

The interactive organization of every day “talk” of native Kenyan sign language (KSL) users: The case of cohesion

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Abstract

People who are deaf in Kenya operate within a distinct Kenyan deaf culture that uses Kenya Sign Language (KSL) to interact. The focus of this paper is every day “talk” or any signing activities that they engage in during their interaction in everyday contacts. The paper pivots on discourse that is not planned. According to Brazil [1] unplanned discourse is instinctive and happens gradually in time. Therefore, unplanned discourse is spontaneous and impulsive and is heavily reliant on immediate context to make known people’s thoughts and relies less on structure to express meaning, Brazil [2]. An analysis of “Talk” that occurs naturally is conversational analysis. Consistent with Richards et al [3], conversation analysis involves examination of naturally occurring conversations to establish the linguistic attributes of “talk” and how it is used in ordinary life. This is the concern of this paper. It also examines how casual talk achieves cohesion as we investigate the linguistic characteristics of every day “talk” in the context of people who are deaf and users of KSL.

Keywords: Casual talk; Conversational analysis; Unplanned discourse; Register; Cohesion

1 Introduction

Situational factors or register or also known as style always determine how language is used. This paper focuses on language variation according to use, or “what the speaker is doing in terms of social activity,” in terms of everyday “talk” or unplanned discourse in KSL, Halliday, Zimmer [4, 5]. Unplanned discourse has as its linguistic attributes the fact that it lacks:

- Forethought before it is uttered and is normally distinguished by its inromptness.
- Forward planning and arrangement.
- any attempt to structure it appropriately and effectively, or;
- Local management and is “planned” spontaneously.

1.1 The Data: Every day “Talk.”

The paper relies on data collected from conversations involving native users of KSL. The conversations were captured on video in a spontaneous situation. The recorded dialogue involved 4 deaf native KSL users. The four were video recorded for a period of about 1 hour and a half while engaged in a conversation at the University of Nairobi. Mr. Washington Akaranga a deaf senior researcher at the Kenyan Sign Language Research Project (KSLRP) recorded the conversation surreptitiously. Since this was an informal conversation it did not have a defined topic but the participants were generally talking about family life.

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1.2 Theory

We shall be guided in the analysis of our data by an eclectic approach since there exists innumerable models of how language use varies according to situation or register. A number of these frameworks or models consider register as an arrangement that is socially constituted and recognized. O'Grady et al [6], views contextual use of language as the organization taken by talk depending on any given circumstance and that registers may manifest themselves differently phonologically, syntactically and lexically. For instance, discourse that is planned (formal) determines a specific register distinguished by particular lexical entries and the rigid following of the conventions of the language. Conversely, an informal setting conditions a casual register that has less use of formal vocabulary and lack of obedience to the conventions of language and more use of non-standard features of language. Others like Halliday and Hasan [7] examined the other concern of this paper – cohesion and presented taxonomies of various types of words or phrases that assists a reader or listener link previous statements with current ones (cohesive ties). Joos [8] in his model for the study of register variation on the other hand proposes five styles which include; Intimate, casual, consultative, formal style and frozen. For this paper we are more interested in the casual style.

Fischer [9] examined a bilingual ASL-English situation and determined that Sign Language can play the H-role (formal) and L-role (informal) and that the two are marked by different features:

The informal (L-role) language (the concern of this paper) has the following characteristics:

- The deletion of the non-dominant hand and the use of one handed variants,
- Consists of certain grammatical markers that are more definite in casual signing and;
- Non-manual features can appear alone without their manual counterparts.

This paper explores the informal (L-role) language, unplanned or informal “talk” or casual talk in KSL by regarding register as classified with regard to its relative simplicity and contextuality. We examine both the strings that signers produce (made up of parts of speech) and the various markers of discourse or “sequentially dependent elements which bracket unit of talk” – O'Grady et al [10] and how they are also used to achieve cohesion through certain cohesive devices.

It is also noteworthy that the casual talk under discussion is dialogical in nature and speakers and listeners constantly keep on changing roles through turn taking. However, it also exhibits characteristics of “...unequal and asymmetrical ...” dialogue since “as the dialogue progresses there emerges a dominant partner” (p138).

