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FRAME ANALYSIS OF MICROTEACHING IN A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this study is to discuss the discourse practice of microteaching in a teaching community consisting mainly of students pursuing the teacher certification in English as an Additional Language in southern Brazil. The study relies on qualitative methods of data generation and analysis as well as on the framework of interactional sociolinguistics. Results suggest microteaching is a highly complex practice, with a recurring pattern. Additionally, they suggest that students who are considered successful in a microteaching session are those who produce such pattern in their micro-classes. We conclude by suggesting that informing participants about the expectations regarding the structure of microteaching before they engage in it is desirable.

KEYWORDS: English as an Additional Language; Teacher Development; Microteaching

Introduction

Microteaching refers to a teacher development technique whereby a teacher or student teacher teaches a mock class in order to get feedback from peers, superiors or teacher educators about what has worked and what can help improve their teaching. Invented in the mid-1960s at Stanford University and subsequently used to develop educators of all areas (Ping, 2013), it is widely used in teacher preparation programs, methods courses, and supervised practicums, as well as in a variety of other formats (Slagoski, 2007). Microteaching is employed to (a) give preservice teachers a glimpse of what real teaching looks like before they face it in the classroom, and (b) assess and develop teachers’ performances,
rationales, methodologies or skills (Cebeci, 2016). Research has found teachers and student teachers benefit from participating in microteaching (Amobi, 2005; Metcalf, Hammer & Kahlich, 1996). However, little work has explained the minutia of what goes on as teachers or student teachers microteach by analyzing their discourse while microteaching.

This paper had its origin in a larger research project that investigated the professional development of undergraduate student teachers of English as an Additional Language\(^3\) in a Community of Practice (Wenger, 1998)\(^4\) generated by a program named Languages Without Borders at a large university in southern Brazil\(^5\). The study was affiliated with the paradigm of Practice Theory (Young, 2009; 2010), relying on qualitative methods of data generation and analysis (Mason, 2002; Erickson, 1990) as well as on interactional sociolinguistics (Gumperz, 2005; Tannen, 2014). Although we did not originally set out to investigate microteaching, early in data generation it emerged as a central practice utilized by the community due to its pervasiveness in the teacher development meetings. This intrigued us to pursue a deeper understanding of how microteaching functioned in this community.

The purpose of this paper, thus, is to learn more about the discursive architecture of microteaching in the community investigated in this project. Inspired by Bell (2007), we drew initially on frame theory, using Goffman’s (1974, p. 8) question – “What is it that’s going on here?” – as a starting point for data analysis. This is the question participants in any sort of interaction must answer to make sense of a speech event. While there can always be multiple responses to this question, there is often enough agreement on the definition of a situation so people can manage interaction – both interpreting others’ actions and regulating their own. The construction of a tacit response to this question makes it possible for people to interact successfully.

In a Google Scholar search for peer-reviewed papers containing the expression “microteaching” in the title and “discourse analysis OR conversation analysis OR interactional sociolinguistics” among the keywords, published in between 2010 and 2020, 140 entries come back. However, we discovered that only a very small portion of the entries indeed make use of interactional sociolinguistics, conversation analysis or discourse analysis (Bell, 2007; Kim, 2006; Ryoo, 2016). Unlike previous research, the present work provides a dense description of the discourse of microteaching in a community of practice. By presenting such description, this paper aims to help pre-service teachers and teacher educators to understand what they are doing when they microteach, for teachers find microteaching stressful when they do not know what is expected from them (Bell, 2007; Ryoo, 2016).

**Theoretical framework**

In this section, we address pertinent literature for the present research. First, we explain the terms that are essential for the discussion. Then, we review literature that has also addressed microteaching from the perspective of interactional sociolinguistics, conversation analysis or discourse analysis.

**Interactional Sociolinguistics: setting the terms**

**Frame.** The notion of framing comes from the work of Bateson (1972), who said that the meaning of an utterance or action cannot be correctly interpreted and responded to without the reference to a metamessage about the frame in which they were produced. For instance, an utterance may mean the opposite of what it says if it is “operating in a frame of play, irony, joking, or teasing” (Tannen, 2014, p.10).

Goffman (1974, p. 21) expanded this notion by proposing that “when an individual in a Western

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3 EAL. Other acronyms that will appear henceforth: LwB (Languages without Borders) and LC (Language Center).
4 Also explained in session 2.
5 LwB was a program that fostered EAL in federal universities. Federal universities opened LCs, consisting of a coordination and student teachers (undergrad or grad students) who were responsible for teaching up to 16 hours of face-to-face classes for university community (Sarmento & Kirsch, 2015; Kirsch & Sarmento, 2018) as well as for attending pedagogical meetings and engaging on teacher development.
society recognizes a particular event, he tends [...] to imply this response (and in fact employ) one or more frameworks or schemata of interpretation”. Therefore, frames are structures of expectation (Tannen, 1979) which help participants navigate the practices in which they engage.

