

## Chapter 4

### Syntactic and Discourse Analysis

#### **Syntactic Analysis**

In the previous chapter, the way that lexical features normally used in spoken language are suggested in the chat room, where communication occurs by a written process. Another way to simply study the language of the chat room is to examine the way it is syntactically formed. As we know, in speaking, time is not available for planing utterances. This time constraint causes incomplete sentence and also affects the sequence of phrase (Brown and Yule, 1983 : 14). In addition, during the ongoing conversation, the speaker may lose the communication floor even if he/she looks for the right words (Finegan, 1994:379). Similarly, in chatting on the Internet, speed is a significant factor; taking time to type either complete or well-organized utterances may at least slow down communication. Besides, speed also influences language used in the chat room and provides for the speech-like syntactic features, which will be discussed here.

#### 1. Ellipsis

In ellipsis, elements of language are missing from the utterance or clause; however the messages can be understood from the surrounding discourse and prior context (Eggins, 1997 : 90; Goddard, 1997 : 42; Hughes, 1996 : 21). This deletion of elements is also strikingly found in the real-time chat room. It makes the electronic utterances look shortened like in a speech communication. Chatters thus spend less time typing. The immediate responses can be then provided. In short, ellipsis helps people save time when speaking, so it may help chatters save time when chatting. Following are some examples of this simplified structure found in the chat room. It will begin with ellipsis of subject (and verb):

OceanRok asks: what is your favorite boyband?  
 broadcast\_artist: gotta say BSB's  
 broadcast\_artist: love Nsync too :)

In the utterance above, the speakers of Nobody's Angel musical band responded to an inquiry about their favorite boy band by using elliptical structure. They initiated the first utterances with the verb "gotta" presented in the colloquial pattern and the second utterance with the verb "love". The personal pronoun "we" is therefore deleted in both utterances. The non-elliptical structure of these utterances may be "We gotta say BSB's" and "We love Nsync too", respectively.

Steller84 asks: Are you and Jenna friends off-screen?  
 BigStar\_Celeb: No. Can't stand her.

The speaker "BigStar\_Celeb" gave an elliptical negative response to the previous inquiry. The first person pronoun "I" is omitted and the utterance begins with the modal "can", as in "Can't stand her". The full structure of this utterance would have been "I can't stand her".

StellasStarr asks: Hey Britney! Sup girl?

The example above is an ellipsis of the greeting routine "what's up?" which commonly means, "How are you?" or "What have you been doing?" The subject of this expression is omitted. It is thus reduced to only "Sup?"

Dams01: ever thought about becoming a politician?

From the utterance above, the personal pronoun "you" and the auxiliary verb "have" were left out. The non-elliptical structure of the utterance should be "Have you ever thought about becoming a politician?"

Fanofmjh asks: What was it like doing the voices on the Sabrina cartoon?  
 Melissa\_joan\_hart: Easy. ...

Only the information the first speaker want to know (“Easy”) appears in the utterance while other elements are omitted. The full structure to which this adjective is related can be retrieved from the first speaker’s question, and it should be “Doing the voices on the Sabrina cartoon was easy”.

Landre56 asks: where you from

This is an example of ellipsis of verb. Though the main verb “are” is obviously omitted, the utterance can be understood because of the surrounding words. The non-elliptical sentence may be “where are you from?”. Actually this type of ellipsis is rarely found in the chat room.

Ellipsis of the elements of a sentence, especially the unstressed subject (and verb), which are recoverable from the situational context, are shown in the examples below. The elliptical part will be inserted in the square brackets for better understanding, for instance:

Yamaguchi: ...I was awarded my first 6.0 mark. And [I] feel that it set me up for a positive attitude going the Olympic year.

Rosebellek asks: What do you and your husband do on your days off?

Patrika: I take my dogs for long walks. [We] Go up to Santa Barbara.

NatgaThompson16 asks: Did you ever imagine that you would have this much success in life? :)

BigStar\_Celeb: [It] Depends on how you define success.

Punky\_35 asks: How good is your golf game?

Arod\_40\_40: It’s consistent. 14 handicap. [It] Should be much better.

alexandraCT: ...So, are u excited about coming back on the show?

BigStar\_Celeb: [I am] Very excited!

TBM\_15 asks: how old were you when you started racing??

Lance\_armstrong\_live: [I am] About 17 [years old].

Chipmunk\_19 asks: What is your favorite food?

Yahoo\_NSYNC: [My favorite food is] Tacos.

## 2. Cleft Structure

Cleft structure is a way in which a sentence is split and divided into two separate clauses. It generally occurs with “it” (it-cleft) or with “wh-words” (wh-cleft). This structure is widespread in several speech situations (Carter, 1997b : 155-157; McCarthy, 1998 : 176), and also in the chat room. When chatters want to emphasize important information, they will employ cleft-structure. Nevertheless, it is rarely found in the chat room. Examples of both “it-cleft” and “wh-cleft” are illustrated below:

A.J.: Phantom of the Opera. Has to be my favorite. And it's the only show on Broadway that I've never seen.

The utterance above is an example of “it-cleft” structure from the sentence, “I've never seen that show on Broadway only.” The noun phrase “the only show”, which is a complement of the verb “be” (is) with the subject it, is obviously stressed.

Matchbox20\_live:Rob: ...everybody who was really our friends is still our friend. It's only people that we didn't know so well that...

The utterance “It's only people that we didn't know so well” is a cleft structure from the sentence “We didn't know people so well.” This structure helps emphasize the noun phrase “only people”, which is a complement of the verb “be” and the subject “it”.

Michael: It was a movie that God unfairly treated

To stress the noun “a movie”, it-cleft structure was purposively employed. The non-cleft structure of this utterance is “God unfairly treated the movie”.

BigStar\_Celeb: It’s private school that I got in with Honors.

The sentence “I got in private school with Honors” is cleft to “It’s a private school that I got in with Honors.” By doing this, the noun phrase “private school” is highlighted.

aetkkl: What is your favorite place to perform ?  
 Yahoo\_BackstreetBoy: In the shower probably. That’s where I started out performing.

