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# FILM CONVERSATIONS: INFORMALITIES AND SOUND OF NATURALNESS

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## **Abstract**

So far, discourse studies on spoken language, more specifically unspontaneous conversation, have been rare. It is right that a film conversation is never real speech. But, according to some experience in using films in EFL classes, “naturalness” has been felt differently from film to film. The author believes that film characters work hard to perform as lively as they can as if they were talking spontaneously as in real conversation. This paper presents a report of study aimed at examining the structure of a film conversation that was considered to have high naturalness.

The research used conversation analysis as an approach to the discourse (spoken text of the film). In analyzing the data the first step to take was to transcribe the spoken data.

The research data has shown that to some extent the conversational mechanism built up by speech participants in the film has been similar to that found in other speech communities. Adjacency pairs and turn-taking principles have not fully been fulfilled; a speech event in a film might consist of more than a single topic; the film actors and actresses, as when they produce real world speech, have not been free from weaknesses; even all details of speech production, such as silence, inbreaths, and fillers can easily be recognized.

Results of the research suggest that, though artificial, certain films can provide the language teacher with a valuable teaching material, especially because the conversational structure in them is similar to that of spontaneous talks. Therefore, selection and careful examination of materials is necessary.

**Keywords:** discourse, film, unspontaneous conversation