The participants also use different turn claiming cues which help indicate that they are ready to take over from the speaker. Interjection is one such turn claiming cue which is an example of what is called “self-initiated turn claiming cue.” Other self-initiated turn claiming cues include questioning while overlapping talk serves as an example of turn competition; interruption is used as a turn suppressing cue.

There many available ways in which speakers can structure content in discourse. They can for example structure it through the use of features that help the reader or listener find specific information in the text easily (textual features) in casual talk in KSL they also show transition between episodes and link them together. While these textual features may not be part of the content, they assist listeners on how to interpret information. These textual features are normally explicit.

1.3 Cohesion in KSL every day talk (Unplanned Discourse)

Cohesion focuses on the use of components of surface text and how relationship of meaning exists within a text. It also pivots on the links and connections that bring together the elements of a discourse or text. Cohesion is the connection that holds a text together to make it meaningful and involves both lexical and grammatical devices.

It is important to understand that cohesion deals with readily perceived connections within a text. KSL every day talk- (unplanned discourse) has at its disposal various devices of cohesion which include but are not limited to:

- Referring expressions.
- Indicators that show quantity.
- Indicators that present items in the same sequence
- Indicators of chronology

- Indicators for introducing new items in a time sequence.
- Indicators that reinstate what has just been said.

1.3.1 Referring expressions.

These are expressions that relate to a preceding or following element in a sentence. They give us information regarding how noun phrases and their referents relate, Valli and Lucas [11]. Examples from the conversation:

- Demonstrative reference and;
- Personal reference

2 Demonstrative reference

Demonstratives refer to something in relation to whether they are proximal to or from the signer. They normally manifest themselves through deixis. They are words or phrases that relate an utterance to time, place or person(s), Richards et al. [12]. Deixis characterizes how objects and events are orientated or positioned in relation to certain points of reference. Demonstrative reference is evident through personal, spatial and temporal deixis which also mark the orientation or position of objects and events with respect to certain points of reference, Valli and Lucas [13].

In this naturally occurring dialogue, spatial deixis is demonstrated by the use demonstrative pronouns like:

THIS, THAT, HERE, THERE

1. SPEAKER A:

TIME VISITOR MANY LATE FINISH/

When they were late,

HOST ANGRY/ HE A LOT FROM

the host got very angry he was complaining a lot

THERE COMPLAIN/ BUT COOL FINISH **THIS**//

However after that he cooled down.

SPEAKER B:

THERE THERETHERE

There now it is clear. I have

CLEAR/ FRIEND MINE HEARING

a friend of mine who is hearing and who

THERE HAVE/HIMSELF GIRL

also moves around with

DIFFERENT DIFFERENTFULL TIME/

Different girls at the same time

/HIMSELF THINK GIRL FRIEND HIS

He was thinking of giving

SALARY GIVEGIVE **THAT**//

his girlfriend his salary.

KSL establishes spatial deixis or demonstrative reference:

When a signer mentions a place, a person or an object during the course of conversation and establishes it in space and then subsequently refers to that place, person or object by an index finger or perhaps with eye gaze or both.

Valli and Lucas [14].

Most of the signs for spatial deixis in this talk refer anaphorically because they refer to objects that are absent. **THIS**, in speaker A's utterance above refers back anaphorically to the cooling off of the man's anger. **THAT**, in speaker B's talk refers back to the speaker's girlfriend. **THIS** (fig 1) and **THAT** refer anaphorically to nominals that precede them linking to them anaphorically therefore making the text cohesive.

