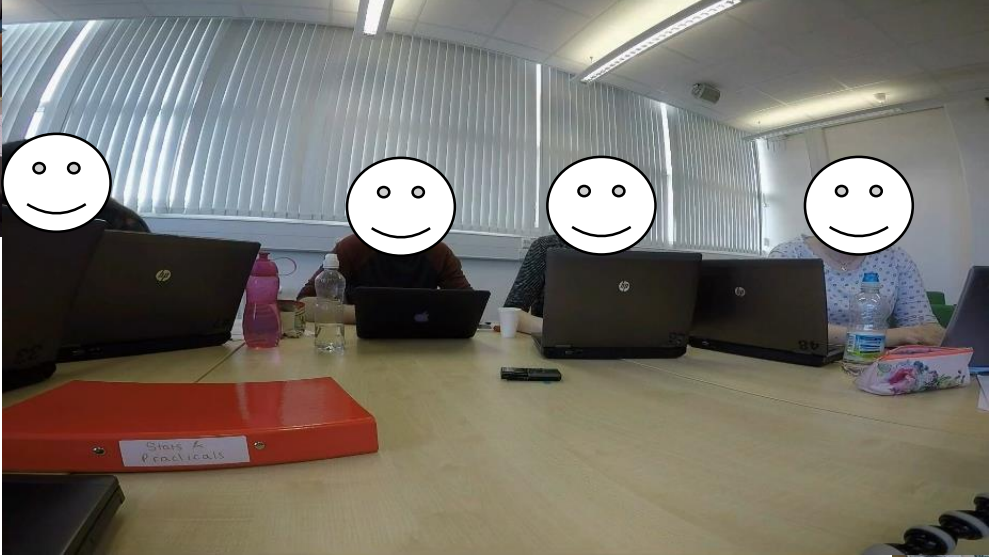
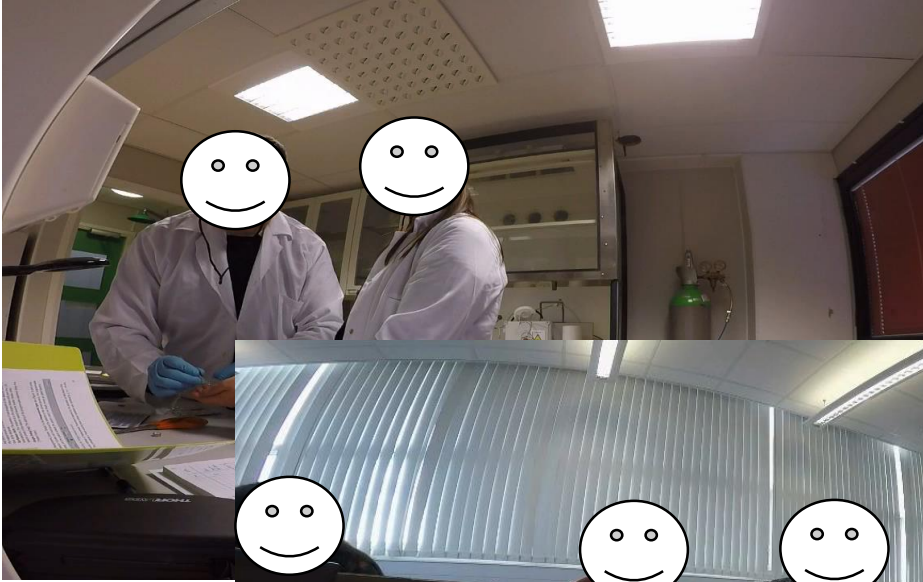
Body torque

- doctor-patient interaction (Ruusuvuori, 2001)
- student-teacher tutoring (Belhiah, 2009)
- playing video games (Mondada, 2012)

- Negotiating participation between multiple conversations (VanderStouwe, 2012)



Data



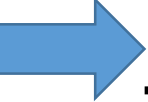
Temporal orders of multiactivity (Mondada, 2014)

Parallel order

Embedded orders

Exclusive order

This study

- A systematic sequential study on body torque in the context of multiactivity (Haddington et al, 2014).
 - Interactional aspects of suspensions and resumptions of manual activity during body torques
 - Moments of increased relevance for recipient response (Stivers & Rossano, 2010) and displays of acknowledgement
-  Repair, information-seeking sequences, humorous turns at talk and introductions of central characters or concepts in storytelling

Initial observations

- Suspensions of manual activity display a (temporary) shift in the orientation away from the primary activity, and in favour of the interaction.
- When the speakers continue the manual activity in parallel while in body torque, the torques appear to be organised to last only for the duration of time when eye gaze is not required for continuing the task.
- Activities managed in parallel temporal order can also be suspended or abandoned for interactional purposes.
- Different functions for instigators and for respondents.

Instigator

- Onsets of torques often at places of transitions between (sub)activities, or during activities that can be continued in parallel order.
- Torque released either once the respondent has provided the relevant response (information-seeking sequences), or once it has at least been established that the respondent knows what kind of response is expected (repair sequences).
- Instigators' torques (and activity suspensions) both pursue and evaluate responses. Holding a torque + suspending manual activity communicate "something more" is required.

