The Delicacy of Social Relationships
How Seemingly Small Choices in Formulating Talk Can Have Large Consequences For Relationships

Paige Clairmont
Honors Thesis
Advisor: Professor Danielle Pillet-Shore
“When a person volunteers a statement or a message, however trivial or commonplace, he commits himself and those he addresses, and in a sense places everyone present in jeopardy” (Erving Goffman, 1967: 37)
Conversation Analysis:

Consists of collecting recordings of naturally occurring interactions between people

Describes in detail how speakers produce their own actions and interpret the actions of others
Auto-ethnography:

Draws upon personal experience and understandings of the social relationships between involved participants
P: I need to um

we'll I guess I'm using the °George°

Cuz that's what I usually use (. ) the grill°
26  P: I need to um
27     (0.8)
28     well I guess I’m using the °George°
29     (0.5)
30  P: °Cuz that’s what I usually use (. ) the grill°
31  J: Not mi:ne
33  P: well you=we can use the pan
34     instead.
35     ((background chatter))
36  J: A[l]l’s I was saying
39 P: I can’t put it down anyway=because it’ll
40 °smoosh them to death°
41 E: Do you want to just go so I can make these
42 green beans-
43 J: Well, I dun:no (.) you wanna use
44 P: I usually use the real grill=°we don have-°
45 J: No we can use th[e George
48 J: I thought you said your George
49 P: Oh=the Geo- \=oh no\=: I said the George
50 J: >Thas=why I was like s’not mine<
51 P: I th[ought you said not mj:ne
52 J: [hhh no\:: .hh
53 P: Like alri:ght
54 J: O:h hh no: hh
A: I’m gonna be pounding on your window at unreasonable hours.

E: Please don’t pound.

P: [Sorry]

E: Anything? Thank you.

A: hh:hh
A: ‘mo:::n.
E: >Save that for n[a:ils<
J: [I’m waiting for my fri:end
(.) Gloria
A: Save it for £what
18 A: Save it for what
19 E: .hh save it for na_ils hh
20 A: Yo I’m quitting=I hate my job (.5) boss is a
21 mean jerk.
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