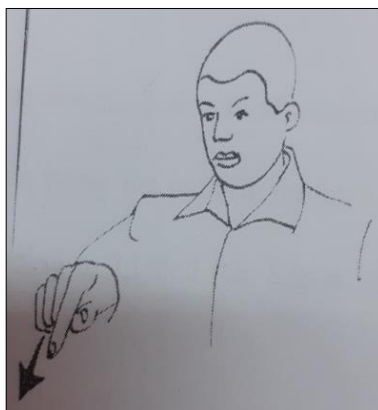


Figure 1 This

THERE, in figure 2 below, cohesively refers backwards in the text. It also refers to the total event starting from the time the wife fell up to the time the man cooled off. **THERE**, thus refers to this extended text. In speaker B's utterance **THERE** appears three times. The first **THERE** which is repeated twice does not serve any demonstrative, deictic or pointing function but it is used sententially as an equivalent of "yes" to indicate speaker's agreement with what the preceding speaker was saying. Thus it is used to express emphatic agreement.



Figure 2 There

THERE **THERETHERE** also functions as a discourse marker that brackets units of talk. It thus brings cohesion by appealing to the knowledge that speaker and addressee share. It is also an alert – used for drawing attention when a speaker wants to interrupt.

The utterance that serves deictic function is the second **THERE** (Fig 2) used to pinpoint the location of speaker’s friend in space thus connecting it to the speaker. Halliday and Hasan [15] posit: ‘here’ and ‘there’ which they view as circumstantial (adverbial) demonstratives appertain to the location of a process both in space and time. **HERE** and **THERE** as adverbials also play another role – that of qualifying nouns. The second **THERE**, is also a qualifier which functions to specify the person being talked about.

Personal reference

The category of person is normally used to demonstrate personal reference. Examples of personal reference include:

I, YOU – represents Subject pronouns

ME– represents Object pronouns

HERS– represents Possessive pronouns

YOURSELF, HIMSELF– represents Reflexive pronouns

Pronouns are noun equivalents and their ability to refer back to known nouns gives them a cohesive function. McCarthy and Clark [16], postulate that pronouns have to attach themselves to an item that interlocutors in the talk can align with. Thus entities move in and out of “current focus” and contributors have no difficulties in knowing what a pronoun refers to.

Below are examples of personal pronoun use in KSL;

3 SPEAKER A:

ME UNDERSTAND THIS ZERO/

I don’t understand this issue.

I HARD THINK PERSON HOUSE GO

I was thinking the person went to the

WHY/HOUSE GO SAME FIGHT.

house to argue?

SPEAKER B:

MAN AFRAID NOTHING/ WOMAN

The man was very afraid. The woman

PROVOKE HIM TRY/ TOMMORROW

tried to provoke him. The next day he

FACE SWELL YOURSELF GO

The next day her face was swollen.

HOSPITALMANPOSIBLE GO

She went to the hospital alone

NOTHING POLITE ONE

the man did not bother. She pretended to

BUT **I**THINK BEHAVIOUR **HERS**

be polite but I think that was her behaviour.

TEA COOK NOTHING/ **YOU** ACCEPT?

If did not make tea would

MAN AAH PROBLEM//

you accept?

I and **ME** in speaker A utterance above are examples of personal deixis. They are also used as subject pronouns since they both refer to the speaker. In KSL, **I** or **ME**, (the first person singular pronoun) is signed using the index finger hand form whose place of articulation is at the chest. Since they are first person pronouns they typically perform a non-cohesive or exophoric function in KSL. Since they do not have any antecedents then they do not co-refer. They typically refer to the text producer. In KSL, **I** and **ME** (fig. 3) are synonyms and can be distinguished by the signer's mouthing pattern.



Figure 3 I/Me

In speaker B's utterance above, **YOU** (fig. 4) is exophoric. It is used to indicate the person being addressed or the receiver. It is therefore used for non-cohesive purposes.



Figure 4 You

There is also the use of the possessive pronoun **HERS** in speaker B's utterance above. It is important to observe that the context in which a pronoun is produced will determine its meaning. **HERS** in KSL is signed using the index finger pointing away from the signer with an upwards thrust. **HIS** is signed the same but context and mouthing patterns can be used to differentiate the two. **HERS** in the above context refers to the conduct of someone mentioned prior and both the speaker and listener are aware about. It is thus anaphoric since it refers retrospectively and therefore serves cohesive function. The use of personal pronouns for reference helps to clarify clausal relations. Pronouns do this in a text by continuing topics already raised since they have to be anchored to some entity in the text which all participants can orient to. In this way they bring cohesion.