Respondent

- Respondents usually suspend their manual activities and initiate body torque already during the instigator's turn, quite abruptly, which displays a preferred orientation towards interaction over manual activity.
- Torque released after some kind of receipt from the instigator, or once the instigator has released their torque.
- Displaying availability
- After the initial torque + suspension, any follow-up questions can be answered while bodily fully oriented to the task

Example 1

- Laboratory
- Santeri (pipetting) & Dyanna (rinsing a bottle)



sh: Santeri's head orientation
su: **Santeri's upper body orientation**
sm: **Santeri' manual activity**

12 D: can we buy some more of ^sthis because=

sh: ---->^s.....^sface twd D---->

13 S: =huh?

14 D: ^scan we ^sbuy some more of [this] because=

su: ^s.....^s**slightly twd D**---->

15 S: [yes].

16 D: =^sthere ^sare ^sold^s,

su: ---->^s.....^s**twd table**---->

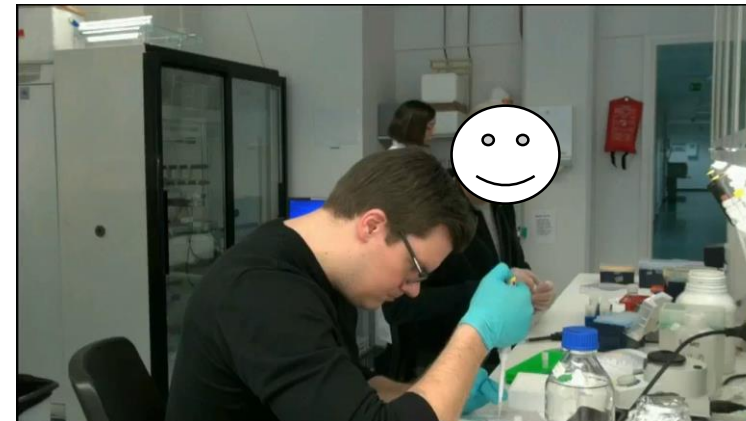
sm: ^s.....^s**hands on table**---->

17 S: I ^sthink if ^{ss}also this^s cradle (0.5) it's [not] (^spro^sbed)^{ss}.

sh: ->^s,,,,,,,,,,,,,^sface twd table-----^s.....^sface twd D---->

sm: ---->^s.....^s**points twd the cradle w/ handR**^s,,,,,,,,,,,,,^s**pipetting**---->>

18 D: [okay].



- At first, conversation managed in parallel order with the manual activities.
- Question followed by an abrupt head turn and ‘open’ class repair initiator “häh/huh”, then slight torque in the upper body and a reply during the repeated question
- Manual activity suspended during the instigator’s turn once it has become clear that she was not yet finished and an account for the question was to follow.
- Manual activity resumed at a TRP, torque released and hand used for pointing.

Example 2

- Family home, kitchen
- Tanja (mixing dough), Dad (washing dishes)



19 TAN: we're in (that one which trashed).

20 (1.7)^d(0.7)^p(0.7)

db: ---^d...>

dm: ---^Dstops, hands held in front above the sink---

21 DAD: ^dhmh?

db: ^dgaze twd Tanja---

22 TAN: (0.5)^t(0.2)

tb: ---^t...>

23: we're in the ^tone which burned at^t (near the) ^{td} ^Tre^Dhear^dsal ^T[(]).

24: DAD: [oh].

tb: ...^tgaze twd Dad-----^t,,,,,,,^tgaze twd counter-->>

tm: ---^T^Tscoops butter into bowl-->>

db: ---^d,,,,,,^dface twd sink---

dm: ---^Dshakes brush dry w/ handR---



- Dad manages the conversation with Mom and Tanja in parallel with the washing, no body torque.
- Suspension of manual activity is a part of the repair initiation; Dad suspends the washing and torques at a transition point between two sub-activities, vocal repair initiator produced once already in body torque.
- Tanja also turns and reformulates the trouble source turn, her manual activity suspended when mutual gaze achieved.
- Tanja begins to release her torque once she has provided the relevant bit of information (“the one which burned”), after which Dad also releases his torque and continues his activity.
- News receipt “oh” produced once torque released.

Example 3

- Student apartment, kitchen
- Lloyd (doing the dishes) & Shayna (preparing food)



01 SHA: you're finishing ¹your ¹Ph¹D ¹is ¹near^s (.) ^saren't you?
 llm: ---¹.....¹tap¹,,, ¹hands frozen over sink--->
 llb: ---¹.....¹in torque, face twd SHA--->
 shb: ---^s.....^sin torque, face twd LLO--->
 02 LLO: ¹uuh:: one way or another y[eah¹ he¹heheh] ¹ts.hh,
 03 SHA: ^s[e(h)ehe^shehe]
 llm: ¹tilts tray and pours off water-----¹resumes washing--->>
 shb: ---^s,,,,,,^swhole body twd counter--->>
 llb: ---¹,,,,,,¹whole body twd sink--->>
 04 okay?



- Respondent's suspension of manual activity and onset of torque take place before instigator has finished.
- Mutual gaze achieved, instigator's manual activity continued in parallel.
- Once instigator's turn has reached a point of potential completion, respondent resumes his manual activity but remains in torqued position while producing his answer.
- The torque is released once the respondent's own turn is complete and once the instigator has started to release her torque and has acknowledged the answer.
- Manual activity suspended and mutual gaze sought only during the initial question; follow-up questions answered while body fully oriented to the washing

Summing up

- Parallel order + embedded order
- Manual activities suspended and bodies torqued in connection with answering questions and initiating repair
- Instigators and respondents have different rights and obligations → different temporal resources in managing multiactivity.
- Turning away from and suspending a parallel manual activity take different functions with instigators and respondents, but in all cases are part of displaying mutual involvement in a conversation, and/or solving an interactional problem.

Thank you!

antti.kamunen@oulu.fi

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