Seminar on Discourse Analysis: Medical Discourse

Instructor: Professor Mei-hui Tsai
Elective course for graduate students
No. of Credits: 3 credits

Course Description

- We will use discourse analysis to explore the conversational patterns of medical consultation and their implications for doctor-patient communication. By studying the medical discourse literature and analyzing transcriptions of conversations between doctors and patients, this seminar examines the following topics:

  * Communication problems and conversational patterns
  * Medical versus everyday communication
  * Medical consultation as a genre
  * Phases and stages in medical consultation
  * Asymmetry and power negotiation
  * Medical triads: patients and companions
  * Delivery of advice and bad news

- In each seminar, the professor introduces the topics, reviews key points from assigned reading, and leads discussions.

Homework and final paper

- Non-academic outside readings
- Analysis of conversations in two movies
- A final paper analyzing conversational patterns observed in health communication or medical interviews is required. Students may collect their own data or use Southern Min / Mandarin discourse data provided by the professor.

Grading Criteria

10% non-academic outside reading
15% group work (analysis of conversations in two movies)
40 % in-class participation;
35 % the processing and written report of the research project

Schedule

WK 1 2/17  SYLLABUS AND OVERVIEW

WK 2 2/24 TOUR GUIDE: HOW TO WRITE AND READ A RESEARCH PAPER ON MEDICAL DISCOURSE

http://www.atypon-link.com/WDG/toc/come/2/1


WK3 3/3 COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS


WK 4 3/10 HW DUE ON THE MONDAY OF WK4: THE PART(S) YOU LIKE THE BEST FROM GAWANDE OR LAI.


WK 5 3/17 MEET FOR THE MOVIES: WIT or THE DOCTOR.

WK6 3/24 MEDICAL VERSUS EVERYDAY COMMUNICATION


**WK7 3/31**  **HW DUE ON THE MONDAY OF WK7: THE DOCTOR INTERRUPTION IN THE MEDICAL INTERVIEWS**


**WK8 4/7**  **GENRE AND FRAME**


**WK9 4/14**  **ANALYZE CONVERSATION EXCERPTS FROM TWO MOVIES**


**WK11 4/28**  **ASYMMETRY AND POWER NEGOTIATION**


**WK12 5/5**  **IDEAS FOR YOUR FINAL PAPER**

**WK13 5/12**  **PHASES**


WK14 5/19 DELIVERING BAD NEWS AND GIVING ADVICE


WK15 5/26 PRESENTATION OF FINAL PAPER-GROUP 1

WK16 6/2 PRESENTATION OF FINAL PAPER- GROUP 2
FULL PAPER DUE ON THE MONDAY OF WK16-GROUP 1

WK17 6/9 FULL PAPER DUE ON THE MONDAY OF WK17-GROUP 2
THIRD PERSON EFFECT ON DOCTOR-PATIENT COMMUNICATION


WK18 6/16 26. NO CLASS MEETING