Reflexive pronouns normally also have to be attached to an antecedent. Thus for effective interpretation of reflexive pronouns, we have to identify elsewhere within the sentence where its referent is indicated.

Examples:

4 SPEAKER A

MAN AFRAID CLEAN/ WOMAN TRY

The man was very afraid.

PROVOKE HIM/ WOMAN FALL

The woman tried to provoke him

THERE/ TOMMORROW FACE SWELL

she fell. The next day her face was

YOURSELF GO HOSPITAL MAN

swollen. She went to the hospital alone the

POSSIBLE GO NOTHING

Man the hospital alone the man did not

SPEAKER B:

HERE HERE HERE CLEAR/

Just here in Nairobi I have

FRIEND MINE THERE

a friend of mine who owns

HAVE/HIMSELF CAR MANY

many cars. What happened to him

MANY FULL TIME HAVE/

He was involved in an accident

HIMSELF ACCIDENT HAPPEN

And ended up in a hospital.

HIMSELF HOSPITAL SLEEP/

This really shocked him

HIMSELF SHOCK THAT//

SPEAKER C:

HIMSELF LEAVE MOVE

He left and moved to privately and quietly

MOI UNIVERSITY PRIVATE

to Moi University. His aim was to get the

SMALLSMALL/ CERTIFICATE BIG

A degree certificate.

AIM CATCH.../

In example 3 above, speaker A uses **YOURSELF** which has to be interpreted in the context of a referent that was mentioned previously – the women who fell. This sentence serves a cohesive function since **YOURSELF** refers with backwards directionality to another element in the sentence. Speaker B uses **HIMSELF** which has as its antecedent **FRIEND MINE** an overtly marked NP. **HIMSELF** in speaker C's utterance however has an antecedent that is not marked overtly but can be identified contextually to refer to the man who moved to Moi University as its antecedent. Reflexive pronouns in KSL serve cohesive functions by virtue of having antecedents.

Casual talk in KSL uses referring expressions that fall under demonstrative reference and personal reference for purposes of cohesion. It uses a variety of personal pronouns such as **I**, **ME**, and **HERS**. Casual talk is informal and the style used is intimate Joos [17] since the participants know each other well, they are able to use pronouns that enable them to point at the category of person within the signing space. It also makes use of reflexive pronouns like **YOURSELF** (Fig 5) and **MYSELF** which bring cohesion to the talk since they have antecedents.



Figure 5 Yourself

4.1.1 1.3.2 Indicators of quantity

KSL uses indefinite pronouns as indicators of quantity in casual talk. Examples:

- SOMETHING, SOME–used as empathic pronouns.
- NOTHING –used as non- emphatic pronouns
- EVERYTHING– Generic pronoun

Indefinite pronouns do not reference something specific or particular – they refer in a generic way. Examples:

5 SPEAKER A

NO NONO BEFORE

No! no! no! What did the

MAN TELL WHAT/ **SOME THIS**

man say earlier? He told us

SOMETHING THIS...

something about this.

SPEAKER B

ME TELL WOULD **SAME** WORK

Tell me would it work the same?

SPEAKER A:

SOME HAND CLEAR HAVE BADO/

Some people cannot understand yet.

J-O-H-N TELL ME TIME

John informed me that by the

HUSBAND COME READY UGALI

time the husband arrived the ugali was ready

SPEAKER B

SAME MILK AGREE TOGETHER MIX.

At the same time they agreed to mix

SOME (NGM) HOW/

milk with the Ugali how?

SPEAKER A

AAAH BELIEVE **EVERYTHING**

Aaaah! Don't believe everything.