The highlighted element of the last utterance is the pronoun “that”, which refers back to the specific place “in the shower” in the previous utterance. This sentence structure is referred to as the demonstrative wh-cleft (Biber et al, 1999 : 961). The non-cleft structure is “I started out performing in the shower.”

BigStar\_Celeb: ...I have a LOT of interest in directing,  
 that’s what I want to be doing.

The sentence “that’s what I want to be doing” is a demonstrative wh-cleft structure of “I want to be doing that (directing) (Biber et al, 1999 : 961). Here, the demonstrative pronoun “that” refers back to the preceding noun “directing”. By this way of speaking, “directing” is intentionally stressed.

React\_guster:adam: ...New Orleans is cool, that’s where we are now...

The sentence “we are in New Orleans now” is cleft to “that’s where we are now” in which the pronoun “that” (referring back to the city “New Orleans” in

the previous utterance) is highlighted. This is again an example of the demonstrative *wh*-cleft (Biber et al, 1999 : 961).

### 3. Dislocation

Dislocation is constructed when sentence elements appear at or outside a sentence boundary (Bussmann, 1996 : 134). It functions to introduce a new topic or shift the topic of the utterance (Collin and Hollo, 2000 : 145) or indicate new information (McCarthy, 1998 : 180). Wolfram (1991 : 296) claims that this structure is mostly used in American spoken language. Generally, there are two types of dislocation: preface and noun phrase tag. Preface is placed in the initial position of the utterance whereas noun phrase tag is at the end of the utterance. Though in the chat room, dislocation is one of the exclusive phenomena, only prefaces are employed. For example:

lummoxdung asks: Is Don Adams, the voice of the original Gadget in the movie?

BigStar\_Celeb: Actually Don Adams, he, at the end of the movie, we have a little surprise, he is the voice of Brian.

The person named “Don Adams” is introduced through the use of dislocation, in which the preface “Don Adams” occurs at the start of the utterance with the co-referential subject pronoun “he”.

ITaLyBaBe4eVa asks: Who was the best person you have ever worked with? And why?

BigStar\_Celeb: Two. Arnold Sw for Batman and Will Smith for “Independence day.”

BigStar\_Celeb: Arnold Schwarzenegger made me feel really comfortable, he cracked jokes to me all day.

BigStar\_Celeb: Will, I’m so thankful for working with him, he had been in “Bad Boys” and he was really sweet...

In the utterance, the speaker “BigStar\_Celeb” talked about two people (Arnold Schwarzenegger and Will Smith) and also commented on them. Because

nothing had been said about “Will” in the previous utterance, the speaker reintroduced “Will” as a left-dislocated noun phrase occurring with the co-referential object pronoun “him”.

Zayka2 asks: ...How do I tactfully get him to give up?

washpost\_carolyn: Screw tact.

washpost\_carolyn: By being nice to this guy, you're encouraging him.

washpost\_carolyn: A lot of people, once they've given up having an actual relationship

washpost\_carolyn: are content just to hear your voice-- even if that voice is telling them about

washpost\_carolyn: sex with other men.

The preface “A lot of people” occurs at the front of the utterance with the co-referential plural pronoun “they”. In this way, the noun phrase “a lot of people” is introduced when the speaker wants to shift the topic.

Korean\_Chonsa: I'm an 18 yr old korean, looking for formal dress with an asian flair, can you recommend a designer.

React\_layne: I don't know but my friend Summer, she wanted something like that for her prom. ...

To introduce her friend named “Summer,” the speaker used a dislocation in which the preface “Summer” occurs in the initial position of the utterance with the co-referential subject pronoun “she”.

Bad Mofol19 asks: How come you guys weren't invited to perform at Woodstock?

Jerky\_boys\_johnny: we actually did, we did the last one, 1995 was it? John Scher, he promoted it. I had to break up a fight between John Scher and Aerosmith's manager.

The preface “John Scher” occurs at the beginning of the utterance with the co-referential subject pronoun “he”. This way of speaking is to introduce the person who promoted the performance.

afletch asks: The actor for Stefano, is he a real teddy bear in person?

To introduce a person, who acted like a teddy bear, the preface “The actor for Stefano” was placed in the initial position of the utterance with the co-referential subject pronoun “he”.

RugratDaddy asks: What other pics have you appeared in?

Hollywood\_elizabeth\_shannon: Jack Frost, Dish Dogs, another film called Seamless

Hollywood\_elizabeth\_shannon: Dying to Live.

hollywood\_patrick: Dish Dogs, you can rent it now, right?

The speaker referred to a particular film titled “Dish Dogs”. To introduce this film, the dislocation structure is used : the preface “Dish Dogs” initially occurs with the co-referential subject pronoun “it”.

Bactly asks: Do you have any rituals or good luck charms

mls\_stern\_john: I’m kind of superstitious. I try to do the same thing I did at the last game.

mls\_stern\_john: Some guys, they get psyched up, but I’ll be laughing in the dressing room. But when the game starts, it’s different person.

The preface “Some guys” occurs at the beginning of the utterance with the co-referential subject pronoun “they”. This way of speaking is to introduce the guys who mentally prepared themselves for the game.

#### 4. Co-ordinating Conjunction “and”

As the name indicates, the co-ordinating conjunction “and” is a grammatical term classed as a conjunction. In spoken language, it functions as a loose continuation marker conjoining clauses or sentences together (Hughes, 1996 : 153). Speakers exploit “and” more freely than writers do. This conjunction is excessively used in the chat room. Although using written communication, chatters



seem not to be allowed to look over what they have typed or even take time in planning. This would cause a very slow communication flow. The immediacy thus forces the descriptive utterances in the chat room to be very similar to that of spoken language; that is, the events that chatters have described are often connected loosely with the conjunction “and” rather than words that give a sense of analysis or reason, demonstrating the progression of linked ideas as they occur in chatters’ minds at the moment of typing. Below are examples of “and” used as a linking device in the chat room.

Shannon: I was on a field trip with my classmates

Shannon: at a water park

Shannon: And I remember getting out of the water

Shannon: in front of a bunch of guys I had a crush on

Shannon: And my bikini top had slid to the side

Shannon: And they started laughing

This is an extract from a chat transcript in which the speaker “Shannon” told of her most embarrassing experience. Each conjunction “and” functions to loosely connect the sequential events of the story: the setting, her action (getting out of the water), the embarrassing incident (the displacement of her bikini) are introduced in connected form. In the last sentence, an example of “and” used in a resulting sense is found : “my bikini top slid to the side [as a result] they started laughing”.

