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Clarification Insertion Sequence and Its Effective Use

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The presenter will explore the ways in which clarification insertion sequence can effectively be utilized by language learners.

In the study of embedding sequences which includes both Schegloffian 'insertion sequences' and Jeffersonian 'side sequences', the presenter has identified three main types of insertion sequences: clarification, topic interruption and typical insertion sequences. Of these, this paper discusses the use of clarification insertion sequence by language learners and illustrates how effective use of this sequence leads to successful communication while the inability to do so results in communication breakdown or misunderstanding. The presenter will also illustrate how this sequence is effectively used at an utterance level by native speakers of English in their mother tongue interactions, the ways in which they manage to clarify meaning and avoid misunderstanding or miscomprehension. After detailed illustration of the actual examples from NSE (Native Speakers of English) - JSE (Japanese Speakers of English) and NSE-NSE interactions, the presenter will discuss the implications of this study for language pedagogy. She suggests that the effective use of this insertion sequence be taught from the very early stage of language learning. In particular, she will argue that it is essential to provide learners from certain cultural backgrounds with this strategy. It seems vital for those learners to overcome this

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difficulty and to be able to utilize the sequence effectively in terms of both timing and placing.

Handouts will be provided and feedback from participants will be encouraged.