Goffman divided the frameworks into two categories: (1) primary frameworks and (2) keyed frameworks. Primary frameworks may vary in degree of organization: some are so organized that they appear as a set of postulates or rules, whereas others do not appear to have any recognizable shape and only provide “a lure of understanding, an approach, a perspective” (Goffman, 1974, p. 21) regarding the event at hand. Primary frameworks allow people to “locate, perceive, identify, and label a seemingly infinite number of concrete occurrences defined in its terms” (p. 21). Thus, participants tend to apply primary frameworks to different situations, even when they cannot describe them. Consequently, primary frameworks are particularly important to provide an answer to Goffman’s question, for several events fit within some primary framework.

Keying. The second category Goffman (1974) proposed is that of keyed frameworks, which is when primary frames are modified by signals that they should not be interpreted literally nor have their face-value meaning. Based on Bateson’s (1972) account of an observation that he made in a zoo, in which he found that monkeys can play with one another, indicating awareness to metamessages that a certain action means _play_ and not _fight_. Goffman (1974) described keying as the set of conventions by which a given activity, already meaningful in terms of some primary framework, is transformed into something patterned on this activity but seen by the participants to be something quite else (Goffman, 1974:43-44). This is what Goffman (1974) refers to as layering or lamination.

Layering/lamination. When no keying is involved, one interprets the activity in the light of the primary framework, and such activities are usually named real or literal activities. However, a keying of literal activities on a stage would provide us with something that is not literal or not real in primary framework terms, but it is real as a keyed one. For instance, in a staging of Becket’s Waiting for Godot, if one asks “What are they doing?” the answer is likely to be “they are actors pretending they are waiting.” Thus, they are not actually waiting; they are _pretending_ to wait.

Footing and contextualization cues. Footing can be understood as:

1. Participants’ alignment, or set, or stance, or posture or projected self is somehow at issue.
2. The projection can be held across a strip of behavior that is less long than a grammatical sentence, or longer, so sentence grammar won’t help us all that much, although it seems clear that a cognitive unit of some kind is involved minimally, perhaps a “phonemic clause”. Prosodic, not syntactic, segments are implied.
3. A continuum must be considered from gross changes to the instance to the most subtle shifts in tone that can be perceived.
4. For speaker, code switching is usually involved, and if not this then at least the sound markers that linguists study: pitch, volume, rhythm, stress, tonal quality.
5. The bracketing of a ‘higher level’ phase or episode of interaction is commonly involved, the new footing having a liminal role, serving as a buffer between more substantially sustained episodes (Goffman, 1981, p.10).

Therefore, a change in footing implies a change in the alignment participants of an interaction take up in the way they manage the production and reception of an utterance. In other words, it is another way to talk about a change in frame, which may signal that participants are changing what they are doing or even that they are performing different identities.

Gumperz (2005) explained that the term contextualization cues refer to verbal signs which

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6 I will henceforth refer to "secondary frameworks" for the sake of simplicity.
serve to construct the contextual ground for situated interpretation and, thus, affects how messages are understood. Contextualization cues represent speakers’ ways of signaling and providing information to interlocutors and audiences about how they are using language at any point of an interaction. In this sense, they operate at various levels of speech production, including the aspects of grammar (phonology, morphology, lexicon, syntax) as well as (i) prosody (i.e., intonation, stress or accenting and pitch), (ii) paralinguistic signs (i.e. whispery, breathy, husky or creaky voice), (iii) markers of tempo, including pauses and hesitations; (iv) overlaps; (v) laughter; and (vi) formulaic expressions (Duranti, 1997).

**Microteaching**

In a study with 18 student teachers, Bell (2007, p.37) concluded microteaching is “a highly complex, layered (laminated) task for the participants. Within the same strip of activity their identities as students, classmates, and (future) teachers all compete for attention.” In the recordings and questionnaires in which participants described their perceptions of the activity and explained how they approached the task, participants suggested they thought of microteaching in terms of performance or a classroom task more than properly teaching. The author indicated that several verbal and nonverbal cues are used to contextualize what is going on during the micro-classes. That is, participants signal to one another how they should interpret their actions at every moment, as the frames by which the strips of interaction should be interpreted can change at any time. For instance, a participant may shift from the microteaching frame to that of a student teacher talking to peers or trainer in an educational activity.

Ryoo (2017) conducted research in a pre-service teacher education course offered at a college in southern Korea for English Education Majors pursuing a certificate to teach in secondary schools. Microteaching happened during regular class sessions in a college classroom; eight 20 to 30-minute microteaching sessions were taught by 24 participants, recorded and transcribed. Then, the researcher did emic analysis of the transcriptions for the description and interpretation of different situational frames evoked by the participants. Like Bell (2007), the author found that microteaching is a complex activity in which participants shift frames multiple times during the same speech event and, thus, constantly use contextualization cues to demonstrate to one another how actions should be interpreted. However, the author found that the dominant situational frame was that of teaching, although participants also framed it as a learning and a performative event. Ryoo (2016) understands the changes in frame also represent the performance in contexts of different identities.