BigStar\_Celeb: ...but my father likes to go in and see what they’re saying about me. And he only tells me negative things.

BigStar\_Celeb: And then he curses.

BigStar\_Celeb: Then he hangs up angrily.

BigStar\_Celeb: And he resumes eating.

The speaker described his father’s unrestrained behavior. The successive acts, which include his curious habit, his choosing to tell only negative things, his cursing, and his returning to eating, are loosely joined by the conjunction “and”

alone. This indicates the speaker's unplanned flow of ideas in the written utterance as a result of the time limitation.

BigStar\_Celeb: She is incredibly sweet.

BigStar\_Celeb: And, really sharp.

BigStar\_Celeb: Really mature woman.

BigStar\_Celeb: And, she seems to have this really happy marriage. And, family. ANd, that impressed me.

BigStar\_Celeb: And, she's just a really cool girl.

The speaker described his personal admiration for one woman. The conjunctions "and" is used five times to join the positive aspects that are her sweet behavior, her sharpness (connected with the elliptical structure of the second utterance), her happy marriage and family life, and then to conclude (the forth and fifth "and" mark conclusions); the speaker was remarking that all of these characteristics impressed him and this is why she is considered an excellent girl).

BigStar\_Celeb: I was performing at an improv comedy group called The Groundlings. L.A. based group.

BigStar\_Celeb: And, I was spotted by Marcy Klin, one of the producers of SNL and she had me flown out to NY to audition.

BigStar\_Celeb: And, I flew back out again for another audition and they said you got the show.

The speaker told how he had got the show. In the descriptive utterances above, the events that include his performing with a comedy group, his being recognized, his flying to New York to be auditioned, his flying back for another audition and getting the show are sequentially introduced and loosely attached by the conjunction "and".

Francesca: I was 16 years old, and I was driving on the freeway. I saw a pink Pinto, and on the license plate it said Weetzie. And that name conjured up an image of a character who later evolved into the heroine of my book. And then Bat came subconsciously like many other of my names.

In this unplanned utterance, the speaker described how she got the name “Weetzie Bat”. Each conjunction “and” loosely links the continuing events : her age when the events happened, her driving, the place where she saw the name “Weetzie”, the relationship between this name and the image of the character, and also the way she got the name “Bat”.

Eddie\_Pope\_MLS: ...if we win the games that we need to win, we would play up until January. And then actually, in January, I’m getting married. And I probably won’t even be able to go on a honeymoon!

The second speaker told of his plans for the off-season. There are three co-ordinating conjunctions “and” conjoining the ideas. The first “and” connects the sequential events of his playing and marriage plan. However, the last “and” is used in a contradictory sense : though married, the speaker probably won’t be able to go on a honeymoon.

Martian\_Dust asks: What do you like to do when not acting?

sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp: act!

sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp:No, I sleep

sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp: and dream

sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp: and read

sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp:and hang out with my family

sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp: my girl, and my daughter

From this example, the speaker “sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp” told of his regular activities when he does not act. There are four activities, which involve sleeping, dreaming, reading and hanging out with his family, connected together by the linking device “and”.

## 5. Run-on Sentence

Run-on sentences are formed by putting more than one sentence together with either no punctuation or only a comma. The run-on sentence with no punctuation is called a fused sentence, whereas the one with a comma is called a

comma splice (Blumenthal and Zahner, 1963 : 256). Both types are used in the chat room. They are another method to save time in typing. To the chatters, typing punctuation is time-consuming. But, if it is necessary to join the ideas each sentence conveys, a comma alone is enough. By doing this, the utterances are likely to be speech. In the following examples, the run-on sentences will be shown in two columns; the first column is the extract of real chat transcript and the latter one is the grammatically rewritten form.

5.1 Fused Sentence is the run-on sentence without any punctuation. This sentence structure is related to the concept of typing economy. Chatters insist on using it without caring whether it is grammatically correct or not.

- |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) Kid_Blink70 asks: Cara from Pittsburgh I just saw you yesterday Damon I gave you a Nija Turtle PEZ and Trey a bracelt [sic.] | (2) Kid_Blink70 asks: Cara from Pittsburgh [!] I just saw you yesterday [.] Damon [.] I gave you a Nija Turtle PEZ and Trey a bracelt [sic.] [.] |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

In the first column, the speaker “Kid\_Blink70” chatted with the celebrity named “Damon”. He/she initiated the utterance by introducing himself, and then talking about an experience shared between his/her partner and himself/herself, without any use of punctuation. These run-on sentences can be rewritten by inserting an exclamation marker, a period, a comma and a period again, as presented in the second column.

- |                                                                              |                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) SLEEPY14_F asks: I SAW YOU IN CONCERT AT THE WING DING AND UR WERE GREAT | (2) SLEEPY14_F asks: I SAW YOU IN CONCERT AT THE WING DING [.] UR WERE GREAT [!] |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Before asking any questions, the speaker “SLEEPY14\_F” initiated the utterance by complimenting the chat partner on his musical ability. By using capital letters, he probably suggested his act of shouting. In the first column, since there is no use of any punctuation, his/her written utterance is comprised of run-on

sentences. It could be rewritten by inserting a period as well as an exclamation marker, as presented in the second column.

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>(1) Hot_and_spicy_4_u_99 asks: hi my name is Dima and i have a question how did you guys get into the business cuz my two twin sister, my two best friends and i have a group and we are trying to get into the business</p> | <p>(2) Hot_and_spicy_4_u_99 asks: hi [!]/[.] My name is Dima and i have a question [.] How did you guys get into the business cuz my two twin sister, my two best friends and i have a group and i have a group and we are trying to get into the business [.]</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

The speaker asked for suggestions. The first column is an example of a run-on sentence because there is no punctuation involved. This utterance can be rewritten by inserting either the exclamation marker (!) or a period after the greeting word “hi”, and periods after the sentences “...a question” and “...get into the business”, as shown in the second column.

