

# CONTENTS

*Preface ix*

## 1 ABOUT THERAPEUTIC CONVERSATIONS 1

- The Background of This Study 4
- The Case of Rhoda P. 8
- Earlier Studies of the Therapeutic Interview 12
- The General Analysis of Discourse 23
- Empirical Studies of Conversation 24
- Organization of This Study 27

## 2 COMPREHENSIVE DISCOURSE ANALYSIS 29

- The Therapeutic Interview: Definition of the Situation 30
- Cross-Sectional Analysis 37
- Synthesis: The Flow of Conversation 69

## 3 RULES OF DISCOURSE 71

- I. Requests 77
- II. Challenges 93

- III. Coherence 98
- IV. Narratives 104
- V. Sequencing 110

## 4 EPISODE ONE

I think I did the right thing. 113

## 5 EPISODE ONE (CONTINUED)

When do you plan t'come home? 155

## 6 EPISODE TWO

**That** looks **clean** t'you? 181

## 7 EPISODE THREE

I know you don't like to eat alone. 213

## 8 EPISODE FOUR

See, I told you so. 249

## 9

## EPISODE FIVE

So there's a lot of anger passing back and forth. 279

## 10

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THIS SESSION 329

The Five Episodes as a Whole 330

Two Surfaces and Two Interiors 333

Masking and Resistance 334

Sources of Insight for the Therapist 337

Sources of Insight for the Patient 343

The Role of Mitigation and the Paradox of Microanalysis 345

The Outcome of the Therapy 346

## 11

DIRECTIONS FOR THE MICROANALYSIS OF  
CONVERSATION 349

The Importance of Historical and Factual Context 351

Research Sites for Microanalysis 352

Comprehensive Discourse Analysis 354

Directions 359

## APPENDIX A

The Text of the Five Episodes 363

REFERENCES 373

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| INDEX TO DISCOURSE RULES     | 379 |
| INDEX TO PARALINGUISTIC CUES | 380 |
| INDEX TO PROPOSITIONS:       |     |
| LOCAL                        | 381 |
| GENERAL                      | 381 |
| INDEX TO INTERACTIONAL TERMS | 382 |
| INDEX TO UTTERANCES          | 384 |
| AUTHOR INDEX                 | 386 |
| SUBJECT INDEX                | 389 |