

Space as Interactive Resource [Text]: [Anthology] / Heiko Hausendorf, Lorenza Mondada, Reinhold Schmitt (ed.). Studies of the German language: Research of the Institute for the German Language: – Tübingen: Narr Publ., 2012. – 436 p. – (Working Papers and Materials in German Language; vol. 62) ISBN 978-3-8233-6706-2. ¹

A.A. Petrova

*Dr. hab., Volgograd State University
Email: petrova16@mail.ru*

N.L. Shamne

*Dr. hab., Volgograd State University
Email: shamnenl@gmail.com*

L.N. Rebrina

*Dr. hab., Volgograd State University
Email: Reblora@mail.ru*

E.A. Eltanskaya

*Ph.D, Volgograd State University
Email: yeltanskaya@mail.ru*

M.W. Milovanova

*Dr. hab., Volgograd State University
Email: milovanovamv05@yandex.ru*

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The book «Raum als interaktive Ressource / Space as interactive resource» reported by publishing house Narr (Tübingen, Germany) represents a collective work of scientists from Germany, France, Finland. The research is based on a multimodal concept of interaction in which linguistic description of space (communicative, socio-cultural, psycho-mental, physical) as an ontological category exists together with the description of other multimodal levels of social interaction such as prosody (phonation), kinesics (mimics, gestures), proxemics (poses, participants' positioning of each other). It is placed within the field of ethno-methodology and applies different methodologies while analyzing the accomplishment of interaction by different socio-ethnic groups in authentic situations.

The contributions of the collective monograph are carried out within the framework of a multimodal conception of interaction. The multimodal interaction analysis is a multidisciplinary approach that examines communication in its natural state including all resources used by participants in order to accomplish and transmit social information. The volume demonstrates and discusses the basic methodological issues and methodical principles needed to examine the multimodal events. All contributions point out the core importance of analyzing of all resources in their sequential and simultaneous nature.

In the reviewed collective monograph the following praxeological issues and theoretical approaches are applied:

- space has dual character and represents on the one hand supposition, on the other hand result of interaction;
- space is organized «multimodally», and it is a resource for the constitution of interaction order. Consequently, one of the main analytical issues consists in the reconstruction of the participants' methods for constructing space as a fundamental basis for any kind of interaction;
- interaction space is organized by inter- and intrapersonal coordination; it is a process where verbal activities go simultaneously along with mostly unaccentuated bodily behaviour (of non-verbal character).

The notion of resource includes ideas of conditions and external environment while implementing any kind of communication. It should be noted that the resources can have the character of weak or strong conventionality. Grammar and lexis of any language refer to the latter. Spatial resources of interaction are organized reflexively both by situation and participants' sensitive local actions. They are simultaneously placed at disposal by the situation and used by the participant's. At the same time they are transformed during the process of interaction. This is the point of ethnic and methodological principal of reflexivity. Meanwhile we should not forget that space as a resource is not isolated from other resources of interaction (psychophysical, social, linguistic).

Works merged in the monographic volume can be hypothetically grouped according to several spectra:

- 1) type of communication situation and participants constellations: interactive diads or «face to face» communication (Asmus, Stukenbrock); larger groups (Schmitt, Hausendorf, Kesselheim) and large groups in interaction (Putzier, Mondada, Pitsch);
- 2) types of architectural spaces, relative equipment and facilities, and consequently possible ways of internal movement: restricted spaces such as training rooms and classrooms (Putzier), meeting room, (Asmus), halls for rallies and assemblies (Mondada).

Separated types of spaces are assigned for institutional interaction. They are characterized by the fact that one of the participants always is standing or has the opportunity to move in definite restricted areas while others always hold the position «sitting». Types of internal architectural spaces are defined by ways in which they are connected with the external «world», for example, open door of a training room (Hausendorf) or television studio (Stukenbrock), by the complexity of construction and consequently by possible kinds of movement, for example, exhibition premises (Pitsch). Finally, another type of space is examined – open space of the street occupied by a film crew. The space used by the film crew is relatively flexible and doesn't have obvious restrictions (Schmitt).

In all the situations various aspects of space such as definite facilities (for chemistry lesson), chairs and tables in the room for seminars and meetings, devices and different substances for experiments, kitchen equipment for cooking in the television studio, technical communications equipment for video conference, director's camera) defines the situation character, principals of communication organization, focuses, projects. It also coordinates the specific type of interaction, points out the head person and determines participants ranks and roles. The only exception is the situation of the dim-lighted listening to a film fragment produced specially for the given category of people (Hirvonen, Tiittula).