- |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>(1) Weloveeye4ever asks: You guys are so nice to your fans we want to know would you ever let a fan hang out with you for a day, and ...</p> | <p>(2) Weloveeye4ever asks: You guys are so nice to your fans [.] we want to know would you ever let a fan hang out with you for a day, and ...</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

The speaker asked the chat partner about “hanging out” with fans; he/she wondered whether her/his partner had ever done that. In the first column, there is no use of punctuation between the first and second sentences. This utterance can be modified by making use of a period, as shown in the second column.

5.2 Comma Splice Sentence is a run-on sentence which misuses a comma. This structure is much more common than the fused sentence. Instead of ending the first sentence with a period and then beginning the next sentence, chatters prefer using a comma alone to separate the boundary of sentences. This reinforces the notion of speech; a comma alone can signal less of pause than a period, and it is thus like a short pause in smooth speaking.

- |                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>(1) Createmusic1 asks: Tim, I heard from an interview that you play a number of instruments, did you take lessons much when you were little for each instrument or just pick it up?</p> | <p>(2) Createmusic1 asks: Tim, I heard from an interview that you play a number of instruments [.] did you take lessons much when you were little for each instrument or just pick it up?</p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

The speaker talked about the chat partner's musical ability. In this written utterance, the first and the second sentences are loosely connected using a comma alone. It may be corrected by ending the first sentence with a period and then starting the latter sentence.

- |                                                                                   |                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>(1) SoapCity_Guest1: Kristian: I love working with Drake, he is a sweetie.</p> | <p>(2) SoapCity_Guest1: Kristian: I love working with Drake [because]/[.] he is a sweetie.</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

The speaker expressed a positive feeling towards the person named "Drake". In his/her utterance in the first column, the two sentences are joined with the comma even though they are casually related. Indeed, the conjunction "because" could be placed to conjoin these sentences, or the period to separate a sentence boundary.

- |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>(1) TeenHollywood_Guest: I don't think he's interested in acting, he's more interested in genes and molecules!</p> | <p>(2) TeenHollywood_Guest: I don't think he's interested in acting [--]/[.] he's more interested in genes and molecules!</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

The speaker gave a comment on the person. Either a dash or a period could be put between these two sentences since the idea of the second sentence amplifies that of the first one. The correct form is in the second column.

- |                                                                                                |                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>(1) BigStar_Celeb: I love wine tasting, the people there, I've been a lot of places ...</p> | <p>(2) BigStar_Celeb: I love wine tasting [ and] the people there [.] I've been a lot of places...</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

The speaker expressed his/her feeling towards an impressive place. There is only a comma in the utterance of the first column. This use of comma alone can

indicate a short pause like in speech communication. Actually, this utterance can be rewritten by connecting the first clause to the second clause with “and” and then ending the second sentence with a period.

- (1) Gia: My mother’s not Greek, she’s italian,...
- (2) Gia: My mother’s not Greek [.] she’s italian,...

Here is an example of a run-on sentence, specifically a comma splice sentence in which the sentences are connected by a comma. This sentence is corrected by ending the first sentence after “...Greek”, then the latter sentence begins. However, the more today’s language is widely used, the more it is rapidly changed. Certain ungrammatical structures seem to be widely used since they can serve communicative purposes. The utterance above is an example of this phenomenon. Even though it is considered ungrammatically correct, this sentence is acceptable in most present writing.

- (1) Eric Olsen:...There’s a lot of me that is like Cameron. He’s got a huge heart, he cares about his family.
- (2) Eric Olsen:...There’s a lot of me that is like Cameron. He’s got a huge heart [and] he cares about his family

Again, the speaker talked about the similarities between himself and the character named Cameron. In the first column, instead of the conjunction “and”, the utterance “he’s got ...” is attached to “he cares about...” using a comma, even though the ideas the utterances convey support each other; that is, he not only has got a huge heart but also cares for his family. Similar to the previous example, this use is generally welcome in today’s written communication.

## 6. Existential “there”

The existential “there” is a type of grammatical structure that consists of the unstressed word “there” followed by the verb “be”. It normally emphasizes the idea that something exists in a particular place (Crystal, 1992 : 129). In very informal spoken language, some speakers may use a singular verb “be” even though the subject is plural. This is because the existential pattern “there’s” is easier to

pronounce than “there are” (Carter, 1997b : 157). Using “there is” in daily conversation, speakers may feel familiar with this pronunciation convenience and therefore employ it in the chat room. Study the following examples.

A.J.: ...She said there's *girls* coming to the house...[the existential “there’s” + the plural noun phrases “girls”]

B\*witched:Lindsay: I liked Italy, because there's a lot of culture every where you look, because there's *ruins and statues* everywhere you look. [the existential “there’s” + the plural noun phrases “ruins” and “statues”]

BisStar\_Celeb: I prefer TV cause there's *a lot of things* I don't say that I can physically do. [the existential “there’s” + the plural noun phrases “a lot of things”]

Klum: There's *all different types* of models, ... [the existential “there’s” + the plural noun phrases “all different types”]

BisStar\_Celeb: There's *certain things* you can't do anymore [the existential “there’s” + the plural noun phrases “certain things”]

BisStar\_Celeb: There's *so many great things* about acting ...[the existential “there’s” + the plural noun phrases “so many great things”]

The Corrs: Andrea: ...there's *both sides*. [the existential “there’s” + the plural noun phrases “both sides”]

Tommy\_the Cat\_69\_98: who were you [sic] musical inspirations?  
Fear factory: ...there's *so many of them* [the existential “there’s” + the plural noun phrases “so many of them”]...