NOTHING/ BEFORE HEARSTORY

Some time back I had many different

DIFFERENT DIFFFERENT/I HEAR

Stories of how women

WOMEN HUSBAND THEIR TREAT

treat their husbands

HOW/ / BUT BELIEVE **NOTHING?**

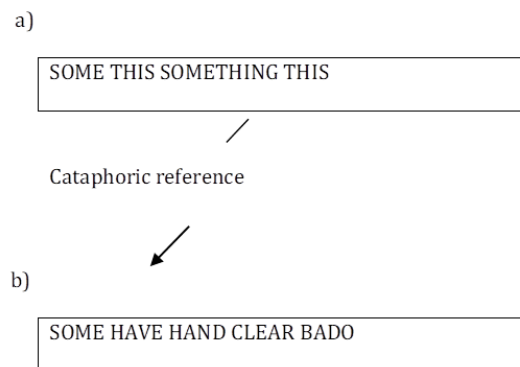
but I don't believe them



Figure 6 Something

The signs **SOME** and **SOMETHING** (fig. 6) used in speaker A's initial utterance refer cataphorically. The sign **SOME** is co-referenced to the **THIS** that appears first, while **SOMETHING** to the second. **SOME** connotes "not all" while **SOMETHING** refers generally and not to a specific thing.

The phrase **SOME THIS SOMETHING THIS** becomes clear in terms of its meaning because it is co-referenced to the phrase **SOME HAVE HAND CLEAN BADO** in the second utterance by speaker A. Therefore there exists a strong anaphoric link between the sentences in the conversation giving us the following cohesive chain:



The repetition of **SOME** in both speaker A's utterances acts as a cohesive link strengthening this chain further. **SOMETHING THIS** refers to the issue at hand (topic). **EVERYTHING** and **NOTHING** (Fig. 8) are other examples of indefinite pronouns. **EVERYTHING** is considered a generic indefinite pronoun because it includes all constituents of the noun it replaces. Thus **EVERYTHING** follows its antecedent **BELIEVE** in the utterance by speaker B above. In speaker A utterances above, the first and second **NOTHING** both appear sentence finally giving **NOTHING** assertive force. The sign **NOTHING** in KSL is used for general reference. It is equivalent to "not at all" in English. In KSL **NOTHING** mostly appears sentence finally and is a negative maker together with **ZERO** (Fig. 7) and **NO**.

From the above, indefinite quantity indicators appear in the unplanned discourse or casual talk to show quantity that is not definite.

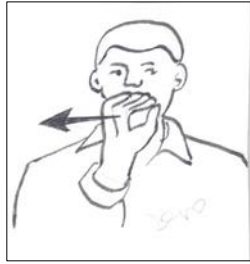


Figure 7 Zero



Figure 8 Nothing

5.1.1 1.3.3 Indicators that introduce new items in the same series

These are indicators that establish that a certain noun phrase is referentially the same to the one before or after it. **SAME** in KSL is the only lexical signaler that introduces new items in the same series from our data. The use of **SAME** can exemplified below.

5a) TELL ME WOULD **WORK SAME**

Tell me would it work the same?

b) **SAME MILK** AGREE MIX...

Agreed to mix the milk with...

SAME (Fig. 9) in 5a) is referentially equivalent to **WORK** a previous NP thus assigning it anaphoric reference. On the other hand, in b) **SAME** refers to **MILK** to which it refers cataphorically. The sign **SAME** therefore refers both to NPs that appear immediately before or after it and thus acts as a cohesive link.

SAME above is also used for emphasis on the two co-referenced NPs. The casual talk thus uses **SAME** to signal new items in the same series.



Figure 9 Same

5.1.2 1.3.4 Chronological indicators

Chronological indicators /signalers convey particular types of relationships. For example

- First, second, one, two etc. (listing)
- For example– (apposition)
- But (Contrast)

We identified **BUT** as a chronological signaler that expresses contrast. Examples:

6. YES **BUT** ME UNDERSTAND

Yes but I did not understand.

NOTHING/ I THINK HARD WIFE

I am thinking seriously why the wife

OFFICE ENTER WHY?

went to the office. She went to the office

WIFE ENTER OFFICE SAME ARGUE

to quarrel with her husband.

POLITE ONE **BUT** I THINK

She looks polite but I think

BEHAVIOUR HERS

that's her behaviour.