So, the following comes under detailed review:

- cooperation of the director, two actors and director's assistant during working at the film episode while discussing the concept of the scene and ways of symbolizing functional and professional cooperation (R. Schmitt);
- public meeting on organizing a new city park held by the moderator who structures the discussion, gathers offers, gives the right to vote and prepares decisions (L. Mondada);
- situation in the university in which one of the premises for holding seminars is re/arranged for film

- demonstration (H. Hausendorf);
- visiting museum by a group of children followed up by an adult, analyzing the way the group behaves moving through the halls, watching show-windows and discussing exhibited objects (W. Kesselheim);
 - exhibition objects status, in this case, gymnastic apparatus «parallel bar», which is interpreted by the exhibition visitors differently: either as exhibited object, or as a part of spacial structure, or as a support object (opportunity of leaning) for the participants' body and, finally as a gymnastic apparatus (K. Pitsch);
 - statively stable demonstration space of a studying room for chemistry lesson with specially assigned objects and substances for it with the personality of a teacher focused in the center (E.-M. Putzier);
 - fragment of a work meeting during which two managers work out «text-strategy» for enterprise using one notebook utilized by only one manager and video projection of various texts seen by both of them (B. Ausmuß);
 - specific and complex case of using «medial» space, in other words, space reflected distantly and video reproduced in conditions of video recording and video broadcasting of definite programs (for example, TV cooking show). In this case space is praxeologically constructed and able to regulate the situation of the given interaction in a specific way (A. Stukenbrock);
 - situation of «watching» specialized program for the non-sighted, able only to audio perception of broadcasting (M. Hirvonen, L. Tiittula).

A compulsory condition while collecting material is filming which in all possible perspectives allows to analyze different variations of multimodal interaction space.

The valuable concept in the reviewed collective work is multimodal interaction. The concept is not only relevant in situation when verbal activities do not hold a leading position in the process of constructing the interaction order. Despite the question of verbality, the concept is designed for the analysis of any given interaction. It defines interaction as a process where all semiotic modalities are combined simultaneously. And of course, these modalities include verbal actions as well as all forms of bodily expression. A new orientation in analyzing social interactivity let us introduce the notion of „verbal abstinence” or refusal from verbal activity by participants in certain periods of interaction.

The analysis of video fragments makes visible different forms of active and passive participation in the ongoing interaction. Both forms of participation play an important role in the collective construction of interaction spaces. The way a position within the interaction space is taken and kept displays the participants' attitude towards the content, the pragmatics and the social implication of contributions of others present in the situation.

Additional advantage of video analysis as the method of interaction investigation is the possibility to determine the relativity of behavior of those participants of multimodal interaction who at the present moment act as listeners and observers. The concept of «verbal abstinence as the method participation in interaction» (R. Schmitt) allows to evaluate the contribution of participants who do not show verbal activity at this stage. But, nevertheless, they observe what is going on and display their attitude towards it with the help of gestures, mimics, poses, body movements, sight, etc.

The authors prove conclusively the fact of «late verbality». Especially in the openings a lot of relevant tasks for the constitution of interaction are solved long before the first words are spoken. In these cases other resources such as gaze, body orientation, the way of walking, the reduction of bodily dynamics, gesticulation, mimics etc. make way for verbal exchange. And the way verbal exchange is organized, reflects these preparative work done by the participants. The idea of coordinated coexistence of human language and human body as the basic resource for interaction points out the necessity to analyze the use of both resources not apart, but together at any moment of analytical investigation.

One more aspect which hasn't been paid proper attention till the present moment is the role of perception and so called «perceived perception» (Wahrnehmungswahrnehmung) of participants in interaction. The analysis of video recordings allows to define the ways in which participants react to the fact that they obviously perceive, that they are perceived in a social situation.

The foregoing approaches allow to look at the concept of «space» in a new light focussing on social implications, positions and forms of multimodal coordination in the triad «space – interaction space – participants». It allows to consider the event in the context of bi- or multifocused orientation of personality in space. It becomes more evident that the constitution of mutual interactive space is an important supposition. This is due not only for including verbal activities as a basic constituent of communication but also for choosing varieties and structure of verbal information exchange. Realizing the relevance of space on the constitution of specific forms of interaction order, the authors propose the following thesis: It is necessary to study the methods the participants make use of space as a resource for interaction. This perspective points out the relevance that specific ways of using space as resource has a large influence on how interaction (and the verbal part of it) is organized. It can be supposed though this thesis may seem controversial that in the triad «space – interaction space – participants» everything is interlinked with each other in a reflexive way.

Studying audio and visual documents of interaction the researchers point out multisituations in which verbal

communication is not an aim but the means of creating cooperative structure. This is carried out while discussing some mutual projects and allocating functional and specific, status oriented roles. Such a supposition allows to propose the concept of «interaction ensemble». Within this conceptual frame personal, spatial and thematic and pragmatic constellations represent both the form of cooperation, the form of participation and the positions correlation in the space of communication. An interaction ensemble automatically occupies visible space. And it forms around itself visual fields conceptualized as interactive spaces (R. Schmitt). Thus both concepts happen to be closely related. However not every spatial and territorial group does automatically represent an interaction ensemble.

In summary, the results of the authors' inquisition make an invaluable contribution to the theory of communication development. Each of the articles is characterized by evidence-based approach, integrity and logic nature of the author's position representation.

The reviewed monographic collection, beyond all doubt, sheds new light on the idea of space from an interdisciplinary perspective. It brings together knowledge in virtue of novelty and actuality of its problematics, background and multidimensionality of interpretation of space category, complexity of perspective and consideration of debating points.

The book will obviously find its readership – national linguists and specialists in the disciplines adjacent to linguistics: sociology, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, psychology. It is also of concern to students and post-graduates.