Yahoo\_NSYNC\_Joey: There's *too many crushes* I have. too many. I don't know...[the existential “there’s” + the plural noun phrases “too many crushes”]

React\_dennie: There's *lots of great items* out there for under \$20, like fragrances...[the existential “there’s” + the plural noun phrases “lots of great items”]

Yahoo\_HANSON: T: There's *always music and words* [the existential “there’s” + the plural noun music and words”]



Mistymegan1998 asks: do u have any siblings??  
 DARE\_m\_bergin: yes there's *four of us* [the existential “there’s” + the plural noun phrases “four of us”]

BisStar\_Celeb: ...I remember as a child thinking that when you watch TV, there's *little people* performing behind the glass.[the existential “there’s” + the plural noun phrases “little people”]

BisStar\_Celeb: ...There's *certain things* you can't do anymore. [the existential “there’s” + the plural noun phrases “certain things”]

## 7. Multiple Negation

Negation is a way to signal a contradiction in meaning. When negation is multiple, it means that two or more negative forms co-occur within the same clause or sentence but a single negative meaning is carried. This structure is common in spoken English (Carter, 1997b : 155-157). In the chat room, multiple negation is also found. It can be classified into two structures : the dependent multiple negation and independent multiple negation. No matter how various they are, these structures are commonly produced by participants in order to strengthen the negative meaning while chatting. Consider the following examples:

Patrik\_28: Where is your favourite place to do nothing?  
 Sleep late, take it easy and don't do nothing.

BigStar\_Celeb: I don't want no guy asking me that!

Juliet\_dharma asks: ...what advice would Greg give to keep the relationship strong

BigStar\_Celeb: Keep it light. Don't start no fight.

From the above utterances, the three speakers use two dependent negative forms in the same utterance. The first speaker uses the negative particle “not” or the contracted form “n’t” accompanied with “nothing” in the utterance, “...don’t do nothing”, the second and third speakers use “n’t” as well as “no” in the utterance “ I don’t want no guys...” and “don’t start no fight”, respectively. It should be noted that two negatives in the same utterance do not make a positive

meaning. Instead, single negative meaning is expressed. Grammatically, after the first contracted negative particle “n’t” (not), the words “anything,” “any” and “any” should be substituted for the latter negative series “nothing,” “no” and “no”.

Question asks: Do you pick out the clothes that you wear on the show?

Tammy Blanchard: No, No, we wish!

StarWars\_McCallum: NO! Emphatically, NO.

Howie D: Nope, not yet. I don’t believe in them too too [sic.] much, but I’m open minded in [sic.] them for the future...

SugarK\_2000 asks: Do you like the Spice Girls?

BigStar\_Celeb: No, not really.

Vilojo: ...do you like your sparring scenes or would you like Drew and Michelle to become friendlier with each other?

Joie Lenz: No no no no

From the examples above, the multiple negation occurs in terms of repetition. In the first four utterances, the negative forms (no, not or the derivative “nope”) are repeated and three repetitions are found in the last utterance (no no no). Notice that these negative markers are not included in the same clause but they are separated from each other by commas, or there is possibly no use of comma.

## 8. Unembedded Dependent Clause

An unembedded dependent clause refers to a clause that is used without being attached to a larger structure (Biber, et al., 1999 : 223-224). It has two important types: a clause of reason introduced by “because” and a sentential relative clause introduced by “which”. In the chat room, both types are equally used. They reflect the ongoing stream of unplanned utterances. As you know, the chat room is a real-time communication, in which there is a very little tendency to plan utterances before sending. Hence, chatters immediately begin a new sentence with a clause of reason when they add some words of explanation, and with a

relative clause when they give a comment on something that has been said. Some examples of the unembedded dependent clause found in the chat room are :

A.J.: Ummm, probabaly, live, “Hey Mr. DJ” and “That’s The Way I Like It”. Because they’re the most hype songs.

This is an example of a dependent clause of reason, which is not embedded in any previous sentences but is introduced by the conjunction “because”. It indicates that a speaker gave a supporting reason, without any planing, why he likes the songs “Hey Mr. DJ” and “That’s The Way I Like It”.

B\*witched:Keavy: It’s absolutely fantastic. Because when you see a picture or hear you on the radio, it means more people want to know about you ...

The speaker explained why it was absolutely fantastic to see the advertisement of his musical band. The clause of reason “Because when you see a picture or hear you on the radio” is not embedded in the larger preceding clause.

shannon: I like to go to a store called Cathy Jeans. Because they have imitation for much less than the price you would pay for designer shoes.

To give the reason support the reason why she like to go to the stored called Cathy Jeans, the speaker initiated her clause of reason, “Because they have imitation for...”

Yahoo\_BackstreetBoy: As a joke. Cuz he was being obnoxious so I threw him out in the hallway in his underwear.

This is an example of the unembedded dependent clause of reason introduced by the conjunction “Cuz,” one of the casual derivatives of “because”. This clause, which indicate the reason why the speaker had to throw that person out, is not connected to any previous sentences.

Yahoo\_guest1: T: No. Not really. B/c I try not to believe in things...

The second speaker gave the reason why he was not superstitious. In this utterance, the clause of reason introduced by “B/c” which is the abbreviated form of “because” is unattached to the previous negative clause.

React\_bwitched:Lindsay: It came from my last name which is Armalu. That turned to Armanof. Which then turned into Armanofy, which then turned in to Binoffy. Kind of an evolution ...

The speaker initiated his unembedded relative clauses with the relative pronoun “which”. This clause allows the speaker to express a comment on “Armanof,” referred to in the preceding sentence.

Yahoo\_HANSON:Z:...but there are things the fans haven't caught onto yet.  
 Yhaoo\_HANSON:I: Which doesn't really matter, things you wouldn't know unless you really knew us...

The speaker gave a comment on the things the fans had not understood through the use of the dependent clause “Which doesn't really matter.” This relative clause is not attached to the previous utterance.

Klum: ... I danced for 15 years of my life. Which was my love and my passion.

The speaker gave a comment on her dancing. Even being a relative clause introduced by “which,” this clause is not embedded in the previous clause.

Hannah: I'm an undecided major. Which is a lot of fun!  
 Because I'm a freshman in college.

The two important types unembedded of independent clauses are introduced in the utterance above. The sentential relative clause introduced by “which” in “Which is a lot of fun!” explains how the speaker feels while staying in

such a status (undecided major), whereas the clause of reason introduced by “because” in “Because I’m a freshman...” gives the reason why she still has no major.