Therefore, there have been previous studies addressing microteaching from interactional perspectives. They have focused on the frames that participants use during a microteaching session (Bell, 2007) and own how the shift in such frames may indicate a different identity being performed in context (Ryoo, 2016).

**Methodology**

In the present study, data generated during microteaching sessions were analyzed pursuing the answer for the following question, inspired by Goffman (1974): “What is going on as participants microteach?” During microteaching observations, the first author generated field notes, took photographs, collected artifacts (e.g. lesson plans, handouts and classroom tasks), and produced audio recordings (Erickson, 1990; Mason, 2002). All data were organized in a database on MaxQda 12. The audio material was then transcribed, amounting to about six and a half hours and 51 pages of transcription9. Then, we engaged in initial, focused, and theoretical coding (Saldaña, 2009).
Participants consisted mainly of undergraduate or graduate students pursuing the teacher certification in EAL. In pursuit of this certificate, they taught twelve hours a week (three classes) in addition to the lessons they still attended as students. They received a stipend funded by the federal government of Brazil and had to have at least a B2 level certificate of English language proficiency. The coordinator (a tenured professor from the English Department) was responsible for organizing the LCs administratively and, above all, for pedagogically supervising the student teachers. Additionally, one Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) also participated in the microteaching sessions. Below there is a table that sums up the participants that appear in the data.

**TABLE 1 – Participants: pseudonyms and background**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pseudonym</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Education</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria Estevam</td>
<td>Pedagogical coordinator</td>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam</td>
<td>Student teacher</td>
<td>Letras undergrad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ana Ricarda</td>
<td>Student teacher</td>
<td>Letras undergrad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonia</td>
<td>Student teacher</td>
<td>Letras undergrad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helena</td>
<td>Student teacher</td>
<td>Letras undergrad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabela</td>
<td>Student teacher</td>
<td>Letras undergrad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>João</td>
<td>Student teacher</td>
<td>Letras undergrad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly</td>
<td>Student teacher</td>
<td>Letras undergrad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>Student teacher</td>
<td>Letras undergrad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariane</td>
<td>Student teacher</td>
<td>Letras undergrad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Julia</td>
<td>Former student teacher and researcher</td>
<td>Master’s student in Applied Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedro</td>
<td>ETA</td>
<td>Bachelor of Arts, Political Science/ Latin American Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Findings and discussion**

In this community, microteaching sessions took place in the pedagogical meetings during the first, third and fifth weeks of data generation. In each meeting, student teachers presented micro-classes of about 20 minutes. In these meetings, the micro-classes started after about fifteen minutes of “announcements” and pressing “bureaucratic issues” of the coordinator. Differently from previous work (Bell, 2007; Ryoo, 2016), in this community participants were still in college, pursuing a teacher certification in EAL, but they actually had full teaching responsibilities in the program, such as planning and teaching classes as well as evaluating students. In other words, although they were theoretically pre-service teachers, the development meetings, including microteaching, felt like in-service teacher development.

LwB teachers’ task was to microteach a class they had prepared for the students in order to exchange ideas and to get feedback from both the coordinator and other “more experienced peers” selected by the coordinator. During each micro-class, the coordinator, Luisa (a grad student),

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10 In Brazil, this major will give you a lifetime certification to teach Portuguese. Additional Languages and their respective Literatures: it is called Letras.
11 Not really enforced.
12 We will use quotation marks to indicate that we are quoting a participant directly (except when quoting literature) and italics to indicate that it is a term we coined to name something participants did not mention.
Maria Julia (a master’s student volunteering at the community) and Pedro (ETA) took notes. At the end of each session, these participants “debriefed” their notes. Finally, Luisa, Maria Julia and Pedro sent Maria Estevam their assessment sheets and she compiled everything for the teachers’ individual feedback sessions. There were three meetings devoted to these microteaching sessions, in which twelve pre-service teachers delivered micro-classes. Nevertheless, only eight (second and third sessions) will be considered here due to availability of audio recordings.

In this section, we first present a synoptic chart of the microteaching sessions in our data (see table below). Then, we present and discuss an excerpt of a prototypical microteaching session conducted by Kelly, for it contains most of the elements we encountered in the other micro-classes. Finally, we show two more segments to discuss less-common aspects of microteaching that do not appear in Kelly’s class.

