

Schegloff (1982) “Discourse as an interactional achievement: Some uses of ‘uh huh’ and other things that come between sentences”

Key Points:

- * Conversation is an “achievement”
- * Listener behavior influences speakers
 - “‘Back-channel’ actions” (74)
 - Consider *in context*
 - Two generalizations:
 1. Show that recipient understands that a *turn is not finished* and consents to the current speaker’s *continuation* (“continuers,” 81).
 2. Waive an opportunity for repair, such as clarifying or disagreeing with the previous speech.

My Data:

My fiancé, Chris, and I are in the kitchen having a snack. We contrast two kinds of biscotti – the ones we’re eating now and the ones we used to get in NYC. Then, through a joke, our talk transitions to concern popular entertainment, before eventually finding its way back to food.

((Cracking sound from Ash taking a bite of biscotti.))

- 1 Ash: <mouth full of food>I think I’ll just have half of one.> ((package rustling through line 6))
2 Chris: <intonation of surprise>You didn’t . dip it in any tea>
3 Ash: [Yeah]
4 Chris: [It’s] pretty hard
5 They’re hard-
6 The ones that we got from New York . .
7 were softer.
8 Ash: I know those were [really good]
9 Chris: [you didn’t need] to dunk them necessarily.
10 These ones kind of need dunking.
11 Ash: Yeah.
12 These are . well
13 Chris: Think you need Duncan MacCleod
14 of the [clan MacCleod]
15 Ash: [<clears throat>]
16 <chuckles>
17 Um, is that a reference I should know?
18 Chris: Yeah
19 Ash: What is it.
20 Chris: Um
21 It’s *The Highlander*.
22 Ash: **Oh**.
23 *Highlander*?
24 or *Outlander*.
25 Chris: *Highlander*.
26 Ash: I don’t – what is that

Ashley Wagner – LING 484
Presentation – 8 Apr 20

27 Chris: *Outlander* is the TV show that-
28 and book series that you know,=
29 Ash: =[Mmhmm]
30 Chris: [That's] the <sniffles>
31 traveling in time . one.=
32 Ash: =Yeah, what's uh *Highlander*.
33 Chris: *Highlander* was . .
34 a movie
35 and then a TV show . about um . .
36 I think the movie was Connor MacLeod maybe
37 but the TV show was Duncan MacLeod.
38 Um .
39 He was a Highlander,
40 like, from the Highlands.=
41 Ash: =Mm=
42 Chris: =[um]
43 Ash: [That's cool.]=
44 Chris: =But- they were immortal
45 Ash: O:: H!=
46 Chris: =um They were a group of,=
47 Ash: =Was this from the Sixties?
48 Chris: No the movie was from the Eighties.
49 Ash: O:h that's [why I don't know it.]
50 Chris: [And the TV show] was maybe from the Nineties=
51 Ash: =Oh ok.
52 Chris: Um .
53 Sean Connery was in the-=
54 Ash: =Oh ok.=
55 Chris: =He was like a-
56 He wasn't the lead character he was the mentor character.
57 Ash: [Yeah] that sounds vaguely familiar.
58 Chris: [Um]
59 But it was a thing where they, like,
60 would fight with swords and if you, .
61 Ash: "That's . =
62 Chris: =If you [killed .]
63 Ash: [S-Words"]
64 Chris: um . somebody else then you got their .
65 Ash: <chuckles>
66 Chris: their powers and stuff and .
67 Ash: Oh=
68 Chris: =there was a line that was like
69 "There can BE only one"
70 Ash: [Oh.]
71 Chris: [so ev]entually they had to like <decrescendo>get down to just one>
72 <very softly>immortal person [/so then/]>
73 Ash: [Did they dance .
74 like the highlanders of *Brigadoon*? .

Ashley Wagner – LING 484
Presentation – 8 Apr 20

75 'Cause that [would be great if you could] ➔
76 Chris: [I haven't seen] ➔
77 Ash: <louder>[kill somebody]>
78 Chris: [that] movie uh=
79 Ash: =and get their dancing powers
80 [<chuckles> ((through end of line 82))]
81 Chris: [I don't remember . dancing but
82 that's not to say that there wasn't .]
83 SOME time where there was some dancing,
84 There were several movies and
85 several seasons of tv shows
86 so there could've been some dancing I don't know.
87 Ash: It says my ink cartridges were delivered
88 Chris: [oh]
89 Ash: [and one] other item.
90 I don't think that's fourteen pounds of ink cartridges.
91 So it's probably cat litter.
92 Chris: Probably.
93 Ash: Um ok wait
94 <higher-pitched, asking>what were we talking about before that?>
95 Cuz this is good stuff, this is useable. <chuckling>hhh>
96 [<more chuckles>]
97 Chris: [About Duncan] MacLeod?
98 or [before Duncan] ➔
99 Ash: [u:m,]
100 Chris: Mac[Leod.]=
101 Ash: [O:H.]=
102 Chris: =We were talking [about bis-]
103 Ash: [about the] biscot:[ti, ye:ah.]
104 Chris: [biscotti]
105 And the ones in New York [being,]
106 Ash: [Yeah] I wish we'd discovered those sooner.
107 Chris: Yeah we'll have to go back or- .
108 [well,]
109 Ash: [We need] to eat that jam before it [goes bad.]
110 Chris: [Get] John to send us some too.
111 Ash: That's a good idea.
112 Chris: We need some more of that chocolate chip loaf, too.
113 Ash: Yeah.

Transcription Conventions from: Tannen, Deborah, Shari Kendall, and Cynthia Gordon (eds.) (2007). *Family Talk: Discourse and Identity in Four American Families*. New York: Oxford University Press. Pp. xiii-xiv. Additionally, I have used ! to indicate excitement and = for latching. At times, I have used an additional space to show a very brief pause (I have used one or more dots [.] for longer pauses, as described in the *Family Talk* conventions).