## 9. Repetition of the Syntactic Form

A speaker frequently repeats the same syntactic form several times (Brown, 1983 : 17). This structure is also found in the chat-room communication. It is a sign of ongoing message planning. People, intentionally or unintentionally, repeat some parts of sentences, of subjects and verbs. The repetition of mental verbs is the most prominent. For example :

Wiseman30 asks: What is your favorite Holiday?  
 react\_bwitched:Lindsay: Summer actually, because I love the sun and I love the heat, and I love going to the beach and stuff.

Yahoo\_HANSON: I: We’d love to come to Switzerland.. we’d love to come visit there.

The speakers both disclosed the favorite places that they really wanted to visit. In the first speaker’s utterances, the clause partials “I love” connected by the co-ordination “and” are repeated for three times whereas the clause partials “I’d love to” are two times repeated in the second speaker’s utterances.

Conny\_Chica asks: what’s your favorite attraction at Disney World?

Yahoo\_NSYNC: I like the Tower of Terror.

Yahoo\_NSYNC: I like the new Animal Kingdom and I like the Foley sound show.

DARE\_m\_bergin: I like to play beach volleyball, basketball softball

DARE\_m\_bergin: I like to go to movies

DARE\_m\_bergin: I like to go to coffeeshops and read the newspaper

sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp: I liked the experience

sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp: I liked John Badham  
and I liked Christopher Walken...

To explain the preferable activities, the speakers used the same syntactic pattern composed of the first person subject “I” with the metal verb “like” (including the past form followed by the preposition “to”). This structure is many times duplicated, suggesting that these speakers do not construct their utterances in advance.

Michael\_freso\_live: I can't live without my favorite CD's.

Michael\_freso\_live: I can't live without fruit. I can't live without my vocal tapes from my voice teach

Michael\_freso\_live: I can't live without girls

Michael\_freso\_live: I can't live without my pets.

The speaker identified the things important to his life. The subject “I,” the modal with the contracted negative form “can't” and the preposition “without” are repeated in this utterance.

depends\_undergarment asks: This is from Mandy.  
“What's like working with Matt Mahaney?”

Kristian: He is great. He is a sweetheart. A welcome member of the cast.

The speaker expressed his personal feeling towards the person named Matt Mahaney. The subject “he” and the main verb to be “is” are duplicated.

## Discourse Analysis

In this chapter, a study of the English language used in the chat room will be continued to develop by focusing explicitly on how it is structured and used in this kind of electronic environment. This will involve first the exchange, the minimal structural unit of interaction. We will then look at the adjacency pair, a routine sequencing of language, normally found in a speech event. The sequencing

of “moves” involved in the accomplishment of turn-taking will be finally explored. Our analysis will illustrate the ways in which these three structural units fundamental to spoken discourse are presented in a written dialogue. Some characteristics caused by the medium itself are examined as well.

### 1. Exchange

An exchange is a minimal structural unit of spoken communication. It generally consists of two elements : [initiation] and [response]. This is a normal pattern for stating exchanges. [Follow], which is a third element, usually appears especially in questioning exchanges and requesting exchanges (Stenström, 1994:49). In the chat room, questioning exchanges are the most common since teenagers join the chat room primarily for casual talking with celebrities, or more specifically asking them some questions. In addition, with this purpose of entertainment, the initiators of a conversation are likely to be the teenagers, whereas the respondents are the celebrities. However, the study reveals that in all types of exchanges, [follow up] usually disappear. This is because chat-room exchanges are governed by immediacy and the number of participants. As a real-time communication with a swelling number of participants, the structural unit of interaction of the chat room has to be shortened to allow many of them opportunities to speak. Therefore, exchanges in a chat room are highly structured with only [initiation] and [response]. For example:

titanicfanpaul1982_98 asks: are you on zdtv? Like at all, and what times	[Initiate]
surfguru_1999: check your listing for internet today	[Respond]
surfguru_1999: i'm on that show	[Respond]

From the example above, the structural unit of a questioning exchange is simple because it consists only of [initiation] and a series of [responses]. The teenager initiated a question, whereas the celebrity gave him/her a relevant answer, which split into two streams of responses.

creamgeetar asks: DO u ever forget your lines:)	[Initiate]
sleepy_hollow_christina_ricci: Oh yeah, of course.	[Respond]
sleepy_hollow_christina_ricci: I've been doing this for so long	[Respond]
sleepy_hollow_christina_ricci: It's usually not an issue	[Respond]
sleepy_hollow_christina_ricci: but just like any one else, I'll flub a line.	[Respond]

A questioning exchange consisting only of [initiation] and a series of [responses] is shown in the example above. The teenager initiated a question about forgetting a line, and the celebrity then gave an answer, which again branched into four streams of responses.

## 2. Adjacency Pair

An Adjacency pair is a way to build up a stream of utterances by different speakers. It is important to understand how spoken discourse is constructed. It is also applied to the chat room studied. The adjacency pair in the chat room is like that of spoken discourse in that it is composed of two parts: [a first pair part] by the teenager and [a second pair part] by the celebrity (Richard, Platt and Platt, 1992 : 7). One point to note about this on-line adjacency pair is its fluidity. After the first pair part, the second pair part will be produced smoothly by the next speaker. Since a pair of question-answer is very dominant in the chat room, I will begin the examination with this type of adjacency pair.

### 2.1 Question-Answer

In an adjacency pair of question-answer, the first pair part differs from the second. However, the occurrence of the second part can be explained by the first part; that is, when one asks certain questions, one expects certain relevant answers. In the chat room, as mentioned, teenagers go there with no other particular purposes than entertainment. More specifically, they participate in the room to ask them (celebrities) some questions. Therefore, discourse of this virtual room is explicitly organized into pairs of question-answer. In addition, it should be



remarked that the first pair part is not intricate because the speaker gets to the point with no preceding or introductory utterances. Study the following examples.

bmilty asks: what are your favorite things to do when you aren't working? [Question]

Jerry Yang: Sleeping. [Answer]

jswilson3 asks: what is the hot color this season? [Question]

react\_gil: there is no hot color this season, I don't believe in trends, so wear what you want. [Answer]

## 2.2 Greeting-Greeting

Greeting is a part of everyday social behavior. It anticipates a relevant reply. Like in speech communication, the greeting routine is also used in the chat room studied, in which teenagers come to have a chat with invited celebrities. Since every minute the large number of teenagers is swelling, the chat room may be very crowded. When the chat room begins, celebrities often open a conversation by an informal greeting, whereas the teen participants get to the point; they rush to ask them (the celebrities) what they want to know, often without greeting in return. From this phenomenon, we see that the greeting of celebrities not only establish an interpersonal relationship between the unseen participants but also mark their entrance to the room. Moreover, the on-line greeting may be abbreviated or violated because of the informality and the urgency of a communication. For example:

lance\_armstrong\_live: hello, everybody, from Tarbes, France!

lance\_armstrong\_live: Thanks for joining in.

best\_usps\_fan ask: in the off season how much is your training increased or decreased?

lance\_armstrong\_live: This season, things changed primarily because I was busy doing a lot of other things ...