### TABLE 2 – Microteaching sessions and focus of each session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st week</th>
<th>Microteaching focus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>A listening and speaking class with a video.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariane</td>
<td>A listening, speaking and writing class with a video.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>João</td>
<td>A reading, speaking and writing class about Geopolitics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helena</td>
<td>A class about Academic English with a short reading passage, extensive vocabulary work and a short written exercise.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3rd week</th>
<th>Microteaching focus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nadia</td>
<td>A reading, speaking and writing class with two reading passages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mari</td>
<td>A speaking class about feminism.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5th week</th>
<th>Microteaching focus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adam</td>
<td>A reading and speaking class about cosmetic surgery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel</td>
<td>A reading and writing class about postcards and letters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonia</td>
<td>A reading and writing class about formal e-mails.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly</td>
<td>A reading and writing class about research articles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roberta</td>
<td>A listening and speaking class about vacations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ana Ricarda</td>
<td>A reading and writing class about paragraph writing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Below, the analysis refers to the full transcript of Kelly’s micro-class. The whole transcript can be found in Appendix 1, for it was too long to be reproduced in the body of the text.

Kelly begins her presentation by contextualizing the micro-class. She explains three essential aspects for her peers to interpret the micro-class: (1) the course for which the class was planned, an EAP course; (2) the purpose of the class, which is to expand on a previous class and work with the structure of a research article; and (3) students’ level of proficiency, B1 (lines 559–664). Similar contextualizations happened in most micro-classes and reveal something that is important throughout the event: different frames are constantly at negotiation. The primary frame is that of a technical redoing – “strips of what could have been ordinary activity can be performed, out of their usual context, for utilitarian purposes openly different from those of the original performance” (Goffman, 1974, p. 58).
In this case, it is an educational activity in which they pretend to teach to get feedback. Embedded in this primary framework, there is a keyed strip of interaction in which participants pretend to be in a class; the student teacher who is presenting the class pretends to be a teacher and the others pretend to be students.

After this introduction, Kelly indexes a change of frames from contextualizing the micro-class to teaching the micro-class by addressing her peers as students: “Okay, guys, so what is the idea today? Okay, we are going to follow up our class from last week L.” (lines 564-572). In this way, Kelly provides participants with a verbal contextualization cue which signals contextualizing micro-class is over and actual micro-class has started. In other words, she shifts from addressing her audience as a peer to addressing them as a make-believe. The secondary frame, a class performance, is embedded in the primary one, a technical redoing.

The discourse marker “okay” is often employed by the student teachers to indicate they are transitioning to a teaching frame, which is visible in the collection of micro-classes. Moreover, addressing peers as “guys” or “people” is used for showing that the secondary framework of microteaching as a make-believe class has begun. Six out of eight micro-classes have similar introductions followed by contextualization cues signaling the transition from introduction to micro-class (primary to secondary framework), which worked as an invitation for peers to start participating as students.

Kelly’s peers start acting as students right away and begin discussing what an abstract is. Everyone in the room (except for myself, Estevam, Maria Julia and Luisa, who are not expected to act as students) starts discussing in pairs. After two minutes, Kelly mediates a whole-group discussion to define what an abstract is (lines 574-98), which her students define as “a summary” (line 576) and “an invitation to read your research” (line 580). Then, Pedro discusses the importance of an abstract for the research article (lines 589-96).

Next, Kelly asks participants to discuss the “parts of it, what constitutes a research article” (line 606-7), which they do in pairs and groups. After a couple of minutes, Kelly winds up again. Students come up with the parts of a research article and Kelly writes the words they come up with on the whiteboard (lines 618-34).

Subsequently, Kelly gives students “a minute to organize this [the parts of a research article]” (lines 635-38). When the minute has passed, they organize the parts of the research article in the sequence in which they expect the parts to appear (lines 642-671). Lucas changes the course of the segment by frowning and asking if they would have to number “all the parts of a research article” (line 672). In response to Lucas’ turn, Kelly transitions from the secondary framework to the primary framework; she does so by using the modal verb “would” (line 673). This is a contextualization cue indicating she is no longer teaching – she is talking about what she “would do” in “a real class” (lines 676-78). This is what Kelly later refers to as “making a parenthesis” (line 729 and 736), which signals she is transitioning from secondary to primary framework for just a moment. These “parentheses” happen in most micro-classes and mean participants should change the frame by which they interpret the utterances and nonverbal actions of what is going on, shifting from secondary framework to primary framework. In the “parentheses,” student teachers do not pretend teach; they talk to the audience as peers. Thus, there are clear verbal and nonverbal signals of when the parenthesis starts and when it finishes, often with the modal verb “would” associated with the noun phrase “real class.”

