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TEXT & TALK

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Introduction

... is being overpowered. He is on his back on the floor, his assailant's brutish, snarling face only inches from his own. Hairy fingers are clamped on his windpipe. In a panic, he reaches behind his head, groping for something to use as a weapon. His hand closes on a telephone, an old-fashioned, heavy, dial telephone. He brings it down with all his remaining strength on his attacker's head, knocking him unconscious. 'Thank God', he mutters, 'that I didn't let Mary convince me to switch to a cellphone'. This scene, or something very like it, will be familiar to anyone who watches movies regularly. It has two kinds of relevance to the subject matter of this essay. First, it is a metaphor, although a sloppy one, for the conversational events that I will describe, in which a telephone is

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A poem should not mean
But be.

Archibald MacLeish, *Art Poetica*

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Referential problems and turn construction: An exploration of an intersection between grammar and interaction*

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Introduction

For the past thirty years, there has been an increasing awareness that
many aspects of linguistic structure, including grammar, are inextricably
intertwined with recurrent patterns in language use in everyday talk
and interaction. Growing out of this awareness has been a burgeoning

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Keywords: scientific discourse; academic conflict; hedging; politeness
theory.

Introduction

The question of the interpersonal relations among scientists, as expressed
in their discourse, has been a rich vein of study in linguistics, with