The first speaker, the celebrity, marked his entrance by firstly greeting the participants in the chat room: “hello, everybody...” Instead of returning the greeting, a chat participant instantly delivered his/her question: “...how much is your training increased or decreased?” The first speaker then answered. Here, the greeting routine is obviously ignored by the second speaker because of the immediacy and the casual situation.

However, it is found that on some occasions, certain teenagers return their celebrities’ greeting. This long gap between the first and the second parts of greeting can cause a major separation, and the greeting therefore is not adjacent. “buffyslayerfan” is one example. He/she, before initiating the question, returns the greeting of the celebrity in order to maintain a social relationship, as in:

buffyslayerfan asks: Hi Lance, besides cancer what is your biggest challenge that you have had to work through?  
Good luck?

Despite a long distance between the first speaker’s greeting and his utterance, the speaker “buffyslayerfan” does not forget to greet the chat celebrity before initiating the question about his/her chat speaker’s biggest challenge.

Sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp: Hey Hey everyone!  
Sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp: Let us commence!  
Anesthesia\_pullingteeth asks: I’ve noticed that you have worked w/ Tim Burton a lot. Does he look to you for roles in his films or do you seek him out?

Before starting the casual conversation with his fans, the celebrity nicknamed “Sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp” gave a conventional word of greeting “Hey Hey everyone!” Oblivious to this convention, the chat partner rapidly asked a question.

However, “Anesthesia\_pullingteeth” is not the only participant in this room. Greeting can be found in some other speakers’ utterances because of their sensitivity to conventional routine. Consider Moose\_testicles’s utterance below, for instance:

Moose\_testicles asks: hey jonny I really enjoyed you in  
 “Nock of Time”, how did you like that movie?

Sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp: to be honest

Sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp: I only saw part of the film

...

The greeting of Moose\_testicles is particularly separated from that of Sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp, the invited celebrity. Many statements were released by several different people at the time. But, the speaker “Moose\_testicles” still return the greeting of the celebrity. This shows the speaker is trying to follow the social convention of greeting.

It should be observed that the words of greeting routines used in the chat room are very similar. Chatters often greet their participants with short social expressions, and the regular terms are “hi” and “hey”. The longer expressions, such as “what’s up” or “good” + “time” (like good evening) are seldom found. For instance:

Andy: Hi everybody out there!

Jeri Ryan: Hi. It’s nice to be here.

Sixth\_gear\_pegged asks: Hey Travis, who is your factory  
 ride gonna be when you start racing the AMAcircuit??

Babidoll72 asks: hey, waz up? I was wondering whats the  
 best pick-up line you’ve ever used on a girl?

Eearth\_day\_leonardo: What’s up everyone, how’s every  
 doing?

Deidre: Good evening everyone! This is my first time  
 speaking to you as Mrs. John Black!

### 2.3 Compliment-Thanks (an expression of gratitude)

In the adjacency pair of compliment-thanks, the first pair parts differ from the second pair parts. This pair is usually found in the chat room. “Thanks” is a common response to compliments, expressing the chat speaker’s appreciation. It should be noted that sometimes compliments in the chat room do not occur alone.

Instead, they are embedded in other types of utterances, especially questioning exchanges; that is, they may be preceded or followed by a question. When a compliment is followed by a question in the same turn, the response in the next turn is an answer to the question or a comment. This response is not significantly different from that identified in the speech communication.

Ledheaddave asks: hey gia, all i really want to say right now is, U R REALLY HOT! And you're a great actress.  
 Gia: Thank you ledhead

This adjacency pair was produced by the different speakers. It consists of the first pair part of the first speaker's compliment and the second pair part of the second speaker's thanks. The first speaker complimented his/her partner on her popularity and her great ability in acting, in "...U R REALLY HOT! And you're a great actress." The second speaker then gave a traditional expression of gratitude which is a response to the first part, in "Thank you ledhead."

Ashleyh85 asks: PLEASE PLEASE ANSWER MY QUESTION IF YOU COULD GO ON A DATE WITH AND CELEBRITY WHO WOULD IT BE OTHER THAN RYAN P. THANKS MANDY !!!!!:)YOUR A GREAT SINGER  
 Red\_Hot\_Boom\_Mandy: Thanks Ashleyh85!!

The two speakers issued the successive sequences of the utterances. The first pair part is the first speaker's admiration for his/her chat partner's excellence in singing (as in "YOUR A GREAT SINGER".), whereas the next pair part is the concerned speaker's expression of thanks (as in "Thanks Ashleyh85!!").

Lbqt22 asks: Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?!...u are too cute!  
 Yahoo\_NAYNC: Thank you!  
 Yahoo\_NAYNC: Not really, my first stuffed animal would be favorite, I had it since I was little, it's a dog.

After the question, the first speaker admired his/her chat partner on physical appearance “u are too cute!”. Then, the second speaker in return indicated his grateful recognition of such a compliment in “Thank you.”

Kaycee34\_o2 asks: hey, I just wanted to say I love your cd and you guys too... what is it like being so popular and how have you gotten this far and what is it like being a “boy band” and have you ever met nsync?

Jeff: Thank you for all of your compliments, we’ve very flattered. We got started together in the summer of 95...

This adjacency pair followed by the questions consists of the pair parts of different speakers: the first pair part of the first speaker’s compliment and the second pair part of the second speaker’s thanks. The first speaker complimented his chat partner on his musical ability and popularity. The second speaker then expressed his gratitude that is “Thank you for all of your compliments.”