These movements from microteaching framework to that of speaking as a peer underscores the interpretation that what is going on is a technical redoing, for it appears that everyone is aware that the micro-class is a performance. For instance, as mentioned in the previous paragraph, Lucas frowns and asks Kelly if they will have to do “all” the activity (line 672), indexing some level of dissatisfaction; Kelly

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13 At certain point, Maria Estevam, Maria Julia, and especially Pedro get carried away and participate as students, which is uncommon in the other micro-classes.
immediately recognizes that and moves on with the activity faster than she would in an actual class (line 673). Ryoo (2016) also found that temporal, spatial and class management issues push participants towards shifting frames during microteaching, especially to cover more class in less time. In this respect, Bell (2007) claims microteaching is a highly layered type of interaction in which frames may shift a lot in the same strip of interaction. Kelly’s parenthetic utterances are a perfect example of that (line 729-32 and 736-45).

Moving on in this micro-class, Kelly has students fill in a chart in which they match questions with the parts of the research article where the information from the sentences could be found. After giving students a minute to discuss, she moves on to a whole-group discussion. This could, in a normal class context, be considered insufficient time. However, as it is a technical redoing, participants may agree to move faster or do the activity partially.

In the last step of Kelly’s micro-class, students analyze a research article. She engages in a long explanation of what each group should do – analyze a different part of the research article (lines 702-21). This is followed by a concept-check question (line 720-1) which students answer almost in a puff (line 722-3). Kelly seems to interpret these answers as impatience from her peers, since, in her next turn, she begins to bring the micro-class to an ending (lines 733-64), by explaining what she would do in a “real class,” which indexes that they are not going to do this in the micro-class. At the end of her last turn, she indicates the micro-class is over by saying “that’s it” (line 763), immediately followed by applause. Clapping suggests that the performance frame is always at stake, which is also consistent with previous studies (Bell, 2007; Ryoo, 2016). Further, it marks a boundary for the primary framework.

In general, during microteaching sessions, Estevam calls the participants to the front of the room and thanks them after they finish their microteaching. She is responsible for initiating and closing the event. Otherwise, she remains silent and takes notes for the duration of the micro-classes. However, in two micro-classes she stepped in and acted to change the way student teachers were conducting things: Adam’s and Mari’s classes. In both cases, she wants them to change from the primary frame (i.e., technical redoing) to secondary frame (i.e., pretending to teach). Adam spends more time than usual contextualizing the class, and Estevam interrupts the event to tell him that the class should begin, as we can see in the segment below:

**Excerpt 2: “And the class begins now’”**

148 Adam: Hello everyone. I’m teacher Adam. I’m going to be your teacher this afternoon. So the name of my microteaching activity is “Four Corners”. For those who were here, like, last week in Taiane’s lecture, it’s very similar but I didn’t copy her. I have references here, so, but, it’s pretty similar. So basically I handed this class plan to William and Professor Maria Estevam. So if you want later you can have here, I have all the steps of this class, just to let you know. This is going to be EGP lesson. It’s going to take, like, ninety minutes and my level here is B1, and the material was very basic. So if you are in a room that has, like, no projector or something like this, that’s ok. You just need something printed if you want it, all right. Because if you are out of ideas, like, that you can use markers and stuff. So it’s a very very simple activity. So the material needed: copies of the text. We have here the text I gave you. Four plates: one agree, another with totally agree, disagree and totally disagree. And one for each corner in the classroom. I’ve done this activity before, not like this, not with this topic, not like this, but before students get inside the classroom, I already put the four plates here. So, here I have printed like totally
170 agree, agree, disagree and totally disagree. So, I think 171 it’s going to stimulate them using like ((inaudible)) like 172 this. So my warm up activity it’s going to be a fifteen 173 minutes activity for this topic I chose was plastic surgery 174 among young people. So I, as a warm up, I would start 175 talking about plastic surgeries. All right? So I’ll ask you 176 very general questions about plastic surgery...

177 Maria Estevam: And now the class starts.

178 Adam: All right. So people what do you know about plastic 179 surgeries here in Brazil? Expensive, doctors are good, 180 surgeons or not, is it common? How common it is, here 181 in Brazil?

Adam starts his micro-class by introducing himself as the teacher for the afternoon (line 148-9). He then goes on contextualizing the micro-class and talking to his audience as peers. For three minutes, Adam goes on and on explaining the micro-class. Perceiving that, Estevam jumps in and tells him to start (line 177), which he does immediately, in his following turn (line 177). He uses the discourse marker “all right” (line 178) and asks his audience a question, inviting them to participate. In our interpretation, participants not only negotiate the frames in which their actions should be interpreted, but also the identities that they are performing in these frames and through these actions, which was also claimed by Ryoo (2016). In these segments, Estevam invokes her identity of a coordinator and Adam of a pre-service teacher in a development activity, subordinated to the coordinator; however, only in two micro-classes does this happen.

Joking is another feature that Kelly’s class does not encompass. At times, students say things that would sound unusual in a classroom or exaggerate the kinds of mistakes (linguistic or pragmatic) regular students would make. Usually, these segments are followed by laughter, indexing that there is a joke going on, as we can see in the segment below.

