Word Search Sequences in Scientific Discussions: Giving Talks in Georgian

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The Topic of the Talk

Word search organization during forward-oriented repair in scientific discussions on the example of Georgian.
Backward-oriented repair:

- Trouble source has already appeared in the talk.
- Usually, repair is initiated by the cut-off, stopping “next sound due” from occurring.
- Postpositioned.
Forward- vs Backward-Oriented Repair

Forward-oriented repair:

▶ Trouble source is yet to be produced.
▶ Usually, repair is initiated by $Uh+$pause, sound-stretches, placeholders, . . . , standing in the place of a next-due element of the talk.
▶ Prepositioned.
Cases from Scientific Discussion

Possible reasons of the trouble source in the turn-in-progress in a scientific discussion:

▶ Complexity of the item.
▶ Borrowed item without an adequate representation in the current language.
A researcher $A$ gives a presentation about some results in Unification Theory.

Not everybody in the audience is an expert in this field.

$A$ tries to avoid specific jargon and to use the conventional mathematical terminology.
Instead of using a specific term $T$, $A$ has to use a longer sentence that either

- recalls the definition of $T$, or
- gives its intuitive explanation, or
- provides its translation when $T$ is in a different language.
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However, $A$ has troubles to immediately come up with such a long definition, explanation, or translation.
Example 1

- $A$ wants to tell the audience that “the given equational theory is of infinitary type”.
- However, the definition of “infinitary type” is quite involved.
- $A$ troubles to immediately come up with a satisfactory explanation.
- Starts with specifying the trouble source, even if the term only does not tell much the audience.
- It is accompanied with some placeholders, to indicate that the speaker is in the process of word search.
Example 1

am ek’vacionaluri teori-is... əmm...
this.OBL equational theory-GEN... hmm...
Example 1

Filler, marking the start of word search

am ek’vacionaluri teori-is... əmm...
this.OBL equational theory-GEN... hmm...
Example 1

am ek’vacionaluri teori-is... əmm...
this.OBL equational theory-GEN... hmm...

egret c’odebul-i usasrulo t’ip’-isa-a...
so called-NOM infinite type-GEN-COP

Trouble source?
Example 1

am ek’vacionaluri teori-is... əmm...
this.OBL equational theory-GEN... hmm...
egret c’odebul-i usasrulo t’ip’-isa-a...
so called-NOM infinite type-GEN-COP
anu šegvižlia vachvenot rom
that.means we.can we.show.SUBJ.it that

[long explanation follows]
Example 1

this.OBL equational theory-GEN... hmm...

so called-NOM infinite type-GEN-COP

that.means we.can we.show.SUBJ.it that

[long explanation follows]
Example 2

- $A$ wants to use a Georgian word for “matching”, but can not immediately recall it.
- Uses codeswitching with $mečing$-.
- Strengthens the impression of word searching by the placeholder $rakvia$.
- Directs gaze to a colleague $B$ in the audience hoping to mobilize help from her.
- After getting in response the Georgian term $šetanadeba$, $A$ continues to speak and completes the sentence.
Example 2

roca  gant’oleb-is  erti  mxare  cvlads  ar
when  equation-GEN  one-NOM  side-NOM  variable-DAT  NEG

šeicavs,  mašin  unipik’acia  daiq’vaneba...  əmm. . .
it.contains.it  then  unification.NOM  it.reduces  hmm...
Example 2

roca  gant’oleb-is  erti  mxare  mlads  ar
when  equation-GEN  one-NOM  side-NOM  variable-DAT  NEG

šeicavs,  mašin  unipik’acia  daiq’vaneba...  οmm... 
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Example 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>roca</th>
<th>gant’oleb-is</th>
<th>erti</th>
<th>mxare</th>
<th>cvlads</th>
<th>ar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>one-NOM</td>
<td>side-NOM</td>
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<td>NEG</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

šeicavs, mašin unipik’acia daiq’vaneba... əmm... it.contains.it then unification.NOM it.reduces hmm... mečing-is... rakvia... šetanadeb-is p’roblema-ze (Eng.)matching-GEN whatchamacallit matching-GEN problem-on
Example 2

roca  gant’oleb-is  erti  mxare  cvlads  ar
when  equation-GEN  one-NOM  side-NOM  variable-DAT  NEG

šeicavs,  mašin  unipik’acia  daiq’vaneba...  əmm. . .
it.contains.it  then  unification.NOM  it.reduces  hmm. . .

mečing-is. . .  rakvia. . .  šetanadeb-is  p’roblema-ze
(Eng.)matching-GEN  whatchamacallit  matching-GEN  problem-on

Codeswitching
Example 2

Placeholders indicating word search.
Gaze towards a person in the audience.

roca gant’oleb-is erti mxare cvlads ar
when equation-GEN one-NOM side-NOM variable-DAT NEG

šeicavs, mašin unipik’ac daiq’vaneba... əmm... it.contains.it then unification-NOM it.reduces hmm...

mečing-is... rakvia... šetanadeb-is p’roblema-ze
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roca  gant’oleb-is  erti  mxare  cvlads  ar
when  equation-GEN  one-NOM  side-NOM  variable-DAT  NEG

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mečing-is. . .  rakvia...  šetanadeb-is  p’roblema-ze
(Eng.)matching-GEN  whatchamacallit  matching-GEN  problem-on

Trouble source
Discussion

Some observations:

▶ Word search in a monolingual scientific discussion bears similarities with word search in bilingual interaction: codeswitching, embodied actions, collaborative solution. . . cf. Greer (JoP 2013).

▶ Forward-oriented repair in scientific discussions can be related to adjusting explanations to the audience background.

▶ Word-search practice in Georgian: usage of placeholders (*isa, rakvia, imasqna*) during the search.