### 3. Turn-taking

Turn-taking is the constant change of communication roles (Richard, Platt and Platt, 1992 : 390); a speaker may take turn as a listener. Within a real-life conversation, people can actually hear one another. There are distinct pauses and certain cues letting the others know to speak next or to be given a turn. This can avoid simultaneous speaking and silence. However, it is difficult for chatters to engage in a written conversation according to the pattern of turn-taking of conventional speech since these cues are absent; that is, multiple participants who are physically separated cannot visually see one another. Only the typed utterance marks chatters’ presence. While the chat speaker is typing, utterances cannot be seen until they are sent. This absence may cause the chat partner to feel uncertain whether he/she is being responded to, or the system is experiencing problems. To solve this problem, chatters tend to send their utterances gradually. This behavior consequently provides multiple streams of split utterances by a single speaker. Since each utterance is chronologically produced, there is no overlap or

interruption. Communicative chaos therefore does not occur during the ongoing conversation.

In addition, in order to keep up with the rapid flow of the real-time conversation of the room, it is often necessary to respond quickly. This means that the written messages must be kept short. But the importance of the chat person and the size of the chat room are an important factor in determining the length of a turn. In the chat room studied, as earlier stated, the chat participants will be divided into two sides : the celebrity and the teenagers. Since these teenagers join in the room primarily for the purpose of chatting to the celebrity, the celebrity tends to be the most important person in the room. So, he/she speaks more than the others. Furthermore, the number of participants of each side is obviously different. No more than four of them visit each room, whereas no less than 30 teenagers come to chat. This also affects the different sizes of each turn. The celebrities' utterances are significantly longer than those of the teenagers. Certain discourse markers that are often seen in spoken language tend to be used as well. Consider the structure of turn taking below.

Bome61111 asks: how do u like being a blonde

Sleepy\_hollow\_christina\_ricci: It was a wig for this movie

Sleepy\_hollow\_christina\_ricci: and that was great – I got to put it on in the morning

Sleepy\_hollow\_christina\_ricci: and take it out at night.

Sleepy\_hollow\_christina\_ricci: It added to the whole experience for this movie.

Sleepy\_hollow\_christina\_ricci: It was so princessy and fairy tale-like.

Sleepy\_hollow\_christina\_ricci: It made me feel like I was in Sleepy Hollow.

The room consists of the celebrity nicknamed “Sleepy\_hollow\_christina\_ricci” and many teenagers. One of them is “Bome61111”. This teen speaker typed a short message, producing a quick response, whereas the celebrity’s message was relatively long because she was the only person on her side and she was the most important in the room (everybody came to chat with her). To mark

her presence and turn holding, this celebrity contributed multiple branches of the utterances. Nevertheless, it appears that she would take her turn when the question addressed to her was completely finished. Interruption and overlap are thus not found.

SHECHY4500 asks: How come some of the songs from the concert aren't on the live CD?

Yahoo\_Hanson:T : Between the live video and the live album almost all the songs were included

Yahoo\_Hanson: So if you get both of them you get all different songs

Yahoo\_Hanson:I : We were kind of bummed b/c there were songs we couldn't include collectively, but dont worry

Yahoo\_Hanson:T : You get all the songs

Yahoo\_Hanson:Zac : The way we decided on video were the songs that had the best footage

Yahoo\_Hanson:I : So that decided what was the best for us.

This is an example of the chat room supporting several simultaneous streams of utterances of different speakers on the same topic. The speakers "Yahoo\_Hanson:T", "Yahoo\_Hanson:I" and "Yahoo\_Hanson:Zac" who are the members of the Hanson, the musical band, visited the room, where there were many other teenagers waiting to chat to them. The teen speaker's single turn produces branches in these musicians' stream of utterances. Due to the linear process of the communication, interruption and overlap again cannot occur. The teenager would not take a turn in a conversation until the celebrity's utterance was complete.

hellokittyusa asks: Can't junk food give you zits?

Dr. Donna: Hmmmm....

Dr. Donna: No. But if you notice that certain foods seem to make you break out more, obviously you wouldn't want to eat so much of them.

The teen speaker "hellokittyusa" asked for suggestions. Here, only one question contributes to the stream of the single and most important celebrity's

utterances, which are relatively long. This celebrity would take her turn when the teen speaker's utterance was finished. Due to this chronological production of the utterances, intervention and overlap are not found. Notably, the back channel response "Hmmm" is used to prevent silence and therefore mark her presence as well as her still retention of the turn.

Youstolethecorn asks: Johnny, I thought Fear and Loathing was one of the best films of 1998; any truth to rumors that you might play Hunter S. Thompson again?

sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp: I would love to

sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp: once you've walked in those shoes...you know

sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp: actually, Hunter and I are putting together a film version of

sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp: one of his books, *The Rum Diary*

sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp: which we are talking about producing together

From the example above, "Youstolethecorn," one of the teenagers of the chat room asked the sole celebrity, nicknamed "sleepy\_hollow\_johnny\_depp," a question. His single question contributed the long stream of the celebrity's utterances. These split utterances intentionally produced by this celebrity let the teenager know of his ongoing responses. This pair of utterances is chronologically produced; the second speaker will speak after the end of the first speaker's utterance. The discourse marker "you know" is used to evoke an implicit and shared knowledge between them.

aptswsm asks: on the 1st album, #21 Uncle Freddie, what was the plumbers reaction when he found out it was a prank?

Jerky\_boys\_johnny: Jeez that's a way back, huh? The guy was obviously in shock. You see, these touch a soft spot here.

Jerky\_boys\_johnny: you know we had a couple of run-ins with the law.



Jerky\_boys\_johnny: for the advancement of these characters, we didn't mean to, but things get rough now and again, things happen, and we all have to pay the fiddler.

The teen speaker "aptswsm" asked "Jerky\_boys\_johnny," the only celebrity and therefore the most important chatter in chat the room, a question about Uncle Freddie's first reaction. Again, this question gave a long stream of answers, which was split into many utterances. Since their utterances were chronologically produced, interruption and overlap do not occur. The discourse marker "you see" was inserted to call for the participant's understanding.