**Excerpt 3: The joke frame**

141 Isabela: Can you give me an example? [of a greeting]
142 Mari: Dear
143 Adam: hello
144 Isabela: Dear
145 Graziele: hey babe

((Laughter))

Isabela is teaching a class about writing formal correspondence and e-mails. When discussing greetings, she asks her audience for examples. Two volunteers come up with examples. First, Mari poses “Dear” as a possible greeting (line 142). While Isabela seems to be revoicing Mari (line 144), Adam comes up with another possible greeting, “hello” (line 143), perhaps less appropriate than Mari’s. Right after that, Graziele comes up with “hey babe” (line 145), which is followed by laughter, suggesting others interpret it as a joke. This kind of joke also supports the interpretation that microteaching is a complex and laminated activity. There is a primary frame in which they are peers doing a technical redoing and a secondary frame in which they are engaged in a performance, consisting of a make-believe class. In the latter, occasionally, there is a third lamination; that is, playfulness.

To conclude the section, it is important to look back into Kelly’s microteaching event, which, as mentioned before, is prototypical. Using this event as a prototype, after having analyzed all others, is a way to look at the more generic elements of microteaching in the community. The following discernible compositional features were identified in this practice:

1. student teacher goes to the front of the room;
2. contextualizes the class (level and course) addressing others as peers;
3. shifts footing to begin micro-teaching, and addresses peers as students;
4. makes “parentheses”, that is, changes from the secondary to primary frame,
using contextualization cues to transition between frames;

5. brings micro-class to an end by transitioning back to the primary frame in order to explain to peers what would come next in a “real class”;

6. peers clap.

Moreover, there are two components that may or may not appear: (a) coordinator steps in, invoking the coordinators’ identity; (b) participants make jokes. The figure below summarizes which of these compositional features are integral to each micro-class. The first ones represent the six main components (dark gray) and the last two (light gray) represent the other less systematic ones.

**Figure 1 – Main features in microteaching**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nadia</th>
<th>Mari</th>
<th>Adam</th>
<th>Isabela</th>
<th>Antonia</th>
<th>Kelly</th>
<th>Roberta</th>
<th>Ana Ricarda</th>
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| Coordinator stepping in |       |      |      |         |         |       |          |             |
| Jokes and laughter |       |      |      |         |         |       |          |             |

The eight micro-classes that encompassed these compositional features “worked.” The two classes that “did not work” according to the debriefing and feedback produced by coordination (Mari’s and Ana Ricarda’s) were precisely the ones that lacked many of the components which characterize the practice’s pattern in the community. Hence, peer participation was minimal and there was no applause after micro-classes were over. This pattern is intuitive: there is no such thing as a manual for microteaching, and yet people usually do it in a patterned way. Not attending to the pattern may mean little participation or being considered a failure by the coordinator – as happened with Mari and Ana Ricarda.

**Final Remarks**

In this article, we have described the discursive architecture of microteaching in the specific community investigated in this project from the perspective of interactional sociolinguistics. We found that microteaching is a laminated discourse practice, wherein participants align to and perform different identities throughout the activity while they point to one another how to interpret their actions by using contextualization cues. Additionally, we found that microteaching is a practice with recurrent features, which has been demonstrated over the analysis. When participants did not observe such features while micro-teaching, it caused peers to fail to identify what was going on. When it happened, peers did not understand what was going on and did not know how to respond during the micro-class. The teacher educator, on her turn, thought of the micro-classes as unsuccessful.

Microteaching is, as pointed out in earlier studies (e.g. Amobi, 2005; Metcalf, Hammer & Kahlíc, 1996), an important teacher development technique. Nevertheless, it can be awkward for the participants when they do not know what to do. This is also in our data.
As we set out to understand the interaction architecture of microteaching in this specific community, it is possible now to draw some situated conclusions about some possible pedagogical implications of this study for teacher development. In this sense, we would like to end this text by delineating some recommendations based on our data, which do not have the intention of generalizing the findings obtained here for all contexts. Quite the reverse, the idea is to share some learning tokens we, as teacher educators, consider important take-aways.

Firstly, it is important for teacher educators to be able to communicate what they expect from microteaching – the more information about the expectations regarding the structure of the micro-class, the better. For this, it would be a good idea to show an example of microteaching – acting out, from video tape, or even by using the transcript provided here. Secondly, it is a good idea for the trainer to show teachers exactly the components that he or she considers essential in the micro-class; for this, Table 3 may prove useful. Furthermore, pinpointing to teachers the necessity of demonstrating how others should interpret their actions with contextualization cues is also desirable. As we navigate a new practice, sometimes explicit instruction of what we are expected to do, and how we are expected to do it can be lifesaving.