BUT can be used as a coordinator to denote contrast and it can also be used as a contrastive element with several uses. **BUT** is used to show that the information in the first part of a sentence is not in concord with the positive evaluation of the second part, Hoey [18]. Used in this way it compares two events in terms of some particular aspect they differ thus making it a simple adversative, Crombie [19]

BUT (Fig. 10) can also express unexpected events. The elements of a sentence may contrast because the second conjoin says something that is not expected in line with what the first conjoin says, Quirk and Greenbaum [20]. **BUT** is therefore used to convey a departure from the way that events normally happen i.e. the antecedent conveys enough condition to negate the proposition expressed by the consequent. This is called the condition unsatisfied **BUT** which is similar to the English concessive conjunct “yet”. **BUT** can also express contrast positively restating what has been said or implied negatively in the first conjoin, this **BUT** is similar to the English antithetic conjunct “on the contrary.”

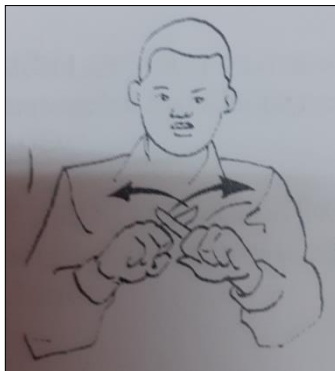


Figure 10 But

The first **BUT** as used in 6 above contrastively show that the initial part of the sentence has information that cannot be used in the positive evaluation of the second part. The second **BUT** as used in 6 above on the other hand is an example of the condition unsatisfied **BUT** which denotes contrast in terms of the unexpected nature of what is said in the second conjoin. In both these cases **BUT** links elements cohesively.

Since it is a coordinator, **BUT** acts as the link between one propositions to another in a sentence. The first **BUT** in 6 above refers anaphorically by negating the first proposition represented by **YES**. The second **BUT** also negates the first proposition thus contrasting the two propositions anaphorically.

5.1.3 1.3.5 Indicators that express relationships between facts

Conditionals in KSL are used to express relationships between facts. They show the connective function of subordinators. They not only show the results of something but also indicate a condition upon which the topic under discussion is dependent on. **IF** is the example identified from our data.

7. ANNOUNCE WORK WHO? OUMA SAY

the boss. Do you know who announced

OK/ ACCEPT DEAF WHY? SIGNING

the job? Ouma did. Do you know why they

WELL/ PROBLEM DEAF/ **IF** HEARING

accepted a deaf person? Because he was signing well.

TALK YOU HEAR YOU HEAR

The problem was that he was deaf and if a hearing person

INTERPRETER HOW PROBLEM/

talked he would have problems understanding an interpreter.

IF in 7 above shows the interdependence of facts in the sentences. It establishes a conditional clause that indicates how facts expressed in the sentence control or condition each other. This interdependence of facts is underlined by the fact that the subject was deaf and was given the job because he was a good signer but he would have problems communicating with the hearing.

IF therefore specifies the condition upon which the topic under discussion depends. The subject's ability to secure the job is dependent on his being a good signer. Conditionals indicate conditions that are real or unreal. Real conditions do not determined whether the condition is fulfilled or not thus expressing what is true of the proposition in the main

clause. For the conditions that are unreal, it is expected that the condition will remain unfulfilled distinctly, Quirk and Greenbaum [21]. The condition expressed by **IF** in 7 above is the unreal one since it is unlikely to be fulfilled.

Since conditionals express relationships of dependency between facts in a proposition they connect and relate these facts. **IF** above, relates facts about a job that a person who is deaf got because he was a good signer but he would have problems communicating with hearing people. **IF** therefore connects these facts into a cohesive chain which express dependency relationship between facts.

5.1.4 1.2.6 Indicators that introduce new items in a time series

These are indicators that introduce clauses of time and comprise different connections that are cohesive and indicate the existing connections within the text and which relate in a sequential way. Examples in the text: **BEFORE, TIME**

6 SPEAKER A

SOME HAVE HAND CLEAR BADO/

Some people don't have clean hands.

