

Publication

Walking away. The embodied achievement of activity closings in mobile interactions

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)

ID 2496388

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Year 2013

Title Walking away. The embodied achievement of activity closings in mobile interactions

Journal Journal of pragmatics

Volume 47

Number 1

Pages / Article-Number 41-58

In this paper we describe in detail the coordinated practices of walking away as reflexively contributing to the organization of activity closings. The paper contributes to conversation analytic studies interested in multimodality, space and mobility, by showing the relevance of walking for the systematic and situated organization of talk-in-interaction. More particularly, the paper deals with sequential environments in which activity closings are projected, and achieved by the participants; it shows that in this position, initiating walking away is a resource that makes closing publicly projectable and recognizable. Moreover, the study shows how walking away is a negotiated matter, being initiated by some, aligned or disaligned by others, possibly retracted and revised. Finally, the study demonstrates that walking away as a coordinated and negotiated practice raises normative expectations among the participants: a deviant case is discussed in which participants orient to the absence of such a coordination. In sum, the paper offers a detailed analysis of a particular multimodal practice walking as a conduct systematically coordinated with talk-in-interaction. (C) 2012 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

Publisher Elsevier

ISSN/ISBN 0378-2166

edoc-URL <http://edoc.unibas.ch/dok/A6254444>

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1016/j.pragma.2012.11.016

ISI-Number WOS:000315245200004

Document type (ISI) Article