To conclude, we would like to state that we constructed the recommendations above by attending to the microteaching of a specific community. Therefore, they are not generalizable for all communities or to be taken in a prescriptive manner, though they may prove useful to other teacher trainers.

References


APPENDIX 1: Excerpt 1. Kelly’s micro-class

559 Kelly: Okay, so before I start, just let you know, this
560 would be a follow up class from the EAP course. So in the
561 previous class I worked with abstract structure and what
562 parts are there. And today as a follow-up we would work
563 with research article structure. So like a study skill
564 class for the EAP ‘coz, level B1. Okay. So guys what is the
565 idea today? Okay, we are going to follow up our class from
566 last week, okay? And to start just to get you to
567 review something that we discussed last week I want you to
568 talk in pairs, very quickly and come up with definition of
569 what an abstract is and what we use it for. Okay? So, what
570 is it? The definition of an abstract and why we use an
571 abstract, okay? So two minutes to discuss that with your
572 pairs. Go. Okay? ((To microteaching mock students))
573 ((People discuss in pairs))
574 Kelly: Okay. So let’s check.
575 What were some of the ideas
576 that came up? What is an
577 abstract?
578 Nadia: A summary?
579 Kelly: Of what?
577 Nadia: The text
579 Kelly: Okay. A summary. Any
578 other ideas?
580 Maria Estevam: An invitation
to read your research.
581 Kelly: Okay. What else?
582 Okay. And why do we use it for?
583 Why do 582 we summarize? And why
584 do we invite?
585 Lucas: So other people can
586 read it and see if it’s worth it
to 584 read the whole article.
587 Kelly: Um, uh. Why would
588 you like to invite someone to
589 read your article?
590 ((Inaudible talk))
591 Kelly: You wanna say
592 something?
593 Pedro: Yeah. Going from
594 that. When you’re writing a
595 research article, or a
596 master’s thesis or a doctoral
597 dissertation, you have to
598 read forty, thirty, fifty
599 articles. You don’t have the
time to read all of them. The
600 abstract is kind of the
601 preview from the movie that is the
602 article. So you read it very
603 quickly and you decide if
604 that’s relevant to your
605 research or not. So it’s really
606 important that they actually
607 sum up the article.
608 Kelly: Does anybody disagree
609 with these ideas? No? Okay.
610 Then considering the abstract
611 as summary of an article,
612 okay? Let’s think as the
613 article being an expansion of the
614 abstract. Can we think like
615 that? Okay. What parts? If the
616 answer is given the summary,
is because something is
617 larger, okay? So the abstract
618 is the short version and the
619 article is the long version.
620 Okay? So considering now, the
621 604 research article, okay? What
622 do you, what type of
623 information do you put there?
624 What type of information do
625 you write? In a research
626 article. Think about the parts of
627 it, what constitutes.
628 Something like Fernanda did. Like
608 greetings, introduction. 
Think about that but for a 
609 research article. Three more 
610 minutes for you to discuss 
611 ((People discuss with their 
pairs. Inaudible 
612 conversations.)) 
613 Kelly: Okay, can we check? 
For the real class I would give 
614 a couple more minutes for 
the purpose of the activity. 
615 Okay. So. Collectively what 
parts are there in a research 
616 article? ((Kelly writes the 
words they brainstorm on the 
617 board)) ((Addressed to all 
audience in the room)) 
618 Lucas: Introduction 
619 Adam: Literature review 
620 Maria Brum: Methodology 
621 Maria Julia: Results 
622 Maria Julia: First studies 
623 Fulana: Further studies 
624 Ana Ricarda: Conclusion 
625 Pedro: Results 
626 Kelly: Results is here 
627 Pedro: OK 
628 Fulana: Discussion 
629 Ana Ricarda: References 
630 Pedro: I was going to say 
objective, but I hear that they 
631 don’t say objective. 
632 Kelly: Aim 
633 Lucas: Goal 
634 Pedro: Purpose 
635 Kelly: Anything else? No? 
Okay and then do you think they 
636 are presented in this order. 
Okay. I’m gonna give you one 
637 minute to you organize this. 
Okay? In pairs as well. Okay. 
638 So do it. 
639 ((They talk in pairs for 
about a minute)) 
640 Kelly: Ok. If you could go 
on on the class... So let’s 
641 check. How would you start 
your article? 
642 Lucas: Introduction 
643 Kelly: Introduction. Okay, 
the second step. Introduction 
644 and objectives as one. The 
first thing. Do you agree, do 
645 you disagree? ((Kelly 
numbers the article parts in the 
646 order agreed by participants)) 
647 Pedro: Objective 
648 Lucas: Literature review 
649 Kelly: Introduction and then 
objective as one. The first 
650 thing. Do you agree? Do you 
disagree? 
651 Lucas: I’d say objective and 
literature review. 
652 Pedro: Introduction. Then 
literature review, ’coz it’s a 
653 part of introduction. You 
see other studies about it and 
654 then you go for purpose, 
objective, goal. 
655 Maria Estevam: I’d actually 
put after the methodology 
656 Pedro: I’d put it before 
657 Mari: ((Inaudible)) 
658 Kelly: Okay, I want to check 
’coz... Does it mention the 
659 literature review and 
somebody said the objective. Just 
660((inaudible)) objective first? 
661((Writing on the board)) 
662 Lucas: Literature review 
663 Kelly: Objective first? 
664 Mari: So the reader can 
understand why you reviewing that 
665 in the literature review. 
666 Kelly: Okay, and then, the 
third thing, the literature 
667 review. Okay. Then, as number 
four? ((Still writing on the 
668 board)) 
669 Lucas: Methodology 
670 Kelly: Do you agree? Yeah? 
Okay. 
671 Maria Julia: Analysis 
672 Lucas: We’ll have to number 
all of them? ((Frowning)) 
673 Kelly: Analysis. I would go 
on numbering all. Okay. Not 
674 you, but just to modeling. 
675 Lucas: ((Inaudible)) 
676 Kelly: In the real class, 
yes. So go. It depends a lot on 
677 what they tell you. Then you 
would organize the thing. So 
678 we checked the order of the 
thing. And now what I want you 
679 to do, okay, you’re going to 
do that individually first, 
680 and then after you’re going 
to compare with your pair. 
681 What I have here? Type of 
information we include in a 
682 research article and the 
parts. So you’re going to find a 
683 sentence here describing the 
type of information and I
want you to write here in the column the part where you would find this information. Okay, by purposes you have like kinda divided in six bigger parts but if you don’t want to use them then you use divided here in the board. You can use it, so you can write here where would you find this information in the text.