MOSES TOLD ME **TIME** HUSBAND

Moses told me that by the time the husband

COME EARLY UGALI WATER BOIL

Came home, water for ugali was boiling.

HARD/**TIME** UNDERWEAR BLOOD

At the same time the wives underwear had menstrual blood which

THERE DRIP... YES! JOKE HOW?

she put into the (NGM) boiling water. Yes this is not a joke.

SPEAKER B

AAAH BELIEVE

Aaaah! Don't believe everything. Some time

EVERYTHING NOTHING/ **BEFORE**

back I had many different stories

HEARDIFFERENT DIFFFERENT /

that women dip meat in their vaginas

MEAT VAGINA PUT/ TEA

or they put menstrual blood in

UNDERWEAR DIP/ I HEAR DIFFERENT

their husband's tea

TIME (Fig. 11) as used by speaker A in 7 above, is referentially equivalent to the English adverb "when" and refers to a succession of past events. **TIME** in KSL indicates the point at which something happened in this case it refers to when

the husband came home the second time and when his wife was in her periods. **TIME** relates these facts sequentially thus contributing to the text being cohesive.

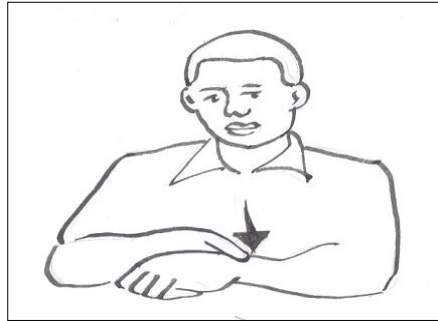


Figure 11 Time

BEFORE (Fig.12) on the other hand gives us information or circumstances of past events or past time. In 8 above, **BEFORE**, by speaker B, has backward directionality indicating the numerous stories the speaker had heard in the past and how she believed none. By referring retrospectively, **BEFORE** is able to link the present with the past. The casual talk under discussion only uses **TIME** and **BEFORE** as cohesive devices and also as temporal markers as explained above.



Figure 12 Before

6.1.1 1.3.7 Indicators of restatement of what has just been said.

These indicators are used to strengthen what has just been said in various ways. In KSL reiteration is an example of such an indicator. It occurs when one lexical item make backwards reference to another related to it by having a common referent. Reiteration can be manifested in ways such as: repetition, synonyms and superordinate.

7 SPEAKER A

WOMAN MEEK CLEAN/MAN TRY TO The woman remained cool despite the

PROVOKE HER/ WOMAN MEEK

provocation from her husband.

HERSELF WITHDRAW MOVE

she left and moved to another University to

UNIVERSITY OTHER PRIVATE SMALL

study privately. Her aim was to get a degree.

SMALL/ AIM CERTIFICATE BIG MIND

Her mind was working very fast. Maybe she

WORKFASTFAST/ MAYBE MOVE

moved back here. But I have heard that she

HAPA/ BUT TRUE ME I HEAR LIVE

lives in a big house. And is planning to get

HOUSE BIG/ ONE TIME MAN OTHER

another man at some Point Otieno

PLANONETIME OTIENO BOTH

found out.

FOUND.

SPEAKER B

YES YES WAIT I THINK

Yes! Yes! Just a moment I think

MAN THAT HAS PROBLEM TRUE

the man has a problem.

SPEAKER C

BEFORE/WORD GIVE (ME) GIRLFIRND

I was told that the girlfriend at the same time

HIS SAME TIME ENTER OFFICE/

went to his office. The had the audacity to

GIRLFRIEND HIS HAVE POWER TELL

quarrel her boyfriend in front of other staff.

YOU YOU YOU/ ARGUE OTHER STAFF

The woman really spoiled her Boyfriend's

OUTSIDE HEAR/BREAK. BREAK /GIRLFRIEND COMPLAIN

name through her complaints.

SPEAKER D

WOMAN YOU YOUYOU – GRAB

The woman shouted you! You! You! She

BOYFRIEND COAT **SHAKE SHAKE** /

grabbed the boyfriend by the collar and shook him.

