

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.

Forward- vs Backward-Oriented Repair

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.

Context

- ▶ 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.

Context

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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Instead of using a specific term T , A has to use a longer sentence that either

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- ▶ gives its intuitive explanation, or
- ▶ provides its translation when T is in a different language.

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

Trouble source?

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anu	šegvizlia	vachvenot	rom
that.means	we.can	we.show.SUBJ.it	that

[long explanation follows]

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[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...

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Filler, marking the start of word search

roca	gant'oleb-is	erti	mxare	lads	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

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Codeswitching

Example 2

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

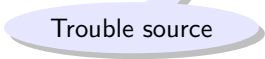
roca when	gant'oleb-is equation-GEN	erti one-NOM	mxare side-NOM	cvlads variable-DAT	ar NEG
šaicavs, it.contains.it	mašin then	unipik'ac unificati	NOM	daiq'vaneba... it.reduces	əmm... hmm...
mečing-is... (Eng.)matching-GEN		rakvia... whatchamacallit		šetanadeb-is matching-GEN	p'roblema-ze problem-on

Example 2

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

šaicavs, mašin unipik'acia daiq'vaneba... əmm...
it.contains.it then unification.NOM it.reduces hmm...

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(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.