((People chat in pairs and write on the handout))

Kelly: Okay. Now that you have finished, compare to your pair and see if you decided on the same thing. If it’s different you can discuss why you chose a different one.

((People chat in pairs))

Kelly: Okay, let’s check together. Don’t worry if you didn’t finish. Together we check the answers. Okay, for the first one as a result of completing the above procedure, what did you learn? What did you invent? What did you create? Where would you find this kind of information?

Students: Results

Kelly: Result? Okay, then you go on for all the questions. Okay? Okay. So this, knowing this is good because you can be prepared for the next. When you are reading an article you are prepared for the reading activity. So you know what to expect from the article, maybe you can expect to find all of them, maybe not necessarily. Okay, then it’s good to know what could be coming from the article. Okay?

So, what you’re going to do now, we are going to analyze an article. A research article okay? And try to find the answers for these questions, okay? In the text. But you’re not going to for the whole article, okay? I’m going to divide you in groups and then one of the groups are going to look just for the introduction, okay? And the other group just methodology. Then group number three just the discussion and then, so on. Okay? You’re going to work only with this part of the article for now. Okay. And then according to what we have corrected you’re going to find the answers in the article. Okay? So each group is going to do one thing, okay? Are you going to read the whole article, yes or no?

Overlapping voices: No ((a very low energy and aspired ‘no’; almost puffing))

Kelly: Okay, not today. Okay. Can you read the same part as different group?

Overlapping voices: No ((a very low energy and aspired ‘no’; almost puffing))

Kelly: Okay, so you understood. I would have just a parenthesis here. For the purpose of the activity you can choose one of the section to start reading. Don’t matter if somebody is doing the same. Just because of the microteaching.

((They discuss in pairs for a few seconds))

Kelly: Okay, now that you have found all the answers, right? We have all the answers. Let’s check. And then another parenthesis, okay? Then I would go not like, one group answers all the questions, but I’ll do okay, introduction. One of the questions. Then methodology. One of the questions, discussion. ((Kelly does a circular motion with on hand, suggesting it goes on)) Then I would go rounds, so everybody. You would be like, ten minutes waiting for your turn, okay? So you’ll do kind of dynamic. And then you check or identify the parts. I would bring to class like color pencils or like pens, ‘coz people

sometimes like underline it,
coloring, okay? I’d do that.

Okay, so now that you have all the answers for your questions, okay. You’re going to write the abstract that is missing in this article. Okay? And then you can see you don’t have the article in the beginning. Now that we analyzed the whole article you’re going to write the abstract. Okay, the way you want to do it. What do you consider that is important to mention in the article it’s your abstract, okay? And then students would do that, okay? I would collect and take a look but they wouldn’t correct their text yet. I would just mark. Why? ‘Coz then I’m going to give you the real abstract from the text and then now you’re going to compare your version with the one from the article, okay? And then you, they would discuss the differences, like Nadia and Lucas’s version they would compare to the real one. Okay? Actually, for the real class I did like a reading activity as well, like discussion the topic of the text, not only for the structure, but today we wouldn’t have time. That’s it. ((Applause))