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Abstract: Referential repair and co-construction in Murriny Patha conversational narratives

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Repair in Conversation Analysis is a strategy that interlocutors employ to address problems in interactive discourse. Typically repair sequences address problems relating to speech production, hearing or comprehension. An inability or perceived inability to track referents in discourse can result in comprehension problems. Broadly speaking repairs are of two types, those initiated by the speaker responsible for the troublesome utterance (self-initiated repair), and those initiated by another party (other-initiated repair)<sup>1</sup>.

I present a CA account of repair and co-construction in Murriny Patha narratives. Murriny Patha is a polysynthetic language, spoken by around 2500 people of all generations, mainly at Wadeye, in the Northern Territory of Australia.

Schegloff et al. (1977: 380) note an exception to the general preference for “self-repair”, where the hearer of a story may “other-repair” the narrative in a bid to become a co-narrator of the story. I will demonstrate that in the narratives that unfold within Murriny Patha conversations, the principal narrators use repair, largely referential repair, as a deliberate strategy aimed at effecting a collaborative co-construction of the narrative.

## References:

Schegloff, E. A., G. Jefferson & H. Sachs (1977). "The Preference for Self-correction in the Organisation of Repair in Conversation." *Language* 53(2): 361-382.

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<sup>1</sup> Schegloff et al. (1977)