Tannen [22] asserts:

Repetition is a resource by which conversationalists together create a discourse, a relationship, and a world. It is the central linguistic meaning – making strategy, a limitless resource for individual creativity and interpersonal involvement.

Repetitions appear in all types of discourse including casual talk where it is used for reinforcement. In example 9 above the phrase **WOMAN MEEK** is repeated exemplifying simple repetition involving subsequent repetition of word or phrase mentioned previously mainly for emphasis. Because one phrase refers back to another anaphoric reference is achieved. Other examples of repetition in 9 above are **ONE TIME, GIRLFRIEND** and **WOMAN**. Repetition can also be used to show general and matching particular relations. **WOMAN MEEK WOMAN MEEK; ONE TIME ONE TIME; GIRLFRIEND GIRLFRIEND, WOMAN WOMAN** all have a relationship of matching compatibility because they are matched for similarity.

From 9 above, the following are repeated severally for purpose of rhetoric emphasis: **FAST FAST; YOU YOUYOU; YES YES; BREAK BREAK** and **SHAKE SHAKE**. They also exemplify reduplication though here it is not used for pluralization but for making clear the speaker assertion. **FAST** is repeated to exhibit the speed of the action and can mean very fast. The signing of **FAST FAST FAST** has to be accompanied by non-manual grammatical (NMG) features unlike in pluralization. **YOU** on the other hand is repeated to show how annoyed the girlfriend was thus it acts as an intensifier and must always be followed by intense NMG features. **YES** is repeated so as to intensify the speaker's concurrence with what has been said. **BREAK** is repeated to intensify the act of the girlfriend quarreling her boyfriend in front of other workers and thus spoiling his name. **SHAKE** is also repeated to intensify the action therefore showing how serious it was. Speakers create relationships between elements in the text through repetition and in the process create cohesive text.

To signal restatement of what has just been said the unplanned discourses use repetition as one of its strategies. The casual talk also has incidences of reported speech which aids in creating vividness and interpersonal involvement and also helps in restating what has already been stated.

In the data analyzed, we also identified incidences of reported speech or constructed dialogue. Tannen [23]. This type of dialogue is used to inform someone about past conversation. It helps create vividness and involvement at the interpersonal level. In the KSL casual "talk" under discussion, constructed dialogue is introduced using speech framing devices such as the signs **WOMAN** and **TELL**.

In 9, the constructed dialogue begins with **TELL** – where the wife tells her husband "**YOU YOUYOU**". Constructed dialogue is marked using the sign **WOMAN** at the beginning of speaker D's utterance since the "**YOU YOUYOU**" that follows is attributed to the woman. Another marker of constructed dialogue is the phrase **WOMAN TELL HUSBAND** while the phrase "**KWENDA HUKO**" (go away) is the reported part. Constructed dialogue makes conversation more interesting while at the same time involving the audience in understanding information. In the use of constructed dialogue, "the signer usually shifts his/her body and his/her eyes gaze, so it is clear when he/she is talking and when the other person is talking" Valli and Lucas [24]. This enables both the speakers and listeners to associate the words being used with other words in the sentence. Constructed dialogue enables listeners to make a lateral jump from the topic at hand to a set of terms in which information is seen differently. Constructed dialogue is thus analogic in nature.

8 Conclusion

Linguistic messages can be understood meaning wise through the use of their syntactic structures and lexical items that bring cohesion as shown above. The informal nature of the casual talk and its use of the intimate style, (Joos 1961) enable participants who know each other well, to use spatial deixis that refer to objects that are near the speaker and those that are far. To achieve cohesion in the casual talk referring expressions that fall under demonstrative reference and personal reference are used. Casual talk also uses indicators that show quantity, indicators that present items in the same sequence, indicators of chronology, indicators that introducing new items in a time sequence and indicators that reinstate what has just been said. These features or indicators overtly mark the line between episodes and provide links and connections that unite the elements of a discourse thus giving the text cohesion.

Compliance with ethical standards

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No conflict of interest.

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